

**IDIOMATIC, METAPHORIC,
OBSCURE, SLANG OR
VULGAR EXPRESSIONS IN
ENGLISH: THE TOP, THE
BOTTOM AND A LOT OF
THE MIDDLE**

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VOLUME ONE:
TO BE AN A... - TO BE A B...

Part One:

The Introduction

Idiomatic, Metaphoric, Obscure, Slang or Vulgar Expressions in English: The top, the bottom and a lot of the middle contains a lot of different types of expressions in English. These expressions can be put into three general categories:

The Top. Just because you are a native speaker of English that does not mean that you have a leg up. The clichés are true. "Words do make the man." "Bad English isn't either sexy or strong." It is sad but a truth that you can not run away from. The minute that you open your mouth, you are being judged. The way that you express yourself DOES determine how people treat you. We now live in a world where it is becoming quite normal for native and non-speakers of English to compete, in English, in the social, political, economic, and cultural arena. It is not unusual that someone who speaks, as a mother-tongue, Swedish, German, Spanish, French, Chinese, Korean, or Japanese is able to communicate in English better than a native-speaker.

Just because you grow up in an English speaking society, it does not mean that you have a strong command of the language. Ask anyone who is a word smith if his or her native language is a piece of cake just because it is his or her language. Ask any successful rapper, one whose native language is English, how easy it is to put words together. The words may APPEAR to slip off his or her tongue as if the words come naturally. They don't. Ask any poet, composer or author if his or her native language is a snap or duck's soup.

One of the most difficult part of English is its vocabulary, itself. English is unique in that it comes from a variety of sources. The good news is that, once mastered, English is a language where nuances can be expressed with words that are the synonyms of each other. It may appear to be that "to dismiss" and "to fire" mean the same thing. They do

not. It is different calling a person "skinny" or "a bag of bones" than to call him or her "thin" or "slender." It is not the same being called "dumb," "stupid," "dopey," as being called "unintelligent" or "mentally challenged." The trick is mastering all these different shades of meaning, correctly.

A fluent, educated native speaker who has successfully mastered English, has, in a sense, mastered two different languages --- one which is spoken by the majority of the population, no matter one's social, cultural, economic or educational background. The other is the form of the language which is spoken by those who have had the opportunity of a good education.

The language which is spoken by everyone is the Germanic aspect of English. English is a Germanic language. Not only because of its structure but also because of the vocabulary. It is true that the majority of words in English are from the Latin rather than the Germanic area of English. However that fact means very little, if anything, to the average English-speaker. **Did you know that the overwhelming majority, more than 70% , of the most frequently used words, are Germanic rather than Latin-based?** With the exception of a maybe a handful of verbs, *most of the oldest verbs*, including and especially the irregular verbs, are Germanic. The overwhelming majority of the names of some of the most basic and fundamental areas of life, such as different parts of the body, family members, basic utensils or food are Germanic.

The Germanic aspect of English has its particular role. This is the English that one uses if one's goal is to speak directly, simply or clearly. However it is also a verbal cue of a person of limited education. The dominant use of the Germanic aspect of English is also a social signal of one's social-economic class. The reality is simple. Especially in a more

formal or academic situation, an educated English-speaker will rigidly control the Germanic part of his or her vocabulary and to use much more freely the Greek, Latin and French aspects of the language.

To learn the type of English which is considered academic, sophisticated, stylistic and formal, a native speaker of English must consciously learn the Greek, Latin and French aspects of English. And it is not easy. Ask any school age child who has had to memorize lists and lists of words from the first to the last year of high school.

Except for the most basic content words, almost every Germanic based word has a Latin- based synonyms. And except in the most casual conversation, those synonyms are expected to be spoken and written. Any native speaker who expects to be taken seriously in the intellectual, academic or governmental arena, MUST rely heavily on those words which are considered highly selective. Most, if not all of these type words are Greek, Latin and French imports. Some, if not most, of these words have been assimilated into English. Also, many words and expressions in this area have classical and literary references. Unless one comes from a highly literate environment, these words are, at best, obscure. Do you know the meaning of ALL the following words:

to be an abattoir

to be an abatvoix

to be an abbey-lubber

to be an Abd (in Arabic)

to be an abecedarian

to be an abbozzo

to be an abecedism

to be an abishag

to be an accidance

to be an accolent
to be anceldama
to be an Achilles heel
to be an albatross
to be an alb
to be an Albert

To distinguish these type of expression from others in the book, they will not be bolded but only put in *italics*.

Although the above words, and words like them, may be unfamiliar, they are English. Not knowing them not only means that a significant and extremely important part of the English is out reach. These words, many of them being collegiate or academic, are what students are taught and forced to memorized in primary, secondary and high school. The standardized tests which students are obligated to take to enter into advanced classes, to pass from one grade to the other and to graduate from primary, secondary and high school are full of words from this area of English. The SAT, ACT and GRE test one's knowledge of those words whose origin is ancient Greek and Latin, from medieval French, and modern French and German. Anyone in the field of law, medicine, pharmacology, mathematics or science must be as conversant in these areas of English as they are in everyday English. In the aforementioned fields, the overwhelming majority of the vocabulary are of Latin, Greek and French origin. However, not only doctors, scientists and lawyers must be well-versed in these areas of English, the fact is that anyone in a position of power, prestige or responsibility is expected to know how to express him or herself at a certain level.

Another signal of an educated English speaker is his or her ability to understand and use foreign words which have been adopted but not assimilated into the language. **French** is the language which has been raided the most:

à gauche
à droit
au fond
c'est la vie
coup d'etat
coup de grâce
carte blanche
déjà vu
département
de rigueur
voilà
voir dire

Another language which can be found readily in English is **Latin**:

ad hoc
advocatus diaboli
ad vivum
alma mater
anno Domini (A.D.)
antebellum
bona fide
carp diem
caveat
Corpus Christi
status quo

Other languages which have been borrowed from without being assimilated are **Italian**, **modern German** and **Spanish**:

Spanish

barrio

tortilla

chili con carne

Anglo

Italian

andiamo

maestoso

maestro

masestri

Mafioso

mezzo

mezzo relieve

German

Aufklärung

auf Wiedersehen

wunderkind

Gesamtkunstwer

gesellschaft

gesundheit

schadenfreude

Did you know that English has words which have accents or other type of **diacritics**? Do you understand the following:

à bas

agréments
attaché
résumé
façade
niños
âme damnée
bête noire
café
Señora
como sí, como ça

Although all of the above words can be found in any good English language dictionary that does not mean that they are easily learnt. They are not. Why? For one, foreign unassimilated words are rarely, if ever, taught. They are picked up or acquired, depending on one's socioeconomic class and/or one's exposure to the world. It is generally through conversations in the home, and, by extension, through the books, magazines, journals, newspapers and the like that an English-speaking child learns to both decode and internalize this particular aspect of their language. Of course, the child who does not have such an opportunity is at distinct disadvantage. To put it succinctly, the more educated and/or wealthy one's world, the more opportunity one has to consider the upper levels of English a natural part of the language.

Idiomatic, Metaphoric, Obscure, Slang or Vulgar Expressions in English: The top, the bottom and a little bit of the middle looks at the top part of English extensively.

The Bottom. NOT all the words and expressions in this area are inappropriate or vulgar; however, many are. The words about which one must be careful, are highlighted. **Blue** is for those words and expressions with which one must exercise extreme **caution**. They should be used only by persons who know how, when and under what circumstance such words can be used effectively and with the consequence that one expects. Most words categorized as **slang** would fall into this area of English. **Red** is for those words and expressions which, because they are considered **vulgar** and/or **insulting**, **should only be used in extremely limited situations**. English also contains a number of intriguing idiomatic and metaphoric expressions which, although are not exactly **slang** or **vulgar**, do fall somewhat outside the realm of standard English. Their use can be confusing because these expressions are, for lack of a better word, complicated. These expressions sometimes, if not always, carry quite a bit of cultural baggage. Unlike standard English which tends to be culturally neutral, this area of the language is anything but and, therefore, must be used with care. Utilized incorrectly, the expressions which have been bolded could easily offend or insult.

Those idiomatic expressions which fall between the cracks are one of the reasons why, after years of study, English has remained for many, if not the majority of non-native communicators, only comprehensible at the most superficial level and, therefore, is never really internalized. The fact is that most English-speakers in casual conversation do not speak in standard English. They communicate much more idiomatically. It is in this area of English that a large number of jokes, puns and double-entendres are made. If you do not understand songs, hip-hop, movies, television and radio program, magazine articles, books as well as many

book and movie titles, it is this area of the language which you have to thank.

Cockney rhyming slang from both the United Kingdom and Australia, although generally considered slang, is not always vulgar or offensive. However, just like all the different type of English in this area, they must be used very carefully.

Just like interest in those expressions in the upper levels of English is not limited to only non-native speakers, so is the case for those at the bottom half of English. As have been already noted, **Cockney rhyming slang** from both United Kingdom and Australia have been included. Most speakers of American English can not make 'head or tail' (understand) of this particular type of English. It may as well be a foreign language since for most non-British or non-Australian English-speakers Cockney IS a foreign language. **Idiomatic, Metaphoric, Obscure, Slang or Vulgar Expressions in English: The top, the bottom and a little bit of the middle** contains the majority, if not all, **cockney rhyming slang** which begin with 'a' and 'b'. The following are a few examples:

(to be an) Adam and ants

(to be an) Adam and ants

to be an after eight

to be an (Sir) Anthony Blunt

to be a baa lamb

to be a babbling brook

to be a baby giraffe

The middle. The English that fits into this category is enormous. It is the English which is taught in ESL classes which makes sense since it is the English in which most English-speakers communicate in a normal or somewhat formal situation. It is the English which strangers or acquaintances use with each other. This is the English of the classroom. This is the English which forms the core of the language. Although the English in this area is more Germanic than anything else, there are thousands upon thousand of assimilated Latin and French words. Many of the words in this area of the language are categorized fundamental or base words; most of these **core** words have no synonyms.

Standard English is the version of English that all speakers understand, and, generally, speak; however, even in this area of English, there are twists and turns, especially for the non-native speaker. The twist is NOT that only that many of the words in this category have multiple meanings. Many languages contain such words. The twist is that standard English contain many words which have more than one function. In Spanish, for example, the word 'mesa' (table) can not be made into a verb, adverb or adjective. The word, 'mesa' in Spanish has many definitions but only **ONE** function, that of a noun. There are such words in English. The word 'nation' is an example. It can only function as a noun. To be made into another part of speech, a suffix must be attached: 'ize' transforms the word into a verb (to nationalize), 'al' to an adjective (national), and 'ly' to an adverb (nationally).

However, as mentioned previously, English also contains many words which need neither a suffix nor prefix to be another part of speech. The word '**table**' not only has several different meanings, as it does in Spanish, but also, unlike in Spanish, its function in the sentence is not

fixed. Depending on the context, **table** can be a noun, (Lay your cards on the **table** and tell me what you want.), a verb, (I want to **table** the motion.), and an adjective, (These **table** grapes are delicious.) Did you know that the word '**bear**' is not only the name of an animal? It is also an important verb that has nothing to do with animals. which is used in a number of important standard expressions. The verb '**to blow**' as well as '**to ball**' is, depending on the context, standard, idiomatic as well as vulgar.

In English, there are no hard and fast rules that determine which words have only one part of speech versus those which have many. However, one thing is clear. Many, very many, of the most common words in English have more than one function.

There is also a turn. Most of the words which have many functions (different parts of speech) must also be interpreted both literally and figuratively (metaphorically). This particular aspect of English is rarely, if ever, taught. It is for this, if for no other reason, that one can study English for years and never learn it. The reality is that the English which is actually spoken and understood in the world is a mixture of both the literal and figurative meaning of words.

Do you understand what the word 'hand' means in each of the following expression? One hint, none of the meanings is literal: **to wash one's hand, to live from hand to mouth, to have one's hand full, to be out of hand.**

The above demonstrates how important it is to understand language metaphorically. The fact is that at times the literal meaning of a word or expression is not only wrong but nonsensical. How can one understand, literally, the following expressions:

Walls have **ears**.

He is always **waltzing** through the problem.

He **peppered** his speech with unacceptable expressions.

She is a **snake** in the grass.

He is more a **pussycat** than a **tiger**.

He can not do anything on his own; he is always getting a **leg** up.

Stop trying to **skirt** the issue.

He is as **red** as an apple.

The day after Thanksgiving is called **black** Friday.

After the accident, I was **black and blue**.

Although he's the **dark horse**, I am going to support him.

Yes, I must admit that that is a **horse of another color**.

I would never want to be judged in a **kangaroo court**.

You are not always going to be able to **live high on the hog**.

I never **wear my heart on my sleeve** but I do frequently **put my foot in my mouth**.

Do you understand the meaning of the following words?

anger boils

time flies

the enemy caved

the color screams

white with fright

green with envy

wall has ears

What is it to be **red-blooded** versus to be a **blue-blood**?

If you're **green** does that mean that you're not **yellow** or **red**?

Except for the words which are considered core, the overwhelming majority of words in this area of English do have synonyms. The problem is that many times the synonyms are of different registers. Did you know that many of the most standard words in English have idiomatic and slang synonyms? Would you recognize them? Do you know the idiomatic and/or slang synonyms of the follow words:

to be an abrupt answer

to be an act

to be an actor

to be an addict

to be an advertisement

to be an alcoholic

to be an alien

to be an ally

In **Idiomatic, Metaphoric, Obscure, Slang or Vulgar Expressions in English: The top, the bottom and a lot of the middle** standard words and their idiomatic and slang versions will be presented.

Because of the peculiarity and quirkiness of standard English, a large percentage of puns, catch all phrases, riddles, puns, jokes and double-entendres are drawn from this area of English. Can you answer the following questions?

Have you ever had **a slip of the tongue**?

If you are considered a **breath of fresh air**, is that good or bad?

Is it true that most people have to **live from hand to mouth**?

Have you ever **jump the broom** or to **tie the knot**?

Why did he **turn over a new leaf** once he got out of prison?

Are you a **baby-boomer**?

Can you answer the following questions if you only understand the literal meaning of the words in bold.

Have you ever **dogged** anyone?

If I say that you **don't have a heart**, does that mean that you're dead?

If you **don't have a leg to stand on**, what are you standing on?

Who is **catty** and what is it to **have a cat fight**?

Frankly, **Idiomatic, Metaphoric, Obscure, Slang or Vulgar Expressions in English: The top, the bottom and a lot of the middle** is not for everyone. It was not written with the ESL or EFL learner in mind. It was created for those professionals who use English as a means rather than as an end, such as **advertisers, writers or composers**. **Idiomatic, Metaphoric, Obscure, Slang or Vulgar Expressions in English: The top, the bottom and a lot of the middle** was written with the person who uses languages to construct an image or produce a particular feeling. Used correctly, words can do what no photographs or drawings can. It can help a listener or reader to see in their mind's eye a reality that no camera or paint brush can capture. **Idiomatic, Metaphoric, Obscure, Slang or Vulgar Expressions in English: The**

top, the bottom and a lot of the middle was compiled for those persons who need to have at their finger tips words which not only describe, distinguish, smooth, soothe and comfort but which also astound, astonish, amaze, disconcert, dazzle, electrify, floor or take one's breath away.

Idiomatic, Metaphoric, Obscure, Slang or Vulgar Expressions in English: The top, the bottom and a lot of the middle, will also be of interest to those English-speakers from one part of the world who are interested in how English is spoken by native speakers in other parts of the world. AND THERE IS A DIFFERENCE. The differences can be both subtle and dramatic. A case in point would be the different languages that have influenced English. British English has a lot of modern French, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, Hindi and Pakistani words and expressions which have absolutely no meaning in American English. Another aspect which makes British English a foreign language to non-British English speaker is cockney rhyming slang. The native population of Australia has influenced the type of English spoken in Australia. In South Africa, the different indigenous languages as well as Dutch, have made the English spoken there not the easiest for non-South African English speaker to understand. If you are an English-speaker, especially an American English-speaker, do you understand ALL the following words or expressions:

to be an action man (British English)

to be an adventure playground (British English)

to be an aegrotat (British English)

to be an ait (Scottish English)

to be an ankle-biter (Australian and N.Z. English)

to be a baap (Hindi in English)

to be a baas (South African English)

to be a bad lot (Australian English)

to be a bairn (Scottish English)

to be a Boer (South African English)

to be a Boer (South African English)

American English, however, is a different kettle of fish. Yes. American English has had influences that other types of English has not. Italian, Polish, Russian, Chinese, Gaelic, Japanese, native American Indian languages, different African languages, Yiddish, German and Spanish have all greatly influenced American English. And yes, because of that, the English that is spoken in the U.S. is somewhat different from the same language spoken in other parts of the world. However, there is a difference. The different influences in American English do not make parts of it incomprehensible to other speakers of the language for one glaring reason. American English, especially idiomatic and informal American English, is the English which is heard in the mass media. It is the English which is taught world-wide. Enjoy the book. **Book two** in the series of, **Idiomatic, Metaphoric, Obscure, Slang or Vulgar Expressions in English: The top, the bottom and a lot of the middle**, will be available in approximately two months.

In a nutshell, **Idiomatic, Metaphoric, Obscure, Slang or Vulgar Expressions in English: The top, the bottom and a lot of the middle**, is a series of books. Each book is a comprehensive look of different aspects of the English language. This tome, volume one, presents expressions with the verb **to be**: from words beginning with the letter ‘**a**’ to the letter ‘**b**’. The following is a list of the different areas presented,

Common standard English words

idiomatic synonyms

slang synonyms

standard synonyms

French words and Expressions in English

Latin words and Expressions in English

Informal Idiomatic Expressions

Slang Expressions

Standard Idiomatic Expressions

Vulgar Expressions

Part Two

Expressions in

English: The top,
bottom and a lot of
the middle

TO BE AN A...

to be A-1

to be superior, first-rate or of the highest grade

As a lawyer, he **is A-1**

to be an abattoir

to be a slaughter house

to be an abatvoix

to be a canopy or sounding board over a pulpit or rostrum

to be an abbé

1. to be a member of the secular clergy
2. to be a title of respect for any clergy
3. to be an abbot

to be an abbey-lubber

originally and formerly a lazy monk or abbey pensioner

to be an abbey-lubber

to be any loafer or lazy-bone

to be an Abd (in Arabic)

to be a servant or slave as in names Abd-Allah (Servant of God) or Abd-el-Kader (Servant of the Mighty One)

to be an abecedarian

1. to be a person who is learning the alphabet
2. to be one who teaches the alphabet
3. to be one who teaches the fundamental of a subject

4. to be a beginner or novice

to be an abbozzo

to be a rough draft or sketch

to be an abecedism

to be an acronym or a word formed from the first letter or letters of words in a phrase, i.e. **radar** (**r**adio **d**etecting **a**nd **r**anging), **laser** (**l**ight **a**mplification through **s**timulated **e**lectron **r**adiation) or **scuba** (**s**elf-**c**ontained **u**nderwater **b**reathing **a**pparatus)

to be an abishag

to be a child of a woman and a married man who is not her husband

to be an abode

to be a house, home, dwelling, resident or domicile

to be an abode

perch, roost, (British English) digs or diggings, walk up, pad, crib, condo, flat, (British English) inglebrook, place where one hangs one's hat

(to be an) abondance de biens ne nuit pas (French in English)

(to be an) abundance of goods does no harm

to be an abondance d' idées (French in English)

to be a wealth of ideas

to be an à bonne marché (French in English)

to be a good bargain, to be cheap or reasonable

to be an abortion mill

the name given by the opponents of abortion to clinics where a woman can get an abortion

This ***is an abortion mill***.

to be an about-face

to turn around or about, to switch, to have a change of heart, to have a second thought

This **is an about face**. Now he claims that he is vehemently against the war.

to be an about-face

to be a retraction, renunciation, withdrawal or abjuration

There's no other way to put it. It **was an about-face**.

to be an about-face

(slang synonyms) back-pedaling, a one-hundred and eighty degree, 180°, a different tune, flip-flop, a switcheroo

to be an about turn (British English)

(usually used in a military context) an 180 degree turn in which the person is facing the opposite direction

to be an abra

to be a narrow mountain pass

to be an abrupt answer

to be a *curt, snappy, snippy, short, hasty* or *blunt* answer

That **was** rather **an abrupt answer**.

to be an abrupt end

to be a sudden, quick, unforeseen, instantaneous, rapid, swift or unannounced finish

Everyone was left unsatisfied, it had **been** such **an abrupt ending**.

to be an absence de gout (French in English)

to be a lack of taste

to be an absence de mémoire (French in English)

to be a mental blank

to be an absentee landlord

someone who owns an apartment building but who does not live on the property, usually he does not take care of the property

He **is an absentee landlord**; therefore, he does not know what is happening on the property.

to be an abus d'autorité (French in English)

to be an abuse of authority

to be an abus de confiance (French in English)

to be a breach of trust

to be an abus de langage (French in English)

to be a misuse of language

to be an abus de pouvoir (French in English)

to be an abuse of power

to be an accidence

1. to be a book containing the fundamental of grammar
2. to be the fundamentals of any language, art, science or just about anything

to be an accolent

to be a neighbor

to be an ace

to be an expert, master, professional, old hand or specialist

In this area of the business, he **is an ace**. There's nothing or no one better.

to be an ace

to be a *wizard, whiz, crackerjack, (British English) dab hand* or *pro*

to be an ace boon coon (African-American)

to be one's friend, best friend, partner or side kick

He's **an ace boon coon** so I know that I can trust him.

(to be) an ace in the hole

a hidden advantage, something held in reserve until needed

Don't worry about anything. I have **an ace in the hole**.

to be an ace of spades

vulgar term for a Black person

to be an acompte (French in English)

1. to be a deposit
2. to be a down payment (on a bill)
3. to be an installment
4. to be an advance (on one's salary)

to be anceldama

to be a battlefield (referring to the field near Jerusalem bought with the bribe that Judas received for betraying Jesus, called the field of blood)

to be an Achilles heel

the weak or soft part, the weakest link in the chain

It is *an Achilles heel* that he should do everything to hide.

to be an aching void

to be a feeling of desolation, to feel desolate or lonely

There **is an aching void** in my heart that is very difficult

to describe.

to be an acid freak

heavy users of LSD

to be an acid head

to be a frequent user of drugs, especially LSD and other mind-altering drugs

Back in the 60s, he **was such an acid head**.

(to be an) acid test

a test or manner to see if something is as have been claimed

I'm going to leave the money on the table. The **acid test** is if he tries to steal it. If he doesn't, he's not a thief.

to be an à côte (French in English)

to be a side issue

to be an acquired taste

to be someone or something that one must learn to like or love over time

She's not the easiest person to like. I would say that she's **an acquired taste**.

to be an acre

to be a cemetery or churchyard, also known as God's acre

to be an acre-fight

to be a duel in open field

to be an act

to be a judgement, decision or ruling

It was an **act** which changed the course of this and other countries.

to be an act

to be a bill, enactment, law, measure or proposal

This **is an act** from Congress means more money out of my pocket.

to be an act

to be a performance, routine or appearance

It **was an act** that was really funny. I have always enjoyed his shows.

to be an act

to be pretense, feigning, dissimulation, pretending

It **is an act** that doesn't fool me. I know that he is having an affair.

(to be an) act

to be a *gag, spot, stand-up* or *shtick*

His **shtick** is getting rather old. He should change his act.

to be an act

to be a *false front, crocodile tears, shuck and jive* or *soft soap*

I know that all this **is an act**; therefore, I don't believe you.

to be an act of faith

(Spain/auto de fé) to be a day set apart by the Inquisition for the punishment of heretics and the absolution of those who renounce their heretical doctrines

to be an act of God

to be an event which is out of the hands of human beings, i.e. a storm or tsunami

Hurricane Katrina **was not an act of God.**

to be an act of war

to be an action which causes one country to declare war on another

The bombing of the factories **was** most definitely **an act of war**.

to be an acting head

to be a substitute, performing, serving, functional, operative or working director, temporary person in charge

Since the president is not available, the vice president **will be the acting head**. Therefore, he has the power to act.

to be an acting head

(negative) to be a **titular** or **figure head**, to be posing, feigning or pretending to be in charge

(to be an) action figure

to be a doll for a male (usually of a soldier or monster)

My husband says that our son doesn't play with dolls; he plays with **action figures**.

to be an action man (British English)

to be a macho or aggressive male

to be an active member

to be a member of an organization who is an involved participant

She is an **active** member of ACLU.

to be an actor

to be an agent, mover, prime mover, executor, doer, maker or author

to be an actor

to be a stage player, performer, straight man, lead, stand-in, extra, walk-on or bit player

to be an actor

to be *a matinee idol* or *star*

to be an actor

to be a *ham*, *moppet* (*child actor*), *scene chews*, *hambone* or *mugger*

to be an actor ecclesiae (Latin)

literal meaning: **the manager of church property**

to be an acutiator

(medieval period) to be a sharpener of weapons

to be an Adam

to be a sergeant, bailiff or any one clad in buff or skin-coat, like *Adam*

(to be an) Adam and ants (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

(to be a pair of) pants

(to be an) Adam and ants (British English/ cockney/ rhyming slang)

(to be a) plant

to be an Adam's ale

to be water as a drink or beverage

to be an Adam's apple

prominent projection in the front of a male's throat formed by the thyroid cartilage of the larynx

I know that he looks like a woman but he is a man. That's **an Adam apple** that is in his throat.

to be an Adam's needle

to be the yucca, so called because it is sharp-pointed like a needle

to be an Adam's profession

to be gardening or agriculture

to be an adda (Hindi in English)

to be a place where people gather for conversation

to be an adda (Hindi in English)

to be an illicit place where people go to drink and socialize

to be an adda (Hindi in English)

a junction place for public transportation

to be an addict

to be a *junkie, zoner, dust head, drug head, mainliner, weed head, dope fiend, smack slammer, pothead, acid head, acid freak, needle man, cokey, snow snorter, speed freak* or user

He **is an addict** who would kill his own grandmother for a hit.

to be an addle brain

to be stubborn, obstinate, unable or unwilling to understand

He **is** such an **addle brain** that I don't think he will ever get what I want.

to be an addle egg (British English)

1. to be a worthless egg
2. to be an egg which is rotten and putrid
3. to be an egg which produces no chicken

to be an addle egg (British English)

1. to be empty, barren, blank or bare
2. to be muddled, confused, perplexed or confounded

to be an addle head

to be unintelligent, subnormal, dull, unthinking, dense, silly, simple dizzy or witless

What can I say? He **is**, without a doubt, ***an addle head***.

to be an adelentado

to be important or weighty, to be a big-wig or cheese, to be the one in charge or the boss

to be an adespoton

1. to be an anonymous poem or saying
2. to be a saying, saw or maxim

to be an adit

1. to be a mine entrance
2. a drainage or ventilation tunnel

to be an advance man

the person who survey a situation or property before the important people arrive

John **is an advance man**; therefore, it is his job to make sure that everything is ready and that there are no problems.

to be an admiral of the blue

to be a butcher who dresses in blue to conceal blood-stains

to be an Adonis

to be a beautiful or extremely handsome boy or young male

Have you seen John's new boyfriend. He *is an Adonis*.

to be an Adonis flower
to be a rose

to be an Adonis Garden

1. to be a worthless toy
2. to be a very perishable good

to be an advena

to not be a citizen of the country in which one resides

to be an adventure playground (British English)

recreational area or park which contains slides, sand lots and the like for children, (American English) playground

to be an adversaria

a miscellaneous collection of remarks or notes

to be an advert (British English)

to be an abbreviation for the term advertisement, to be an ad

to be an advertisement

announcement, commercial or announcement spot, circular, notice, placard, broadside, promotion, propaganda

to be an advertisement

envelope stuffer, (British English) advert, blurb, spot, hype, want ad, flyer, squib, leaflet, handbill

Throw it away. It's nothing but **an advertisement**.

to be an advice column

to be a column in the newspaper which advises its readers on something, i.e. love or family

This **is an advice column** that really does help people.

to be an advocatus diaboli (Medieval Latin in English)

literal meaning: **devil's advocate**

a person who argues the opposite side of a position to examine both sides of the argument

to be an advocatus diaboli (Medieval Latin in English)

literal meaning: **devil's advocate**

a person appointed to argue against the beatification or canonization of a person

to be an aegrotat (British English)

to be a student's written medical excuse

to be an aegrotat (British English)

to be the degree awarded to a student who had been prevented, as a result of illness, from taking final exams

to be an aelurophile

to be a lover of cats

to be an aelurophile

to be a cat hater

to be an affaire

to be a fling or nooner, to be extracurricular activity, getting some of the side, hanky-panky or sex

There was no love involved. It was all lust. It **was an affaire.**

to be an affair d'amour (French in English)

literal meaning: **love affair**

to be an affair de coeur (French in English)

literal meaning: **affair of the heart**

to be an affair d'honneur (French in English)

literal meaning: **affair of honor** (a duel)

to be an afterages

to be sibling who was born years after his/her siblings

to be an after-clap

to be the consequence of an action, to be blowback or comeuppance

to be an after eight (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

date

to be an after-dinner speech (British English)

to happen immediately after one has dined, to follow one's dinner

He gave **an after-dinner speech** that made everyone sick. It was disgusting.

(to be an) afterglow

the good feeling that one has after a pleasurable or positive experience

Her **afterglow** was a dead give away to what had just happened.

to be an after life

the sweet by and by, life after death, heaven, hell, the great beyond, immortality, eternity

(to be an) aftermath

that which happens after an event, result, consequence, outcome

In the **aftermath** of the hurricane, most of the people were left homeless.

to be an aftermath

to be an upshot, blow-back, fall out, payoff, flak, chain reaction, off-shoot

(to be an) afterthought

to be a second or later thought, reconsideration or review

As a **afterthought**, yes, I would like you to show proof of purchase.

to be an afterthought

to be a reflection, reexamination or retrospection

to be an afterthought

to be an addition, supplement, epilogue or P.S.

Frankly, as far as I'm concerned, he **is** merely **an afterthought**.

to be an ag-fay

insulting term for a gay male

to be an Agnes

to be such an unsophisticated and innocent young woman that she does not even know or understand what love is

to be an agnomen

(ancient Rome) to be an additional name added to the surname as an epithet honoring some exploit or event

to be an agnomen

to be a nickname

to be an agony aunt (British English)

to be a person who has a column to answer readers' personal questions

She **is an agony aunt** in one of the neighborhood's newspapers.

(to be an) agony column (British English)

to be a column written to answer readers' personal questions

I sent a letter to the newspaper's **agony column**.

to be an agrément (French in English)

(music) to be an ornament or principal melodic tone

to be an agricultural show (British English)

to be a state or country fair

to be an agrostographer

to be a person who writes about grasses

to be an agrostologist

to be a person an agrostographer, to be an authority on grasses

to be an agunah

a deserted or abandoned wife who can not remarried without proof of her estranged husband's death or divorce of her

to be an A.H.

to be an asshole

to be an A.H.

to be a person who is wretched, contemptible, detestable or beneath contempt

to be an A-hole

to be an asshole

to be an A-hole

to be an imbecile, moron, nincompoop or fool

to be an aide-mémoire (French in English)

to be a memorandum summarizing a discussion or agreement

to be an air guitar

to be an imaginary guitar that one 'plays' while listening to a song

The only guitar he has ever played **is an air guitar**.

to be an Air Gunner (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a stunner

Did you see her? She's a real **Air Gunner**.

to be an air kiss

to be a kiss in the air next to someone's cheek

She didn't kiss him; that **was an air kisses**.

to be an airhead

to be silly, foolish, or childish, to be a goose, ninny or simpleton

She **is an airhead** who doesn't understand anything.

to be an ait

to be a small island in a river or lake

to be an ait (Scottish English)

to be an oat

to be an a.k. (British English)

abbreviation for **ass kisser**

to be an à l'américaine (French in English)

to be a dish prepared with shallots, tomatoes and herbs

to be an Aladdin's cave

to be a place full of a variety exotic, strange, valuable and costly items

This mall in Hong Kong **is an Aladdin's cave**.

to be an Aladdin's Lamp

to be the source of wealth and good fortune

to be an alb

to be the long white tunic bound round the waist with a girdle, worn by priest when saying Mass

to be an Albert

to be a chain from the waistcoat pocket to a button in front of the waistcoat

to be an Al Capone (British English)

to be a telephone

to be an albatross

to be the largest sea bird which can remain aloft for long periods of time and which sailors believe that it is fatal to kill

to be an albatross

to be a weight, unwanted obligation, onus, encumbrance or duty

As far as her father is concerned, she **is an albatross**.

to be an albatross

allusion to Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 1798 poem **The Rime of the Ancient Mariner** in which the albatross is a symbol for a seemingly inescapable moral and/or emotional burden as a result of guilt or responsibility

to be an albatross around one's neck

to be a millstone, burden an unwanted charge or duty

I'm only **an albatross around your neck** so, please, let me leave.

to be an alchy (British English)

alcoholic

He'll drink anything. He's **an alchy**.

to be an alcoholic

to be a brown bagger, hard drinker, drunk, serious drinker, guzzler, souse, wino, alchy, dipso, rum bum, lush or (British English) bibber

to be an alcoholic

to be a barfly, wino, juicer, elbow-bender, boozehound, juice-head, gin hound, soaker, sponge, swiller, stewbum, drinker, dip, mountain-dew or (British English) tosspot

to be an alcopop (British English)

an alcoholic sweet mixed-fruit drink

to be an Alcoranist

to be one who adheres strictly to the letter of the Koran

to be an alderman

1. (Anglo-Saxons) to be a senior or superior
2. (Anglo-Saxons) to be a title applied to princes, dukes, earls and the like including bishops and archbishops

to be an alderman (British English)

to be a turkey because of its presence in aldermanic feasts also because its red and purple colors about the head and neck

to be an alderman (British English)

1. to be a type of magistrates in corporate towns, the alderman in London is considered the chief magistrate
2. to be a member of the County Council

to be an alderman

1. (United States) to be a member of a municipal council elected by the people
2. to be a city councilor or councilman

to be an alderman (British English)

to be a burglar's tool (so called from the high rank it holds with burglars)

to be an alderman in chain (British English)

to be a turkey hung with sausages

to be an ale-dagger (British English)

to be a dagger used in self-defense in an ale-house brawl

to be an ale-draper (British English)

to be a bartender or (British English) tapster

to be an ale-knight (British English)

to be a drunk or (British English) sot

to be an ale-silver (British English)

the yearly tribute paid in London to receive a licence for selling ale

to be an ale-stake (British English)

to be the pole placed before an ale-house by way of a sign

to be an ale-wife (British English)

to be a landlady of an ale-house or stand

to be an alforja

to be a leather or canvas saddlebag used by cowboys

to be an alforja

(chipmunk) to be a cheek pouch

to be an A-level (British English)

abbreviation for Advanced Level

to be an alias

to be a pseudonym, false name, (French in English) nom de guerre, stage, name, (French in English) nom de plume, allonym

John Peters isn't his real name. It **is an alias**.

to be an alias

nickname, summer name, moniker, handler

to be an alibi

to be a reason, explanation, vindication or defense

I knew that my **alibi** would stand. I had told the police the truth.

to be an alibi

to be a pretext, subterfuge, evasion or semblance

This is not a very good **alibi**.

to be an alien

to be an emigrant, newcomer or immigrant

He **is an** illegal **alien**. A term that he considers insulting.

to be an alien

to be a foreigner, stranger, outsider or outlander

Just because he **is an alien** that doesn't mean that he is an enemy.

to be an alien

wetback, greenhorn, FOB, fresh off the boat, grease ball

to be an alkie (British English)

to be an alcoholic

He **is an alkie**. Don't give him anything to drink.

to be an alky (British English)

to be an alcoholic

He **is an alky**. Don't give him anything to drink.

(to be) an all-nighter

to study all night for a next day exam, to cram

I did **an all nighter** last night. I'm so tired that I don't know if I can stay up.

(to be) an all-nighter

to be a party which last until the following morning

The party was so hopping that it **was an all nighter**.

to be an all nighter

to be a prostitute's customer who pay for an entire nighter

You're doggone straight he paid a lot; he *was an all nighter*.

to be an all night tick

to be a prostitute's customer who pay for an entire nighter

You're doggone straight he paid a lot; he *was an all night trick*.

to be an allée (French in English)

to be an alley in a formal garden border by bushes or tress

to be an alley cat

to be a promiscuous or loose woman, to be a *whore* or *slut*

She's *an alley cat*. She would sleep with anyone.

to be an alley cat

to be a lecherous, raunchy or dirty man, to be a tomcat

That guy *is an alley cat*.

to be an ally

to be a partner, associate, friend, (Law) accomplice or accessory

He's **an ally** on whom I can count.

to be an ally

to be a puppet regime, satellite or puppet government

to be an ally

to be a side kick, (British English) mate, right hand, right hand man or Man Friday

He's **an ally**. I couldn't survive without him.

to be an almoner

to be a person whose position is to distribute money received through charity

to be an alouatte

to be a South American howling monkey

to be an alpha male

superior, first-rate, very remarkable or exceptional male

Because he **is an alpha male**, he is able to do anything.

to be an alpha male

ripping, super, tiptop, choice, bosker, top-notch, of the first water or bang-up male

to be an also-ran

to be a loser, runner up, the defeated or good sport

I have always **been an also-ran**.

to be an altar boy

(usually used in the negative) to be a young boy is considered good and obedient, one who follows the rules

He has never been an **altar boy** but that does not mean that he is a thief.

to be an alter ego (Latin in English)

literal translation: other self

English translation: one's alternative or secondary personality

to be an alter ego (Latin in English)

literal translation: other self

English informal or slang translation: one's best friend, shadow, chum, side kick, crony, pal, buddy

to be an alternate

substitute, vicar, understudy, (Latin in British English) locus tenens, second

While I am in training, I will **be an alternate**.

to be an alternate

to be a *backup, sub, (Baseball) pinch hitter or relief pitcher*

I'm **an alternate** while Bill has been hired as the **relief pitcher**.

to be an alternative

to be a recourse, selection or substitute

This is the **alternative**. You choose.

to be an alternative

to be the other side of the coin, remaining choice, only other choice or the flip side

to be an alternative

to be plan B or a backup

to be an alternative

to be other pebbles on the beach, other fish to fry, other fish in the sea

to be an altiloquence

to be a lofty or pompous speech, to be pompous language

to be an A.M. (Latin in English)

to be an ama

(early Christendom) a vessel used for mixing and storing wine for the Eucharist service, now called a *cruet*

to be amber nectar (Australian and British English)

to be a Lager

to be an ambry

to be a storage place, chest, cupboard or pantry

to be an ambry

to be a closet or niche in the wall of a church for sacramental vessels or sacred odds and ends

to be an ambulance chaser

to be a lawyer

He's an ambulance chaser. No potential client gets away from him.

to be an ambush

to skulk, to waylay, to ensnare, to lure

He tried to **ambush** the woman as she came home.

to be an ambush

to be a hiding place, concealment or cover

to be an ambush

to be a snare, lure or lying in wait

to be an âme damnée (French in English)

literal meaning: **damned soul**

to be a *toady*, *cat's paw* or *fawner*

to be an âme damnée (French in English)

to be a **brown-noser**, **Tomish**, **Uncle Tom**, **brownie**, **brown-nose** or **ass-kicker**

to be an amener (British English)

to be a yes-man, sycophant, flunky or brown-noser

to be an amicus curiae (Latin English)

literal translation: a friend of the court

(Latin in the Law) an attorney who, by leave of court, intervenes in pending litigation in order to influence the decision in the litigation

to be an American

to be a person born in North or South America

A Canadian, Mexican, Bolivian and Chilean **are** all **Americans**.

(to be an) American (British English)

somewhat derogatory term for the English spoken by persons of the United States

Americans never say that they speak **American**. They say that they speak English.

to be an American

a person who has citizenship of the United States of America

He is fighting to **be an American**.

to be a American

to be a *Joe, Yank, gringo, Yankee, G.I. Joe, Uncle Sam, yanqui or yank*

She is from Latin American. She **is an American** and a Mexican.

to be an American Beauty

type of hybrid perennial red rose

to be an ami (French from English)

literal meaning: **male friend**

to be a friend or a boyfriend

to be an amica curiae (Latin in English)

literary meaning: **friend of the court**

(Latin in the Law) a person who is not party to the case being litigated gives advice to the court on some pending matter

to be an amicus humani generis (Latin in English)

literal meaning: **friend of the human race**

to be a philanthropist

to be an amicus usque ad aras (Latin in English)

literal meaning: **a friend to the last degree**

to be an amnicolist

to be someone living near a river

to be an amphitryon
to be a host or hostess

to be an anabasis
to be a military expedition as in the anabasis of Napoleon

to be an ancient Greek (British English/cockney rhyming slang)
freak

to be an anacalypsis
to be an unveiling or revelation

to be an anacrisis
to be a preliminary hearing

to be an anacrisis
to be interrogation accompanied by torture

to be an analect
to be a literary fragment or extract

to be an analect
to be a short saying

to be an anamorphosis
to be a distorted image when viewed with a special device, such as with an *anamorphoscope*

to be an anamorphosis
(biology) to be a gradual change of form by evolution

to be an anamorphosis
(botany) to be an abnormal change of form that gives the appearance of a different species

to be an ananym
to be a name written backwards

to be an anaphrodisiac
to be a drug or treatment tending to lessen sexual desire

to be an androcracy
to be a society ruled by males

to be an androlepsia
to be an international governmental kidnapping for political gain

to be an anecdote
to be the long and short of it, yarn, a tall tale or story, cock and bull story or old chestnut

That **is an anecdote** which is okay if you don't pass it off as a fact.

to be an anemography
to be a description or treatise on winds

to be an angel
a financial contributor to help a fledging company or political campaign

He **is an angel** and I thank God for him.

(to be) an angle
to be a pitch in order to gain advantage or profit

Don't trust him or anything that he has to say.
He always has **an angle**.

to be an angel on horseback (British English)
to be an oyster wrapped in bacon

to be an Anglicism

to be an English word or expression used in a foreign language
as in: le babysitter, le weekend

to be an Anglicism

to be an English fashion, fad or tradition in Pakistan, i.e. cricket
or rugby

to be an Anglicism

to be a type of language which is peculiar to the English working class,
i.e. cockney or rhyming slang (Greek = freak)

to be an Anglicist

to be a scholar who specializes in English or English studies (British
rather than United States (Americanist))

to be an Anglicist

to be someone who favors the use of English

to be an Anglo

(U.S.) to be a White American

In my school, there are Black, Latinos and **Anglos**.

to be an Anglo

(Canada/Quebec) to be an English-speaker (versus French speaking)

to be an Anglo

(Scotland) to be someone who is half-English and half-Scottish

to be an Anglo

(Scotland) to be someone who is Scottish by birth but in mannerism
and speech is more English

to be an Anglo

(Scotland) to be someone who plays for an English soccer team

to be an Anglo-American

to be a naturalized American citizen who is of British birth or an American of British ancestry

to be an Anglo-American

to be an American who speaks English (versus one who speaks Spanish or another language)

to be an Anglo-Canadian

(Quebec) to be an English-speaking Canadian (versus French-speaking Canadian)

to be an Anglo-Celtic

(Australia) used to distinguished an Australian who is of British or Irish descent from an Australian from other European, Asian or aboriginal descent

to be an Anglo-Indian

to be an English citizen living in India

to be an Anglo-Indian

(India) a person of both Indian and European ancestry whose mother tongue is English

to be an Anglo-Indian school

(India) to be an Christian denomination school which in present day India is open to students of all background

to be an angry white male

to be an economically marginal and socially conservative working-class white male

to be an animadversion

to be an unfavorable remark, adverse criticism or reproof

to be an animal

to be a person who is ill-mannered, bad-behaving, uncouth or boorish

He **is an animal** who can not be trusted to act right in a party.

to be an animalcule

to be a minute animal, especially one that cannot be seen with a microscope

***to be an ankle-biter* (Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be a toddler or baby who is old enough to crawl

The little ***ankle-biter*** is hungry. I've got to feed him.

to be an anlage

(biology) to be the first stage of growth of an organ or part of an embryo

to be an anlage

to be the basis of a later development, to be a bend or inclination

to be an annihilation

to be a butchery, slaughter, mass slaying, mass murder, execution, homicide, slaying or assassination

As a result of the war, there **was an annihilation** of one group by another.

to be an annihilation

to be utter, total or complete destruction, elimination, extinguishment, desolation, demolition, wreckage, leveling, dismantling or razing

There was no doubt that it **was an annihilation**.

to be an annihilation

to be a *cutting or mowing down, blood bath, blotting out, death blow, finishing stroke, killing blow*

to be an annihilation

(Germany WWII) *The Final Solution*

annihilation

(of persons) *holocaust, pogrom, genocide*

to be annotinous

(botany) to be a year old

to be an annoyance

to be an irritant, pest, problem, affliction or heavy burden

He has always **been an annoyance**.

to be an annoyance

to be a *pea in the shoe, pain in the neck, pill, bore, a thorn in the side, headache, drag, salt in the wound, a pain in the ass, drip*

The truth is that he is an **annoyance, bore, a pill** and a **drip**.
Any more questions?

to an annus horribilis (Latin in English)

literal meaning: **horrible year**

to be a year full of pain and misfortune

to an annus terribilis (Latin in English)

literal meaning: **dreadful year**

to be a dreadful or horrible year

annus mirabilis (Latin in English)

literal meaning:

to be anonymuncle

to an insignificant anonymous writer

to be an Anschluss (German in English)

to be a union or joining, particular the annexation of Austria by Nazi Germany in 1938

to be an Anschauung (German in English)

to be an intuition, to be a sense awareness or perception

to be an answer

to be a solution, justification or explanation

This is a big problem. God only knows if this **is an answer** to all our problems.

to be an answer

to be **lip**, *comeback*, *parting shot back talk*, *sass*, *crack*, *nasty crack* or *snappy comeback*

That **was** not a respectable **answer**; rather, it was a **snappy comeback**. And, frankly, I'm getting tired of his **lip**.

to be an answer

to be *pay dirt*, *band-aid*, *quick fix*

This **is** not a real **answer**; it is only a **band-aid** and a **quick-fix**..

to be an answering off the top of my head

(said when one gives a response without first thinking or analyzing it first. '**off the top of one's head**' means: to adlib, to talk first before thinking, to say the first thing that comes to mind, to wing it, to extemporize, to speak in an offhand, off-the-cuff or unpremeditated manner)

It had **been an answering off the top of my head**, therefore, I don't exactly remember what I had said.

to be an antagonist

enemy, foe, contender, opponent, competitor

He **is** the worst **antagonist**. He's not scared to die.

antagonist

(slang synonyms) *buddy-buddy*, (British English) *buddy fucker*, *the other side*, *them*

to be an (Sir) Anthony Blunt (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be *cunt*

to be an antaphroditic

to be a remedy for venereal disease

to be an anthropometrist

to be an anthropologist whose specializes in the measuring and functioning of the human body

to be an anticlimax

to be a fiasco, *fizzle*, *dud*, bomb, *washout*, *flop*, flash in the pan, *no-go*

to be an antigram

to be an anagram whose meaning is opposite to the original word or phrase

to be an antinomy

to be antagonism between laws, the opposition of a rule, principle or law to another

to be an antinomy

to be a contradiction between two seemingly reason principles, to be a paradox

to be an antiphrasis

to be a word used to mean its opposite, to be the use of words in a sense opposite to their proper meaning

to be an apartment

to be a walk-up, condo, cold-water flat, (British) apartments, flat or chamber, co-op, (British English) digs or diggings, crash pad, pad, cubbyhole, roof over one's head, place to hang your hat or lay your head and a few friends

to be an ape

to be a big, strong or powerful man who uses his strength to get what he wants

He's **an ape** so stay out of way.

to be an aperçu (French in English)

to be a quick or hasty glance or glimpse

to be an aperçu (French in English)

to be an immediate estimate or judgement

to be an aperçu (French in English)

to be a brief reference which illuminates or sheds light on a point

to be an aperçu (French in English)

to be a summary or synopsis

to be an apéritif (French in English)

a small alcoholic drink taken before a meal to stimulate one's appetite

(to be) an aphrodisiac

to be a stimulant or sexual stimulant

There are those who believe that there is no such thing as **an aphrodisiac**.

to be an aphrodisiac

to be a *Spanish fly, love potion, exciter, drug, turn-on or popper*

to be an apocatastasis

1. to be a reestablishment, return or restoration
2. (astronomy) to be the return of a planet to the same position after an orbital revolution

to be an apocope

to be the cutting off or omission of the last letter or syllable of a word as in the English words: talkin' (talking) or mos' (most)

to be an apodosis

the clause, especially of a conditional sentence, which expresses the conclusion or result, i.e. If you learn Spanish, *you will be bilingual*. (*you will be bilingual*) is the *apodosis*.

to be an apodysofilia

to be a feverish or overwhelming desire to undress

to be an apodyterium

(ancient Greek and Rome) to be a room in the baths or in the palaestra, where the bathers or gymnasts dressed and undressed

to be an apologia

to be a formal apology to show that a particular idea or belief is correct

to be an apologue

1. to be a moral fable
2. to be an allegorical story with a lesson or moral

to be an apomecometry

to be an instrument for measuring heights of distant objects

to be an apophasis

the act of mentioning something by saying it will not be mentioned

to be an apostrophe

(rhetoric) to be a digression from the course of a speech in order to make a speech in order to make a short address to a person or thing

to be an apostrophe

(grammar) to be a sign indicating the omission of a letter(s) from a word, i.e. don't, can't, wouldn't

to be an apostrophe

(grammar) to be a sign to indicate the possessive singular or plural, i.e. boy's vs. boys'

to be an apostrophe

(grammar) to be a sign used to mark the plural of letter, numbers or figures, i.e. p's or 5's

to be an apostasy

to be an abandonment or leaving what one believes in, as in one's politics, creed or religion

to be an apostate

to be one who forsakes or leaves his/her religion

to be an appanage

to be the money and land assigned by a king for the subsistence of his younger sons

to be an appanage

to be a rightful extra gain, tip or gratuity

to be an appanage

to be a territory governed by another country or a territorial dependency

to be an apparatus

(slang synonyms) *thingumbob, thingamabob, whoosis, whoziz, whose it, whoosiwatsis, doohickey, do hinkey whoosamajigger, whatchamacallit, watsis, what's its name, jigger, doo dat, dojigger, wingding, stuff, gimmick, mother, motha, motherfucker, or mothafucka*

to be an appeal (British English)

to be a fund-raising campaign

to be an appellation

to be a name, epithet, label, brand or front name

to be an appellation

to be a pseudonym, alias, assumed name, pen name, anonym, allonym, (French in English) nom de plume, nom de guerre or nom de théâtre

to be an appellation

to be a tag, moniker, handle, John Doe, John Hancock, John Henry, flag or tab

Here's a **John Hancock** as big as day. Let them see this.

to be an appellation

to be a nick name, pet name, diminutive or by-name

Zoë **is a nick name**. It is not my legal first name.

to be an appetizer

hors d'oeuvre, (French in English) bonne bouche, canapé or apéritif

to be an appetizer

to be a cocktail

to be an appetizer

to be an enticement, allurement, temptation or attraction

If this **is only an appetizer**, I can't wait to see the main meal.

to be an appetizer

to be a *dip, finger food, morsel, bit, munchies* or *tidbit*

to be an appetizer

to be a *come on* or *eye-catcher*

(to be an) applause line

a statement in a speech meant to elicit applause, i.e. Americans are good and generous people

The president made a speech full of **applause lines**.

to be an apple

a native American who has taken on the values and behavior of the white community

(almost all ethnic or racial groups have such names in the U.S. . for Blacks it's an oreo cookie, for Asians it's a banana, for Latinos, but especially Mexicans, it's the bolillo (bread roll))

to be an apple fritter (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a shitter

to be an apple knocker (British English)

to be a person who sells apples, an apple-picker

to be an apple-pie bed (British English)

to be a bed which has been made in such a way that one can not stretch out one's leg (done as a joke)

to be an apple polisher

to be a toady, one who fawns upon or who tries to please

to be an appliqué (French in English)

to be an embellishment applied to material

to be an apprentice

to be a novice, student, pupil or learner

to be an apprentice

to be a *tenderfoot, rookie, newcomer, probationer or greenhorn*

Give him a break. He **is** only **an apprentice** and a **rookie**. Don't forget that last year that you had been a **greenhorn**.

to be an approbation

to be a *nod, green light, the word, go ahead or okay*

(to be) an approval

to be a *nod, the O.K., the okay, the green light, the go-ahead*

I got **an approval** so I'm on my way. I had been waiting forever for **the green light**.

to be an approval

to be a *pat on the back or on the head, atta boy, atta girl, that's the boy or girl, that's my boy or girl*

to be (an) après-ski (French in English)

to be a period of social activities and entertainment that follows skiing

to be an April shower (British English/ cockney slang)

to be a flower

to be an aptronym

to be a name that sounds like the owner's occupation

to be an archimage

to be the high priest of the Persian magi or worshipers of fire

to be an archimage

to be a great magician or wizard

to be an archon

(ancient Greece) to be an Athenian magistrate who was chosen from the most illustrious families to superintend civil and religious matters

to be an archon

to be a ruler or high official

to be Argie (British English)

to be a disparaging slang for a person from Argentina, an Argentinean or Argentine

to be an argument

*to have words, to be a **falling out**, squabble, set-to, flap, wrangle, beef, knockdown and drag out, (British English) barney, ruckus, (British English) fratch, (Scottish English) sturt, scrap, run-in or **blow-up***

We had a **falling out** as a result of the **argument** last night. It was quite a blow-up.

to be an argy-bargy (British English)

to be a noisy quarrel or argument

to be an aristocrat

to be a blue-blood or (British English) silk-stocking

to be an armchair general

to be an inexperienced person who speaks with authority on the matter at hand, i.e. football game or war

In this war, there have **been a** lot of **armchair generals**.

to be an armpit

to be a dirty, smelly, untidy or disgusting place

This place **is an armpit**. Why did you bring me here?

to be an arras
to be a richly woven tapestry

to be an arrière-pensée (French in English)
to be a mental reservation

to be an arrière-pensée (French in English)
to be a hidden or underhanded motive

to be an arrivé (French in English)
to be a social climber or status seeker

to be arriviste (British English)
a ruthless, amoral person who will do anything to get ahead

Because he **is an arriviste**, he will not hesitate to sell his soul if the price is right.

(to be) an arse-hole (British English)
to be stupid or dumb, to be a featherbrain or blockhead

I have never met such **an arse-hole**.

to be an arse-licker (British English)
to be a brown-noser, flunky, backscratcher or fawner

Because he **is an arse-licker**, he will do anything to succeed.

to be an arse load (British English)
to be a lot, a great deal of or large quantity

You gave him an **arse load** of work to complete. He won't be finished until sometime next week.

to be an arse monger (British English)
to be contemptible, mean, disgusting or revolting

Because he's **an arse monger**, I can't stand him.

to be an Artful Dodger

to be a circumventor, pretender, fraud or perjurer

He **is an Artful Dodger**; he can not be believed.

to be an artic (British English)

an articulated truck or lorry

to be an article (British English)

a person who is disgusting, repugnant, obnoxious, loathsome or rotten

to be an artist

to be a *trickster, confidence man, con artist, shyster, swindler, flimflam man, horse trader or fox*

to be an ascetic

to be one who lives of life of contemplation and self-denial for religious purposes

to be an ascetic

to be anyone who lives of life of self-denial and self-discipline

to be an ascham

to be a receptacle or box for archery implements or a box for keeping bows and arrows dry

to be an ascian

(inhabitants of the Torrid Zone) to be a person who casts no shadow at noon

to be an asteism

(rhetoric) to be genteel irony

to be an ashram
(India) to be a religious retreat

to be (an) A-side

to be the pop single that is being pushed

It **was** not the **A-side** that was the hit. It was the B-side song.

to be an ass

to be a donkey, burro, pack animal, draft animal, mule, beast of burden, jenny or (Scottish English) cuddy

to be an ass

to be a *Rocky Mountain canary*, *jackass*, (*British English*) *moke* or *dickey*

to be an ass

to be a *ninny*, *nincompoop*, *block*, *pin*, *meat*, *fat*, *addle* or *knucklehead*, *chump*, *cretin*, *idiot*, *boob*, *schmuck* or *schmo*

(to be an) ass

to be a vulgar term for a person's buttocks

She's nice but she got no kind of **ass**.

(to be an) ass

woman used for sexual gratification

I'm looking for some **ass**.

to be an ass

to be stupid, dumb, backwards or silly

Don't listen to her; she's **an ass**.

to be an ass hole

to be stupid, irritating, or disgusting person

He's **an ass hole**. He gets on my last nerve.

to be an ass hole

to be a fool, nincompoop, meathead or pinhead

He's **an ass** who never gets anything right.

to be an asshole buddy

to be a very close or intimate buddies or friends, a best friend

(to be an) ass in a crack

to be in a bad situation, in trouble or in hot water

Now that you stole that car, you have your **ass in a crack**.

(to be an) ass in a sling

to be in hot water or in trouble, to have big problems or a big problem

You better get home quick. This time you've really got your **ass in a sling**. Daddy is really mad.

(to be) an ass in lion's skin

to betray, deceive, trick or lie

He is not at all strong; he is nothing but an **ass in lion's skin**.

to be an ass kicker

to be something that operate and functions extraordinarily well

That computer **is an ass kicker**. There's not anything that you can't do.

to be an ass kisser

to be a fawner, truckler, brown-nose, backscratcher or sycophant

Because he **is an ass kicker**, he'll do anything to succeed.

to be an ass-licker (British English)

boot-licker, brown-noser, footlicker, apple-polisher

He has always been ***ass-licker***.

to be an ass man

to be a male who is especially attracted to a woman for her buttocks or derrière

He's ***an ass man***. If you don't have a big behind, he's not interested.

(to be an) ass on the line

to be in a situation where one is risking everything

To have your ***ass on the line*** is not the safest thing in the work.

to be an ass peddler

to be a prostitute or hooker

to be an ass wiper

to be a fawner, brownie, lackey, footlicker, apple-polisher or flatterer

She got to where she is by ***being an ass wiping***.

to be an ass wiping

to be an Uncle Tomish, to be deferential, servile, compliant, submissive or Tomish

to be an assassin

(usually in American English, the noun 'assassin' is used when referring to the killing or slaying of an important or famous person)

to be a gunman, killer, murder, (with a gun) sniper, strangler or headsmen

to be an assassin

to be a *plugger, hatchet or trigger man, liquidator, triggerman, hired gun, button man, butcher, torpedo, gun, dropper, silencer, dispatcher or piece man*

to be an assault to one's ears

to be a sound or noise which aggravates, bothers or irritates one

All this pounding and hammering **is an assault my ears.**

to be an assumed head

to be a presumed, presumable, anticipated, expected, plausible or given person in charge

He **is the assumed head** of his father; therefore, in a couple of months he will be taking over the company.

to be an asteism

to be a left handed compliment, an ingeniously polite insult or a polite manner of deriding another

to be an asthenia

to a debilitated condition of the body or to be the lack or loss of bodily strength

to be an asyndeton

(rhetoric) to be the omission of conjunctions between coordinate sentence elements, i.e. *I saw, I came, I conquered*

to be an atony

to be a lack of bodily tone or weakness of the body

to be an atony

(phonetics) to be a lack of accents or stress

to be an attaché (French in English)

literal translation: **attached**

to be a diplomatic official attached to an embassy, i.e. cultural attaché

to be an attaché (French in English)

literal translation: **attached**

a military officer assigned to a diplomatic post in a foreign country to gather information

(to be an) attitude

to be a temperament, disposition, personality, mental state, frame of mind, outlook, inclination, leaning, twist, bias or prejudice

His **attitude** has always been positive.

(to be an) attitude

to be an air, mood, guise, appearance, stance, pose, stand, *where one's head is* or P.O.V. (point of view)

to be an attorney

to be a lawyer, counsel, advocate or (British English) barrister or solicitor

to be an attorney

to be a *mouthpiece, legal eagle or beagle, the L.A., D.A, cutter* (negative terms) *Philadelphia lawyer, shyster or ambulance chaser*

to be an attraction

to be a *come-on, bait, lure or teaser, to knock out, knock dead, to make a hit with, bat one's eyes at, rope in or sweep off one's feet, go over*

to be an Aunt Edna (British English)

to be an invented prototypically provincial nice old lady

(to be an) auntie

1. **title of affection for one's aunt**
2. (Historical) **derogatory title for a grown woman instead of using 'Miss' or 'Mrs.'**

to be an Auntie (British English)

to be an affectionate nickname for the BBC

(to be an) Auntie Times (British English)

to be the newspaper, The Times (of London)

to be an Aunt Jemima

to be an offensive and derogatory term for an overweight black woman

to be an Aunt Jemima

to be an offensive and derogatory term for a subservient black woman

to be an Aunt Sally (British English)

to be a figure who is an easy target for criticism

to be Aunt Sally (British English)

to be a trial balloon, to be a proposal submitted for criticism

to be an au pair (French in English)

literal translation: **even, equal, at the pair**

to be a young foreign woman working as a nanny in return for room and board

to be an aurochs

(Europe) to be a wild ox who is now extinct, ancestor of the modern cattle

to be an aurochs

(Europe) to be an European bison

to be an Aussie (British English)

to be an Australian

Why are you so surprised? He **is an Aussie** and Aussies tend to be conservative.

to be an Aussie kiss (British English)

to be oral sex

to be an Aussie steak (British English)

to be mutton

to be an author

to be a writer, spinner of yarns, narrator or wordsmith

to be an author

(type) play write, script writer, biographer, speech writer, reporter, reviewer, critic reviewer, lyricist, pamphleteer, poet, chronicler, historian, correspondent, (British English) penny-a-liner, editorialist, columnist, anthologist or comedian

to be an author

(person who writes a book for another) to be a ghost or ghost writer

to be an author

to be a creator, producer, parent or originator

to be an authority figure

to represent authority or power

Although she is only their older sister, she **is an authority figure** to them.

to be an Authorized Version

to be the official version of the Bible (King James version), also called King James Bible

to be an autocrat

to be a dictator, absolute ruler or monarch, despot or supreme master

to be an autocrat

to be an *ass-kicker*, *bossy* or *iron-handed*

to be an auto de fé (Spanish in English)

to be a day set apart by the Inquisition for the punishment of heretics and the absolution of those who renounce their heretical doctrines

to be an autodidact

to be a person who is self-taught

to be an autologophagist

to be one who eats his or her own words

to be an autograph

to be a cross, X, John Hancock or *handle*

to be an automobile

to be *mean machine*, *wheels*, *low rider*, *bear bait* or *food*

to be an automobile

(type) to be a *four wheeler*, *van*, *hog*, *stretch limo*, *limo*, *jeeper-creeper*, *goat*, *job*, *beamer* or *benzo*

to be an automobile

(negative) to be a *lemon*, *junker*, *bone shaker*, *gas guzzler*, *death trap*, *bucket*, *cheap heap* or *junk heap*,

to be an automobile accident

to be a *fender-bender*, *crack-up*, *smash up*, *total*, *stack* or *pile*

to be an average joe

to be an everyday man, run of the mill, garden variety or fair to middling

to be an average working joe

to be an average worker, working stiff or laborer, not
be an executive or manager

It is horrible **being an average working joe**. We are the
ones who pay the taxes.

to be an average working stiff

to be an average working joe, worker or laborer

Although I **am an average working stiff**, I do know
something about economics.

to be an averruncator

to be a pole for pruning trees

to be an aviation blonde (British English)

to be a box blonde, to be blonde as a result of dying one's hair

You look surprised. You didn't know that she's **an aviation blonde**.

to be an awlarse (British English)

to be a contemptible, objectionable, offensive, repugnant
or obnoxious person

He **is an awlarse** who will do whatever.

to be an axe

to be a guitar or saxophone

to be an axe wound (British English)

to be a vagina

TO BE A B...

to be a B and S (Australian English)

to be a dance held in the rural area of Australia

to be a b-boy

to be a young male who is part of hip-hop culture

to be a B-list actor

to be a working actor who never became famous or recognized

to be a B-movie

to be a cheaply made, badly-written film, with no-name or less famous actors

Although it **was a B-movie**, it was pretty good.

to be a baa lamb (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a tram (American English: trolley car)

to be a baap (Hindi in English)

to be a father

to be a baas (South African English)

to be a derogatory and insulting term for a white man who is in charge of Coloreds or Blacks

to be a baasie (South African English)

to be a derogatory and insulting term and form of address for a young white male

to be a baba (Hindi in English)

to be a father

to be a baba (Hindi in English)

to be a respectful term for an older man

to be a baba (French in English)

to be a type of fruit cake

to be a babalaas (South African English)

to be a hangover

to be a bab

to be a term of affection equivalent to 'dear'

to be a babbling brook (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a crook

to be a babe

to be an attractive young woman

She's ***a babe***. I would like to know her.

to be a babe in the woods

to be an innocent, be wet behind the ears

She's **is like a babe in the woods**.

to be a babe magnet

to be a sexually desirable male who attracts female

They like going out with John since he's ***a babe magnet***.

to be a babe magnet

to be a sleek sexy car which attracts women

I don't want that car; it is a family car. I want a Hummer.
It's **a babe magnet**.

to be a babu (Hindi in English)

to be an office worker

to be a babu

to be a respectful term for an educated older man

to be a baby

to be one's lover or spouse

to be a baby boomer

to be a person born in the U.S. between 1946 to 1964

Bill Clinton **is a baby boomer.**

to be a baby giraffe (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

half pint of beer

to be a baby grand

to be the smallest of the grand pianos

to be a baby mother (street slang)

(male to female) to be the mother of one's child or children

to be a baby father (street slang)

(female to male) to be the father of one's child or children

to be a baby's dummy (British English)

to be a rubber or plastic pacifier

to be a baby watcher (British English)

to be a baby-sitter or child minder

to be a Bacardi Breezer (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a freezer

to be a baccy (British English)

to be tobacco

to be a bach (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be a small holiday house

to be a bachcha (Hindi in English)

to be a young person

to be a bachelor's party

to be a party for a male who is soon to be married

(to be) a backbone

1. to be fortitude, courage or guts

When are you going to get **a backbone**?

2. to be principles or character

She has **a backbone**; therefore, she is someone you can trust.

3. to be stamina, resolve or firmness

I respect him because think what you like, he has **a backbone**.

to be a back-breaker

to be a very difficult job or chore

I don't know if I can do this; no one can. It **is a back-breaker**.

to be a back door

to be done in secret, under the table, in the dark,
or far from everyone's view

By anyone's definition, this **is a back door** deal.

to be a backhander

to be a sudden surprise slap with an open hand

He was so mad at his wife that I really thought that he was going to give her **a backhander**.

to be a back seat driver

to try to control something which is not one's responsibility

Stop **being a back seat driver** in your son's life. He is a man. Let him be a man!

to be a backer

to be a supporter, proponent, or advocate

She **is a backer** of many movements.

to be a backhanded compliment

1. to be a remark that appears to be a compliment but in reality is an insult

I am not stupid; that **was a backhanded compliment**.

2. to be a two-faced, hypocritical, deceitful, insulting, and inappropriate remark

I have not been so insulted; that **was a backhanded compliment**.

to be a backhander (British English)

kickback, hush money, pay off, money given illegal

That **was a backhander**; therefore, I want none of it.

to be a backie (British English)

to be a backseat passenger on a motorcycle

You **are** always **a backie**. Why not get your own bike?

to be a backlash

to be a recoil, rebound, reflex, or response

This **is a backlash** to what happened last year.

(to be) a backroom

to be the place where secret deals are made or brokered

Do you have **a backroom**? We can talk there.

to be a backroom deal

to be an illegal or underhanded business or political transaction

His nomination **was a backroom deal**.

to be a back slang (British English)

to be a slang which is created by spelling words backwards

to be a backscratcher

to be a person who exchanges a favor for a favor

He is not ashamed that he **is a backscratcher**.

to be a backslapper

a person who is friendly in order to get or accomplish something

Although he seems nice; he **is** nothing but **a backslapper**.

to be a backsword

to be a sword with only one cutting edge

to be a backwater

to be the marginal area of geographical area

Philadelphia **is a backwater** of New York.

to be a backwoodsman

to be someone who is considered uncouth, unsophisticated,

uncultured or unrefined

to be a backwoodsman (British English)

to be a peer who rarely attends the House of Lords

to be a bacon sarnie (British English/ rhyming slang/ cockney)

Pakistani

to be a baculus

to be a staff or power symbol

to be a bad apple

to be a car which does not very well and is constantly breaking down

I have the worst luck in cars. This car ***is a*** real ***apple***.

to be a bad apple

to be a trouble maker, to be a person who is always looks for problems or trouble

He's ***a bad apple*** who will cause us a lot of headaches.

to be a badass

to be an aggressive, dominant or fearless male

Because he belongs to a gang, he think that he ***is a badass***.

to be a bad break

to be bad luck, to be luckless or unfortunate

What **a bad break!** Maybe you can make it next week.

to be a bad egg

to be born bad, be innately bad

There was nothing you could have done to help him. He **is a bad egg**.

(to be) a bad headache

to be a pain or ache in one's head, having one's head ache, terrible headache, migraine, headache, bad headache

I **have such a bad headache** that I can't go to the movies with you.

(to be) a bad feeling

to have qualms, have a funny feeling, misgivings, bad vibes, have an odd feeling

I don't want to do this; I have **a bad feeling**.

to be a bad hair day

to be a day which nothing goes right

This **is an** especially **bad hair day**. I think I should just give up and go home.

to be a bad hat (British English)

to be a bad seed or egg, to be born bad

He **is**, and will always be, **a bad hat**.

to be a bad lot (Australian English)

to be a bad group of people, to be a group of hooligans or trouble-makers

Stay away from them; they're **a bad lot**.

to be a badmash (Hindi in English)

to be a dishonest, immoral, bad or unprincipled person

to be a bad nigger (to be used with great care)

to be a black man who is greatly respected and/or feared

That **is a bad nigger**. I would not mess with him.

to be a bad patch (British English)

to be a rough patch, to be going through a hard period

to be a bad penny

to be born bad, innately bad

He **is a bad penny**.

to be a bad seed

to be born bad, be innately bad

He's **a bad seed**.

to be a baddie

to be the villain, heavy or fiend in a film

I can't believe that he **is a baddie** in the movie. He normally plays the goodie.

to be a badly packed kebab

to be the female genitals

to be a baetylus

(antiquity) to be a sacred stone of any shape which serves as a symbol of divinity

to be a bag

to be a woman's handbag

Have you seen my **bag**?

to be a bag

to be baggage or luggage

This **is a bag** just like the one I lost on the plane

to be a bag

to be a derogatory and insulting term for an ugly

or unattractive woman

She's **a bag**. What are you doing with her?

to be a bag

to be an insulting way to refer to one's wife or girlfriend

I like you, man but, frankly, your old lady **is a bag**.

to be a bag

a small portion of drugs sold by a drug deal

How much **is a bag**?

to be a bag for life (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a wife

to be a bag job

to be theft or robbery of computer files

It **was a bag job** by someone in the company.

to be a bag lady

a older or old homeless woman who keeps all her belongings in shopping bags

Her greatest fear was that she was going to **be a bag lady**.

to be a bag man

a person whose job it is to pick up money which has been extorted or gotten by force

I'm only **a bag man**. If you have any problems with paying the money, I'm not the person to talk to.

to be a bagman

(synonymous to commercial traveler) to be a traveling salesman

to be a bag of bones

1. derogatory term for a very thin or skinny person

She's nothing but **a bag of bones**.

2. to be gaunt, emaciated or wasted

She thinks that she is slim; the reality is that she **is a bag of bones**.

to be a bag of fruit (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a suit

to be a bag of sand (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a grand (a thousand)

to be a bag of nerves

to be a very nervous, timid or tense person

She has always **been a bag of nerves**.

(to be) a bag of tricks

to be the techniques that one uses in order to achieve one's goal

To win the election, he has quite **a bag of tricks**.

to be a bag of yeast (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a priest

to be a bag of yeast (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a beast

to be a bag of wank (British English)

to be bad, below standard, below par, no good or shoddy

How was it? It **was a bag of wank**. Anymore questions?

to be a bag of worms

to be a lot of trouble or problems, be a hot potato

Can't you see that this **is a bag of worms**.

to be a bag of wind

to be a person who brags or boasts a lot

You can not believe him; he's nothing but **a bag of wind**.

to be a bag puncher

a fighter

to be a baggage

to be a prostitute, harlot, street walker or whore

to be a baggage

to be a woman who is seen as loose or sexually provocative

to be a bagging (British English)

to be a snack, to be food eaten between meals

to be a Baked Bean (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a queen

to be a baker's dozen

to be a dozen plus one, thirteen

to be a Bail of Hay (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be gay

to be a bailiff (British English)

1. to be a sheriff assistant
2. to be an estate or farm manager

to be a bailiwick (British English)

to be a district within which a bailiff has jurisdiction

to be a bailiwick

to be one's specialization, to be one's special field of interest or authority

to be a bain-marie (French in English)

a large double-boiler

to be a bairn (Scottish English)

to be a child, to be a son or daughter

to be a bakehouse (British English)

to be a bakery

to be baksheesh

(Turkey, Egypt and countries further east) a tip or gratuity

to be a Balaclava (British English)

to be a woolen helmet

to be a balayeuse

to be a ruffle placed on the inside of the bottom of a woman's dress to protect it

to be a balbriggan

to be a knitted cotton material used for underwear like that made in Balbriggan, Ireland

to be a baldachin

to be a rich brocade, originally made of silk and gold

to be a baldachin

1. to be a canopy carried in church processions

2. to be a canopy placed over an altar or throne

to be a baldachin

to be a marble or stone structure, similar to a canopy, built over an altar

to be a bald-headed hermit

to be the penis

to be a bald-headed mouse

to be the penis

to be a baldhead (Jamaican English)

to be a person who is not a Rastafarian

to be a baldmoney

to be a spignel, to be a parsley plant with white flowers found in the mountainous areas of Europe

to be a baldy

to be a person, normally males, who has no hair or who is going bald, to be a bald-headed person

to be a ball

to be a testicle

to be a ball

to be a good or enjoyable time

Last night, the dance **was a ball**. I never had so much fun.

(to be a) ball

to a baseball, football or soccer ball

Let's play some **ball**. I need the exercise.

to be a ball-ache (British English)

to be problematic or troublesome, to be a pain

to be a ball and bat (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a twat (to be a stupid, dumb, disgusting or revolting person)

to be a ball breaker

to emasculate, constantly test a male to humiliate or humble him

She ***is a ball breaker*** because she hates men.

to be a ball breaker

to be a very difficult job, task or chore

I don't know if I can do this; no one can. It ***is a ball-breaker***.

to be a ball buster

to be an extremely difficult problem

This math problem ***is a*** real ***ball buster***.

to be a ball buster

used to describe a woman who uses her power to humiliate others, especially but not exclusively males

I wouldn't take her class. She ***'s a ball buster***.

(to be) a ball game

to be a baseball game

I went to **a ball game** last night.

to be a ball and chain

to be a negative and insulting way to refer to one's wife

You marry her; she will ***be a ball and chain*** who will drive you to murder.

to be a Ball of Chalk (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a walk

to be a ball of fire

to be an exceptionally motivated and positive person

I love being around him. He's such **a ball of fire**.

to be a ball park

to be the place where baseball is played

to be a ball tearer

to be excellent, outstanding, very good or none better

That ***was a ball-tearer*** of a movie. I think that I'll see it again.

to be ball wracker (British English)

a person who emasculates, or who constantly humbles a male
to humiliate him

She ***is a ball wracker*** because she hates men.

to be a ball wracker (British English)

to be a very difficult job, task or chore

I don't know if I can do this; no one can. It ***is a ball-wracker***.

to be a ballock (British English)

to be a testicle

to be a balloon

used to show speech in a comic strip

to be a balloon car (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a bar or saloon bar

to be a balls up (British English)

to be a mess, to be a bungled or botched up situation

to a ballsy person

to be a person who is brave, bold, gutsy or courageous

to be a ballsy person

to be aggressive, assertive or belligerent

He **is** one of the most **ballsy persons** that I have ever known.

to be a Balmain kiss (Australian English)

to be a butting or ramming of the head, to be a head butt

to be a bam (Scottish English)

(short for a bampot) to be derogatory term for a person who is silly or stupid, to not have the sense that one was born with, to be a featherhead or brain

to be a bamboozler

1. to be trickster or cheater
2. to be someone who bamboozles or confuse

He **is** such a **bamboozler** that I don't know what side is up.

to be a bampot (Scottish English)

(short for a bamper) to be derogatory term for a person who is silly or stupid, to not have the sense that one was born with, to be a featherhead or featherbrain

to be a bamstick (Scottish English)

(short for a bamper) to be derogatory term for a person who is silly or stupid, to not have the sense that one was born with, to be a featherhead or brain

to be a banana (British English)

a penis

to be a banana

an insulting or derogatory term for an Asian person who is perceived 'to act or behave like a white person' (yellow on the outside but white on the inside)

to be a banana bender (Australian English)

to be someone from Queensland

to be a banana republic

to be a derogatory term for a small unstable country whose economy is controlled by a single export

to be a band-aid

a temporary remedy or solution

This **is** nothing but **a band-aid**. You're only putting off the problem.

to be a bandh (Hindi in English)

to be a general strike

to be a bandog

to be a dog kept tied up as a watchdog or dog who needs to be constantly controlled

to be a bandog

to be a bloodhound

to be a bandoline

to be a smelly hair goo used for the purpose of glossing one's hair or for keeping it in shape

to be a bandy-bandy (Australian English)

to be a small, nocturnal, poisonous snake native to Australia

to be a bandwagon

to be a part of the crowd or the consensus, to go with the flow

I refuse to jump on the **bandwagon**. I think that he is innocent.

to be a bang

1. to be a hard blow with a club, to be a stroke, hit, slap or wallop, to be a resounding thwack or whack
2. to be an explosive noise, to be an explosion, boom, clap, clash, thump or thud

That **was a** loud **bang**. What happened?

(to be) a bang

to be energy, vitality, pep, zip or vim

That drink gave me **a bang**. I feel fantastic.

to be a bang

to be a thrill, excitement, boost or charge

to be a bang

to be an act of copulation, to be the act of having sexual intercourse

to be a bang board

to be a large board mounted along one side of a wagon against which corn huskers toss the ears of corn, causing them to rebound into the wagon

to be a bangle ear

(spaniel or bloodhound) to be an ear that hangs loosely

(to be) a bang-up job

to be an excellent or fantastic job

You did **a bang-up job**. Congratulation!

to be a banger (British English)

to be a sausage

to be a banger (British English)

to be an old car which barely works

His car **is a banger** and I'm not going to the dance in that.

to be a bank cheque (Australian English)

to be a cashier's check

to be a bank holiday (British English)

to be a legal holiday

to be a banker (British English)

to be a fisherman from Newfoundland

to be a banker (British English)

to be a sure bet, to be a bet that one can not lose

I swear to you that this **is a banker**. You can't lose.

to be a banker (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be a river that has flooded its banks

to be a bankroll

to be a large roll of money

Where did you get so much money? That's **a bankroll** big enough to choke a cow.

to be a banker's order (British English)

to be a money transfer order

to be a banlieue (French in English)

1. to be the territory outside the walls but within the legal limits

of a town or city

2. to be a suburb

to be a bantling

to be a young child

to be a bantling

to be a brat

to be a bantling

to be an immature product such as an author or artist

to be a bap (British English)

to be a hamburger roll or bun

to be a baptism of fire

(early Christian Church) to be martyrdom

to be a baptism of fire

to be the first experience of a soldier or regiment under fire or in a combat

I guess that **was a baptism of fire**. I'm glad that it is over.

to be a baptism of fire

to be any experience that tests one's courage or strength for the first time

What has just happened has **been a baptism of fire**.

to be a barathrum

(ancient Greek) to be a rocky pit outside the walls of Athens where criminals, dead or alive, were thrown

to be a barathrum

to be a pit, hole or abyss

to be a barathrum

to be the fathomless or bottomless pit of hell

to be a barathrum

to be a relentless devotee or fan

to be a barathrum

to be an extortionist, blackmailer or leech

to be a barathrum

to be a glutton

to be a barman (British English)

to be a bartender

to be a bar-mitzvah

to be the initiation ceremony of a Jewish male who is thirteen years old and now able to participate in public worship

to be a barge-pole (British English)

to be a ten-foot pole

to be a bar tender

to be a person who serves drink at a bar or tavern

to be a barbie (Australian English)

a barbeque

to be a Barbie Doll

to be a woman who is pretty but dumb, to be a woman who is dead from the neck up

Yes, she is beautiful but she **is** also nothing but **a Barbie Doll**.

to be a Barclays bank (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)
to be the act of masturbation

to be a bard

1. to be a poet
2. (ancient Celts) a poet who sang or recited verses of his own composition, normally accompanied by the harp
3. (Scotland) a minstrel or wandering musician

to be a bard

to be a piece of horse armor consisting of leather studded with metal points

(to be a) bare-branch

a Chinese translation of men who are not married and who have little hope of ever getting married

It is dangerous to have too many **bare branches** in society.

to be a barefaced lie

to be an obvious lie, to be an audacious, brazen or unblushing lie

What you have just said ***is a barefaced lie.***

to be a barf bag

a sturdy paper bag in which can vomit (normally can be found in airplanes)

to be a barfola

to be an unattractive college woman

Did you see John's new girlfriend? She's ***a barfola.***

to be a Bargain Hunt (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a cunt (to be a stupid, dumb, backward, disgusting or obnoxious person)

to be a bargirl

to be a woman who works in a bar

to be a barhopper

to be a person who go from bar to bar, drinking in each

I don't like going out with him. He's ***a bar hopper***.

to be a barmcake (British English)

to be a non-insulting term for someone who is silly or foolish,
to be a featherbrain or head

He's nice enough but he **is a barmcake**, don't you think?

to be a barmpot (British English)

to be a non-insulting term for someone who is silly or foolish,
to be a featherbrain or head

There no denying it; he **is a barmpot**.

to be a barmaid (British English)

to be a woman who serves drinks behind a bar in a bar or tavern

to be a barmaid (North American English)

to be a waitress who goes to the tables to take orders and serves
drink in a tavern or bar

to be a Barnaby Rudge (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a judge

to a barman (British English)

to be a male who serves drinks behind a bar in a bar or tavern

to be a barney (British English)

to be a fight, argument or squabble

to be a barroom

to be a place alcohol is served, to be a bar or tavern

to be a barnburner

to be exciting, to not knowing what is going to happen next,
to be thrilling

His reelection is expected to **be a barnburner**.

to be a barney (British English)

to be a nosey quarrel, loud argument

They had **a barney** this morning that was rather nasty.

to be a barn owl (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a row (argument or quarrel)

to be a barrel of laughs

(usually used in the negative) source of enjoyment, pleasure or amusement

Right now I would not say that life **was a barrel of laugh**.

to be a barrio (Spanish in English)

to be a neighborhood or district of the city

This **is a barrio** which contain a lot of ethnic restaurants.

to be a barrister (British English)

to be a trial lawyer

to be a barrow (British English)

to be a two-wheeled cart used by street vendors to sell their wares

to be a barry (Austalian English)

to be fiasco, screw up, blooper or a terrible blunder

That was a **barry** that he won't forget anytime soon.

to be a Barry Crocker (Austalian English/ rhyming slang)

to be fiasco, screw up, blooper or a terrible blunder

That **was a barry** that he won't forget anytime soon.

to be a Barry Crocker (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a shocker

to be a Barry Nash (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a slash (to urinate or pee, to take a piss)

to be a Barry White (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be an act of defecation

to be a bar crawl (British English)

to go to several bar

They're went on **a bar crawl**.

to be a bar steward (British English)

to be a *bastard* (to be a evil, bad, or extremely disagreeable person)

to be a bash

to be a crushing blow or strike, to be a heavy blow

It **was a bash** which almost totally destroyed my car.

to be a bash

to be a get-together or party

It's going to **be a bash** that you will never forget.

(to be) a bash (British and Australian English)

to be an effort, undertaking, try or attempt

We gave it **a bash** but I don't think that it did any good.

to be a bash (Australian English)

to be a drinking spree or binge

to be a bash (Australian English)

to be an act of making loving or having sexual intercourse

to be a bashi-bazouk

(19th century Ottoman Empire) to be a member of the Turkish irregulars who were notorious for their brutality

to be a basin (British English)

to be a sink

to be a basin cut (Australian English)

to be a bad or unprofessional hair cut, to be a bowl cut (American English)

to be a basin of gravy (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be one's baby

to be a basket (British English)

euphemism for bastard

He **is a basket!**

to be a basket case

to be unable to deal or cope with a situation, to be helpless

Right now she can't help anyone; she's **a basket case.**

to be a bastard

to be a creep, rat or dog

By anyone's definition, John **is a bastard.**

to be a Bat and Wicket (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a ticket

to be a bat-fowler

to be a person who catches birds at night by blinding them with a light or by driving them toward a light and netting them

to be a bat-mitzvah

to be the initiation ceremony of a Jewish female who is thirteen years old and now able to participate in public worship

to be a batch

to be a bunch, group or grouping

There **was a batch** of cookies on the kitchen table.

to be a bath (British English)

to be a bathtub

to be a Bath Bun (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be one's son

to be a bath chair (British English)

to be a wheel chair

to be a Bath Tub (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a pub (bar)

to be a bathe (British English)

to swim, in the sense of having a dip

to be a bathroom tap (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a Jap

to be a batman (British English)

to be a military's officer's servant

to be a baton (British English)

to be a nightstick

to be a batsman (British English)

to be a batter

to be a battleaxe (British English)

to be an aggressive, mean, disagreeable or unpleasant older woman

to be a Battle Cruiser (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a *boozer* (pub or bar)

to be a batterie de cuisine (French in English)

(cooking) to be a set of utensils to prepare and serve food

to be a battering

to be a flogging, whipping, pounding or thrashing

to be a battery operated boyfriend (British English)

to be a sex toy, to be a vibrator

to be a battle cruiser (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a *boozer* (to be a bar or pub)

to be a battle of wits

to be an intellectual contest to see who is the more intelligent or astute

It has **been a battle of wits** that I had no intention of losing.

to be a battler (Australian English)

to be a person who fights against the odds and keeps trying despite failing over and over again

I have to admire her. She **is a battler**. One day she will succeed.

to be a battue

1. to be a hunt conducted by driving game from cover to a place near waiting hunters
2. to be the game killed by such a hunt

to be a battue

to be any kind of mass slaughter of the weak or unresisting

to be a batty boy (British English)

to be a gay male

to be a batty bwoy (British English)

to be a gay male

to be a batty man (British English)

to be a gay male

to be a batwoman

to be a female attendant who serves a British officer in the services

to be a bawbee (Scottish English)

to be a coin of low value

to be a Bazaar (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a bar

to be a bazillion

to be an amount so great that it is too much to count, to be more than a lot

That's ***a bazillion*** dollars. I could not owe that much in taxes.

to be a beach bum

to be a person who spends all his time on the beach

Of course, John doesn't work. He's **a beach bum**.

(to be) a beachhead

(normally used as a military term) to be a place to stand on, standing, base, support, grip on the beach

It was very difficult for the soldiers to get **a beachhead**.

to be a beak (British English)

1. to be a schoolmaster or mistress
2. to be a magistrate

to be a beaker (British English)

to be a cup or mug

to be a Beam me up Scotty (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a totty (to be a sexually desirable or attractive girl or woman)

to be a bean (British English)

to be an ecstasy pill

to be a bean (British English)

to be money or a cent as in 'I don't have a cent (bean) to my name. I'm dead broke.'

to be a bean counter

to be a person, normally an accountant, who is overly concerned with controlling the budget

He **is a bean counter**; therefore, he will stop wasteful spending.

to be a bean eater

to be a derogatory and insulting term for someone from Mexico, to be a derogatory and insulting term for Mexican-American, Chicano or Latino

to be a beaner

to be a derogatory and insulting term for someone from Mexico, to be a derogatory and insulting term for Mexican-American, Chicano or Latino

to be a bean feast (British English)

1. to be a party where food and drink are served
2. to be a company picnic

to be a bean-flicker (British English)

to be a lesbian

to be a beano (British English)

to be a party

to be a bean pole

to be a very skinny person

She's beyond being skinny. She's **a bean pole**.

to be a bear

to be a very disagreeable or contrary person, to be a grumpy person

Stay away from here! He's **a bear**.

to be a bear

to be someone who is in very bad or sour mood, to be a grouch or crank

It's Monday morning; therefore, he's **a bear**.

to be a bear

(Stock Exchange) to be a person who sells shares high with the hope of buying them back at a lower price, to be an under seller or speculator

to be a bear garden (British English)

to be a place of uproar, disarray or tumult, to be a three-ring circus

to be a bear pit (British English)

to be a place of uproar, disarray or tumult, to be a three-ring circus

to be a bear pit (Australian English)

to be a place of political debate, such as a parliament or senate, where no-hold bar political wrangling or debates take place

The House Representative **is** much more **a bear pit** than the Senate.

to be a béarnaise sauce (French in English)

to be a sauce of egg yolks, shallots, tarragon, butter, vinegar, and white wine

to be a bear's paw (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a saw

to be a bearded clam (British English)

vulgar term for a woman's sexual organs

to be a beast (British English)

to be an unattractive, plain or ugly woman

She's **a beast**. Get rid of her.

to be a beast (Australian English)

to be a large and very old, almost ancient, car

That **is a beast**. Does it still run.

to be a beast (Australian English)

to be an ugly, homely or unattractive person

(to be) a beat down

to be a beating by a street gang

He got **a beat down** that sent him to the hospital.

to be a beater

to be an old junker or old broken-down car

Look over there. Now, there **is a beater** that couldn't go a block without falling apart.

to be a beating

to be a defeat, trouncing or trampling

That was a beating that he won't forget.

to be a beating heart (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a tart (to be a prostitute)

to be a beating heart (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a tart (to be a promiscuous or loose woman)

to be a beau geste (French in English)

to be an act which is bountiful, benevolent, magnanimous, generous but also futile

to be a beaut

(normally used ironically) to be perfect, idea, remarkable or superlative

to be a beaut

to be a pretty, beautiful or very attractive person or thing

That car that you just bought **is a beaut**.

to be a beaver (British English)

to be a vulgar term for a woman's sexual organs

to be a beaver

to be a woman as only a receptacle for the penis

to be a beaver-flick

to be a film showing naked women

Although it ***was a beaver flick***, it was super boring.

to be a beaver-retriever

to be a lecher, old goat, dirty old man, Don Juan or womanizer

to be a beck (British English)

to be a brook

to be a bed and breakfast

to be a small inn or guest house where one stays over night and is given breakfast in the morning

to be a bed bath (British English)

to be a sponge bath

to be a bed bunny

1. to be a promiscuous or loose young female
2. to be a promiscuous young female who

to be a bedlamite

1. to be a patient in a mental hospital
2. to be a lunatic

to be a bedsit (British English)

1. to be a one room apartment with a kitchen, to be a studio apartment (American English)
2. to be a room in a hotel without a bathroom

to be a bed-sitting room (British English)

to be a combination bedroom-living room

to be a beef

to be lament, quibble, criticism or grievance

What's **your beef**? You are never satisfied.

to be a beef bayonet (British English)

playful but somewhat vulgar term for the penis

to be a beefcake

to be a handsome muscular male who is not very intelligent

to be a Beecham's Pill (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a bill (invoice or statement)

to be a Beecham's Pill (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a still (photograph or photo)

to be a beefeater (British English)

to be a guard or (British English) warder of the Tower of London

to be a beer-belly

to be a large-protruding belly (usually as a result of drinking too much beer)

That **is a beer-belly** that's hard to miss. He looks pregnant.

(to be a) beer garden

to be a bar or tavern

Let's go down to the **beer garden** to get a beer.

to be a beer-gut

a large-protruding belly (usually as a result of drinking too much beer)

That **is a beer-gut** that's hard to miss. He looks pregnant.

to be a beetle-crusher (British English)

to be a large boot

to be a beggar (British English)

to be as synonymous to the American English slang term 'guy' as in to be a 'miserable' or 'happy' **beggar**

to be a Beggar Boy's Arse (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a **brass** (prostitute, hooker or call girl)

to be a Belisha beacon (British English)

to be a street crossing light

(to be) a bell (British English)

to be a call, telephone call

When you get time, give me **a bell**.

to be a bellboy

to be an attendant in a hotel who performs services for the guests, i.e. to take the guests' baggage to their room

He **is a bellboy** in one of the most important hotels in New York.

to be a belle

to be a very attractive or beautiful female

(to be a) belle

to be the most attractive or most popular woman or girl of a certain place or on a given occasion, i.e. **to be the belle** of the ball

to be a bellyful

to be all that a person can tolerate, or take

No, no more. It's **a bellyful**.

to be a belt (British)

to be a woman's girdle

to be a Belt Buckle (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a chuckle (to have a laugh)

to a belt-tightening

to reduce or cut cost, to save money

This **is a belt-tightening** that is going to hurt a lot of people.

to be a beltway insider

to be someone who is part of the political class or elite of Washington, DC

He **is a beltway insider** so I would listen to what he has to say.

to be a belvedere

to be the uppermost story of a building open to the air for the purpose of giving a view of the country

to be a belvedere

to be a cigar which is shorter and thinner than a corona

to be a belvedere

to be a summerhouse on an eminence in a park or garden

to be a Ben Dover (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a hangover

to be a benchwarmer

to be a member of the team but who does not play

It is easy to **be a benchwarmer**. You don't do anything but watch.

to be a bend (British English)

(road) to be a curve

to be a bender (British English)

to be a trailer truck

(to be) a bender

to be a drinking binge or spree, to drink continuously for a long period of time (usually a couple of days or a weekend)

Because I went on **a bender** this weekend, I didn't do any of my work.

to be a bender (British English)

a derogatory and insulting term for a gay male (short for a gender bender)

to be a benedick

(from Shakespeare/ **Much Ado About Nothing**) to be a bachelor who finally falls in love

to be a benedick

to be a recent bridegroom previously a confirmed bachelor

to be a Benedict Arnold

to be a Brutus, Castilianian or backstabber, to betray

To **be a Benedict Arnold** is to be a traitor.

to be a Benedict Arnold

to be a traitor, Brutus or backstabber, to betray, to play Judas

To **be a Benedict Arnold** is to be a traitor.

to be a benison

to be a blessing or benediction

to be a benny (British English)

to be a fit of angry or a tantrum

to be a berk (British English)

to be an unpleasant person who is a fool, meatball, dolt or *ass*

to be a berk (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

a woman's sexual organs

to be a Berkshire Hunt (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a cunt (to be a stupid, dumb, backward, disgusting or obnoxious person)

to be a berm (British English)

(road) to be a shoulder of

to be a Bernard Matthew (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a queue (to be a line)

to be a besom

to be a broom consisting of twigs tied to a handle

to be a besom

(figuratively) to be any utensil which cleanses

to be a bête (French in English)

to be a beast or beast like person

to be a bête noire (French in English)

to be a person is particularly disliked, fear and/ or avoided

to be a bethel (British English)

to be a chapel

to be a Betty Grable (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a table

to be a bevy

to be group of young men and women

There **was a bevy** of youngsters screaming, hollering and causing havoc.

to be a bibi (Indian English)

to be a man's wife

to be a Bex (Australian English)

to be a cup of tea

to be a big dipper (British English)

to be a roller coast

to be a Bible-banger

to be a fundamental Christian preacher or person who always quotes the bible, to be evangelistic

to be a Bible-basher (Australian English)

a fundamental Christian preacher or person who always quotes the bible, to be evangelistic

to be a bibliognost

to be a well-read lover of books

to be a bibliographer

to be a writer of books

to be a bibliolater

to be a worshipper of the Bible and a devout believer in its literal translation

to be a bibliolater
to be a person who loves books exceedingly

to be a bibliolite
to be a laminated schistose rock also called a book stone

to be a bibliomane
to be a person who has a mania for acquiring books

to be a bibliopegist
to be one who binds books

to be a bibliophile
to be a book lover

to be a biblioplist
to be a bookseller

to be a bibliotaph
to be one who stows away or hides books

to be a bibliothec
to be a librarian or one who has charge of a collection of book

to be a bibliotheca
to be a collection of books or library

to be a bibliotheca
to be a book seller's catalogue

(to be) a bicky (British English)
to be (British English) a biscuit or (American English) a cookie

to be a bien pensant (French in British English)

to be a person who is strict, conventional, conservative, stiff-neck, orthodox or fixed

to be a biffa (British English)

to be an insulting and derogatory term for a woman who appears male-like

to be a biffa (Australian English)

to be a squabble, altercation, dispute, blow-up or fight

That **was a biffa** like I haven't seen before.

to be a bigass

to be a person who has very large buttocks

You can't miss her. She's **a bigass**.

to be a bigass

to be a self-important, pompous, overbearing, arrogant or conceited person

He's **a bigass** who thinks that the world revolves him.

to be a big boy

to be usually said to a male child to tell him that he is no longer a baby or a little child

You **are a big boy** now. If there is a problem, you can not start crying. You have to tell me what the problem is.

to be a big boy

to be said to a man by a woman, referring to the male's genitals

Yes, you're right. You **are a big boy**.

to be a big cat

to be a lion, tiger, cheetah or other animals who belong to the family Felidae

to be a big cheese

to be a very important person, to be someone who can not be ignored

He's **a big cheese** in the company so be careful.

to be a big dick

the big guy, the big or biggest fish in the pond,
the kingpin, the big cheese or the boss

You might think that you **are a big dick** but you're not.
You are just like we are, no more or no less.

to be a big fish in a small pond

to be the most important person in a small
organization, place or town

Anybody can **be a big fish** in a small pond.

to be a big frog in a small pond

to be the most important person in a small
organization, place or town

Anybody can **be a big frog in a small pond**.

to be a big girl's blouse (British English)

to be an insulting way to refer to a person who is good
for nothing, to be a useless or ineffectual person

to be a big gun

to be a powerful, formidable or influential person

I would not go up against him; he **is a big gun** in
the field of music.

(to be) a big head

to be self-worshipping, puffed up or conceited

He has such **a big head** that I can not stand to be around him.

(to be) a big-head

to be conceited, snobbish or proud, to be with one's nose in the air, to be stuck up, swell-headed, smug or cocky

He has such a **big head** that I doubt he even knows that you exist.

to be a big hitter

to be a person who is very important, of great consequence or import

He **is a big hitter** in the Republican Party. I would treat him with great respect.

to be a big mouth

to be a braggart, blowhard, peacock or boaster

He **is a big mouth**. He loves to go around tooting his own horn.

to be a big mouth

to speak or talk too loudly

She **is a big mouth** who must be embarrassing.

to be a big name

to be someone who is famous in a particular field

In the world of sci-fi literature, she **is a big name**.

(to be) a big nose (North American English)

to concern oneself with the affairs or business of another

Be careful, she has a **big nose**, always sniffing around looking for info.

to be a big nose (British English)

to be someone who is famous in a particular field

In the world of sci-fi literature, she **is a big nose**.

to be a big note (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be a boastful person, to be a braggart, windbag or gasbag

to be a big note (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be a person who exaggerates, inflates, blows out of proportion or overstates his importance and the wealth that he has

to be a big shit

to be a obnoxious, disgusting, abhorrent or detestable person

He's nothing but **a big shit**. Everyone hates him.

to be a big shit

to be important, of high station, high ranking or top level, to be the big fish or the boss

He **is** quite **a big shit** in the company.

to be a big shot

to be an influential or important person, being a person who carries a lot of power

He might think he **is a big shot** but he's not.

to be a big tent

(political) to be a political party that is tolerant of divergent views

Both Democrats and Republicans claim that their party **is a big tent**.

to be a big tent

to be a party, community or association which accepts diversity

There are those who believe that the Republican party **is a big tent** party. I do not.

to be a big ticket item

an expensive or costly article such as a car, a washing machine or boat

This is a **big ticket item**; therefore, it is going to cost you a lot.

to be a big wheel (British English)

to be a Ferris wheel

to be a big wig

to be an important person, to be a big fish, to be someone who gets his or her phone call returned

He ***is a big wig*** not only here but also in Washington.

to be a bike

to be the abbreviation and informal term for a bicycle

This ***is a bike*** that will last you for years. That's why it is so expensive.

to be a bight

to be a bend or small bay between two points of land

to be a bight

to be a loop in a rope

to be a bight

to be a curve or bend in a river or coast line, to be a coastal curve

to be a bight

to be a bend, fork or hollow in the human or animal body

to be a biker

to be a member of a bike or motorcycle club

to be a bikie

to be a member of a bike or motorcycle club

to be a bikkie (British English)

to be a cookie

to be a bill

1. to be a poster or handbill where information is printed
There **is a bill** pasted on the fence. I'm going to tear it off.
2. to be an invoice, statement, list of expenditures
There **is still a bill** that you haven't paid.
3. to be a treasury note, money, paper money, tender, legal tender or greenback
4. to be a list, inventory or enumeration

to be a bill (British English)

to be an itemized slip of payment for a restaurant, bar or pub,
(American English) to be a check

to be a Bill and Ben (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a pen

to be a Bill Oddie (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a voddie (to be a vodka)

to be a billabong (Australian English)

to be a waterhole

to be a billiard-saloon (British English)

to be a pool room or billiard parlor

to be Billie Piper (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a windscreen wiper

to be a Billie Piper (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)
to be a sniper

to be a billion
to be a thousand millions

to be a billion (British English)

1. a million millions
2. a very large or enormous amount

to be a billionaire

1. to be a person who possesses a billion dollars or pounds
2. to be a very rich person

to be a bill of quantity
to be a cost estimate

to be a Billy (Australian English)
to be a makeshift container made for boiling water

to be a Billy Bunter (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)
to be a punter

to be a Billy Goat (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)
to be a coat

to be a Billy Goat (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)
to be one's throat

to be a Billy Hunt (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)
to be a silly cunt (to a person who is contemptible, stupid or ridiculous)

to be a Billy no mates (British English)
to be an insulting way to refer to a person who appears to be without

friends, who is an introvert or who is a loner

to be a Billy Ray Cyrus (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a virus

to be a bimbo

an sexually attractive woman who's not very intelligent

She's **a bimbo**.

to be a bimmer

to be a BMW.

to be a Bin Laden (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a garden

to be a bin lid (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a kid (to be an adolescent)

to be a bind (British English)

to be a nuisance, bother or pain

Frankly, her phone call **was a bind**.

to be a bind (North American English)

to be an impasse or fork in the road, to be a dilemma or predicament

This **is a bind**. No matter what I do, I'm wrong.

to be a bindi (Hindi in English)

to be the dot worn in the center of forehead by a Hindi woman

to be a binge

to be a spree or bout

Something must have happened to trigger **a binge** of this magnitude.

to be a binnie (British English)

to be a trash man, to be a garbage collector

Because he's ***a binnie***, he works for the city. He gets paid pretty well.

to be a binman (British English)

to be a trash man, to be a garbage collector

Because he's ***a binman***, he works for the city. He gets paid pretty well.

to be a binno (British English)

to be a trash man, to be a garbage collector

Because he's ***a binno***, he works for the city. He gets paid pretty well.

to be a bint (British English)

to be a girlfriend

to be a bint (British English/ Arabic in English)

to be an insulting term for a woman

to be a bird (British English)

to be a woman

She's ***a bird*** that I would love to know.

to be a bird

an eccentric, strange or eccentric person

She has always ***been an odd bird***.

to be a bird bath (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a laugh

to be a birdbrain

1. to be a fool, stupid or not the brightest person

She **is** such a **birdbrain**.

2. to be a person who is flighty or frivolous

He **is a birdbrain** who changes her mind on a dime.

3. to be a person who is backward, simple, dull or empty-headed

Don't even doubt that he **is a birdbrain**.

(to be) a bird's eye view

a broad, quick, general or superficial perspective or understanding

I can't really give you an opinion; up until now I have had only a **bird's eye's view** of the property.

to be a bird-strike (British English)

to be the collision of a bird with an airplane

If it **is a bird strike**, the bird will lose.

to be a Birmingham screwdriver (British English)

to be a hammer

to be a biscuit (British English)

to be a cookie, to be an unleavened bread which is sweet, flat, round and crispy treat

to be a biscuit and cookie (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a bookie (to be a bookmaker or someone who takes bets)

to be a biscuit and cookie (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a rookie (to be a new person on the job)

to be a bish (British English)

to be a mistake, error, slip or slip-up

to be a Bish Bash Bosh (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a water (to take a shower or bath)

to be a bistro

to be a small, cheap restaurant

to be a bit

to be a little, to be somewhat or rather, to be to a certain extent

Yes. She **was a bit** angry. I guess that she didn't think the joke was funny.

to be a bit (adjective)

to be used to understate or to say without hurting or causing a lot of reaction

Yes. I saw her. And you're right, she's **a bit fat**.
(she's **a bit fat** means that she **is really fat**)

to be a bit (British English)

to be an insulting term for woman or female

to a bit missing (British English)

to be feeble-minded or not all there, to be feather-brained

to be a bit of a knock (British English)

to be a tough or hard break

to be a bit of a

to be somewhat, to not be in extreme

Yes, I have to admit that he's **a bit of a** scoundrel.

to be a bit of a nasty cut (British English)

(said when a person has either been injured or has injured his or herself and the cut, wound or laceration is deep, bleeding and probably needs stitches)

That's **a bit of a nasty cut**, you're going to need a couple of stitches.

to be a bit of all right (British English)

(usually refer to women) to be sexually attractive or pretty

Yes, I've seen her and she's ***a bit of all right***.

to be a bit of fluff (British English)

to be a woman as a sexual object, to be a sexual partner, *to be a piece of ass*

to be a bit of goods (British English)

to be an attractive or good-looking woman, to be quite a dish

to be a bit of rough

to be a sexual partner who is poorer, less educated and less sophisticated

to be a bit of skirt (British English)

to be a woman as a sexual object, to be a sexual partner

to be a bit of spare (British English)

to be a person who is always available, sexually speaking

to be a bit of stuff (British English)

to be a woman as a sexual object, to be a sexual partner

to be a Bit o' Luck (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a fuck (to have sexual intercourse)

(to be) a bit on the side

to be an outside sexual relationship, to have another person

on the side, to have an extramarital affair

I have always had **a bit on the side**.

to be a bit part

to be a small acting role in a movie, a television program or in a play

It's only **a bit part** but it's the most that I have ever had.

to be a bit peeved

to be an understated way to say that one is very angry

I do understand why she **is a bit peeved**. I would be too.
(find other expressions about 'angry')

to be a BJ

(abbreviate for a **blow job**) to participate in oral sex

to be a bitch

to be an annoyance, a pain in the neck, hassle or bother

This job **is a** real **bitch**. I don't know if I can do it.

to be a bitch

to be a woman who complains, protests or is not accepting

She **is a bitch** from hell. Nothing is good enough for her.

to be a bitch

to be a woman who is in a bad mood or angry

What **a bitch!**

to be a bitch

to be weak, feeble, not strong, cowardly or yellow

He **is a bitch**; therefore, he can not be counted on.

to be a bitch

to be a very difficult job or chore

I don't know if I can do this; no one can. It **is a bitch**.

to be a bitch-box

to be a public-address system

Get off the **bitch-box** and deal with this emergency.

to be a bitch kitty

disagreeable, argumentative or malicious woman

Nice?! She **is a bitch kitty**.

to be a bitch session

to be a meeting where people get together to complain, squawk or gripe

I didn't know that this was going to **be a bitch session**.

to be a bitch slap

to smack or slap someone in the face in order to humiliate that person (especially a male)

What you need **is a bitch slap**.

to be a bite

to be a morsel, a tiny piece or mouthful

It had only **been** only **a bite**. I didn't take such a big piece.

to be a bite

to be a wound or cut from an insect

I didn't fall. It's **a bite**. I think it's a spider bite.

to be a bite (Australian English)

to be a person from whom one anticipates borrowing money

to be a bite (Australian English)

to be a consequence or reaction, to be blow back

to be a bite short of a bikkie

to be not the most intelligent person, to not be the sharpest tool in

the shed, to not be the smart person in the world

By the way that he act, I do believe that he ***is a bite short of a bikkie.***

to be a biting remark

to be a comment or commentary which is sarcastic, hurting, derisive or scathing

That ***was a biting remark.*** What is the matter with you?

to be a bitsa (Australian English)

to be a mongrel or a dog of no particular breed

to be a bitter (British English)

to be a strongly flavored beer which has a bitter taste

to be a bitter ender (British English)

to be person who does not give up or surrender, to be a person who holds out to the very end

I think that she ***is a bitter ender.*** We'll going to have to tranquilize her.

to be a bitter enemy

to be a hostile, acrimonious or total and complete enemy

After what happened, she has ***been a bitter enemy.***

to be a bitter pill to swallow

to be a great disappointment, setback or disillusionment

Her betrayal **was a bitter pill to swallow**.

to be a bitter relationship

to be a corroding, abusive, torturous or agonizing relationship

Without any doubt, that **was a bitter relationship**.

to be a bitter-sweet ending

to be an ending that is happy tinged with something sad

It **was a bitter-sweet ending**. Yes she fell in love and got married but her mother died just before the wedding.

to be a blabbermouth

to have a big mouth, to talk too much, to have diarrhea of the mouth

She **is a blabbermouth** who can not keep a secret.

to be a black and white

to be a police car

to be a blackboy (Australian English)

to be a type of Australian tree

to be a blackbutt (Australian English)

to be a type of Australian tree

to be a Black and Decker (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a pecker (to be a vulgar term for the penis)

to be a black and tan (British English)

to be a mix drink of beer and stout

(to be) a black eye

to be a discoloration of the skin around the eye as

a result of a blow or slap in the face

I should not have hit him because now he has **a black eye**.

to be a black eye

to be a mark of shame or dishonor

The slums in the U.S. **is a black eye** to the country.

(to be) a blackhead

to be a small spot of dirt deep in the skin, usually found along the lips or on the face

Of course, it figures that on my prom night that I would get **a blackhead**.

to be a blackleg (British English)

to be a person who crosses a picket line to work while his colleagues are on strike

to be a blacklist

to be a list of names of persons who are not to be hired or who are to be fired, to be a list of unacceptable or suspect persons

to be a Black Maria

to be police van used to transport prisoners

to be a blackout

to be the loss of all electrical power as a result of power failure

Of course I paid the electricity. Because of the storm there's **a blackout**.

to be a Blackpool tower (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a shower

to be a blackspot (British English)

to be a section of a road or of a country which is considered very problematic, i.e. accidents, pollution or high employment

This part of London **is a blackspot**. The unemployment and poverty rate is very high.

to be a bladder of lard (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a card

to be a blade of grass (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be an ass

to be a blag

to be a violent robbery, heist or burglary

to be a blag

the act to smooth talk one's way of getting something or to use one's silver tongue to get what one wants

to be a blag artist (British English)

to be possessed of the gift of gab, to be a smooth-talker

Because he **is a blag artist**, you can not believe a word that he says.

to be a blagger (British English)

to have a silver tongue, to be a smooth-talker or fast-talker

Because he **is a blag artist**, you can not believe a word that he says.

to be a blamestorming (British English)

to be a meeting whose sole purpose is to assign blame on a mistake which has been made

I thought that we were here to talk. I didn't know that this **was a blamestorming**.

to be a blank check

to be a signed check in which no dollar amount is written

This **is a blank check**. Who would be so dumb to give you a blank check?

to be a blank check

to be total and complete freedom to do what one wishes

This permission **is not a blank check**. There are limits.

to be a blank cheque (British English)

to be a signed check in which no dollar amount is written

This **is a blank cheque**. Who would be so dumb to give you a blank check?

to be a blank cheque (British English)

to be total and complete freedom to do what one wishes

This permission **is not a blank cheque**. There are limits.

to be a blanket bath (British English)

to be a sponge bath or (British) bed bath

to be a blanket finish (British English)

to be a very close finish, to be a photo finish, to win by the nose

My God, I first thought that I had lost. It **was a blanket finish**.

to be a blast

to be a strong gust of the wind, to be strong blowing of the wind

That **was a blast** that almost knocked me off my feet.

to be a blast (British English)

to be a puff or inhalation of one's cigarette

Can I have a blast? I'm dying for a smoke.

to be a blast from the past

to be something which is very nostalgic

Whenever I hear this music, I can't stop crying. The song **is a blast from the past.**

to be a blatant lie

to be lie which is evident, overt, obvious or apparent

It **was** such a **blatant lie** that I was flabbergasted.

to be a bleak piece of real estate

to be a desolate, bare and cold piece of land

It **is a bleak piece of real estate.**

to be a bleeder (British English)

to be a contemptible, disgusting or revolting person

He's **a bleeder**. He won't stop until he gets everything.

to be a bleeder (British English)

to be a pathetic, pitiful, miserable or wretched person

He's **a bleeder** who can't seem to get a break from life.

to be a bleeder (North American English)

to be a user or exhorter, to be a person who squeezes or milk someone

He's a bleeder. Don't give him anything or he'll take everything that you have.

to be a bleeding heart

to be someone who use pity or emotion to make one's judgment

You can't trust his judgment. He's **a bleeding heart.**

to be a blemish

to be defect, mark, stain or flaw

This crime will **be a blemish** on my record.

to be a blessing

to be a benefit, advantage or good fortune

This business has **been a blessing**.

to be a blighter (British English)

to be a rogue, creep, ne'er-do-well or a lazy bum

to be a blimp

to be a fat, obese or grossly overweight

Have you seen Mary? She's **a blimp**.

to be a blimp (British English)

to be a stuff shirt or pompous elderly man, to be a great bore

to be a blind alley

to be an alley that is open only a one end, to be a dead end

Don't go in there. It **is a blind alley**.

to be a blind alley

to be a course of action which leads to nothing, to be a situation which offers no hope of improvement

You should've known that this **was a blind alley**. You had been warned that it would lead to nowhere.

to be a blind date

to have a date with someone not previously met, to go on an arranged date

I hadn't known her before. It **was a blind date**.

to be a blind Freddie (Australian English)

to be a person who has little or no perception

to be a blind pig (British English)

to be an illegal bar

to be a blind tiger

to be an illegal bar

to be a blinder (Australian English)

to be something which is astounding, flooring, fascinating or amazing

That **was a blinder** of a party. I had a very good time.

to a blink of the eye

to be quick, fast or faster than the eye could see

to be a blitzkrieg

to be a quick and deadly assault or onslaught

Can't you tell that this destruction **was a blitzkrieg**?

to be a blizzard

to be a snow storm

to be a bloater

to be a fat, overweight or bloated person who is unattractive

I wouldn't be caught with her dead. She's **a bloater**.

to be a blob

to be a thick and irregularly shape drop, to be a globule, to be a glob

to be a bloc

to be an alliance or coalition

The Western Europe **is a bloc** to be reckoned with.

to be a block (British English)

to be a large building

to be a block (Australian English)

to be one's temper (as in to 'do your block'/to blow one's top)

to be a blockade

to be a barrier, impediment, stumbling block or obstacle

to be a blockbuster

to be a movie which is a commercial success

Although the movie *Crash* **was** not **a blockbuster**, it won an Oscar for best picture.

to be a block of flats (British English)

to be an apartment house

to be a blog

to be a web log

to be a blockhead

1. to be a dunce, lightweight or fool

He **is a blockhead** who really does not understand.

2. to be a person who is a chump, sap or schmuck

He **is a blockhead** who does not think before acting.

(to be a) bloke (British English)

to be a general term for a male (especially a stranger)

Who's that **bloke**?

(to be a) bloke (British English)

to be a guy, man, fellow or dude

I don't know that **bloke**.

to be a blond

to be a male or female who has blond, fair or light-colored hair

to be a blonde

to be a female who has blond, fair or light-colored hair

to be a blonde moment (British English)

(humor) to be an instance of being silly, foolish, light headed or feather-brained

I don't know what I was saying. It must have **been a blonde moment**.

to be a Blood

a member of the street gang, The Bloods (initially only in California)

He's **a Blood**; therefore, he's cool.

to be a blood-bath

1. to be a mass slaughter of human beings.

This war **was a blood bath**, pure and simple.

2. **to be a period of great loss or reversal**

What happened to all the Internet companies **was a true blood bath**.

3. to be a non-violent but widespread purge or

dismissal of employees or party members

There **was a blood bath** last night. Everyone is gone and the company is closed.

to be a blood brother

to be a man that another man has sworn loyalty to (usually in a ceremonial mingling of blood)

No, he is not my biological brother but he **is a blood brother**. I see him as part of my family.

to be a blood curdler

to be that which causes great fright or horror

That novel **is a** real **blood curdler**.

to be a blood donor

to be one who donates one's blood in a blood bank

I have never **been a blood donor**.

to be a blood feud

to be a prolong violent struggle of persons of the same family, origin, ancestry, or descent

The worst type of war **is a blood feud**. No one hates like two brothers.

to be a blood hound

1. to be a large dog with an extraordinary sense of smell, excellent hunting dog
2. to be a person who is a steadfast pursuer
You're not going to get away from him; he **is a bloodhound**.

to be a blood horse

to be a thoroughbred horse

to be a bloodletting

to be a violent killing or wounding of people during a conflict

Ever so often, Europe seems to need **a bloodletting**.

to be a blood relative

to be a connected to someone by blood, i.e. parents, cousins or grandparents

to be a blood sport

to be the type of sport which involves the maiming and/or killing of an animal

Hunting **is a blood sport**.

to be a blood sucker

to be a parasite, bleeder, sponger, moocher, freeloader

He **is** nothing but **a bloodsucker**.

to be a bloody idiot (vulgar/British)

to be a damn imbecile, stupid or dumb

He **is** such **a bloody idiot!**

to be a bloody Mary

an alcoholic drink made with tomato juice and vodka

to be a bloomer (British English)

to be a blunder, mistake or faux pas

That **is a bloomer** that you will not forget.

to be a blot

to be a mark, stain, blemish, imperfection or flaw

This will **be a blot** on her reputation.

to be a blow

to be a shock, stroke of bad luck or ill fortune

The news **was a blow**.

to be a blow to one's hopes

to be a severe disappointment, disillusionment or disenchantment

My inability to convince him **was a blow to all my hopes**.

to be a blowback

to be future consequence of one's actions

This **is a blowback** of the wars which we instigated in the 1980s.

to be a blower (British English)

to be a telephone

to be a blowflame (British English)

to be a blowtorch

to be a blowhard

to be a boastful person, to be a person who brags or boasts a lot

He **is** nothing but **a blowhard**.

to be a blowhard

to be a windbag or braggart, to be a person who talks big or lays it on thick

I can't stand being around him. He **is a blowhard**.

to be a blow-in (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be someone recent to a situation, to be someone who has just arrived or who has not been in situation since the beginning

What does he know. He's nothing but **a blow-in**.

to be a blow job

to be oral sex

to be a blowlamp (British English)

to be a blowtorch

to be a blow-out

to be an occasion when the tire of a vehicle explodes or bursts

It **was a blow out**. That's why the driver lost control of his car.

to be a blow out

to be an outburst or explosion of one's anger

They had **a blow out** this morning that almost got out of hand.

to be a blow out

(sports) to be a big and easy win

That **was a blow out**. The opposing team didn't even come near to winning.

to be a blow out

(politics) to be a big win or a landslide

This election will not be a squeaker; it will **be a blow out**.

to be a blow out

to be a lavish social gathering, to be a very good party

Saturday, there **was a blow out** at our apartment building. I had a fantastic time.

to be a blow out (British English)

to be a spree or binge

to be a blow to one's pride

to be humiliating or humbling

When my child lie to me in front of his teacher,
it **was a blow to my pride**.

to be a blow-up

to be an outburst or outpouring of bottled up anger

That was **a blow-up** that I never want to see again.

to be a blow-up

(photograph) to be an enlarged or amplified picture

This **is a blow-up** of my parents. I'm going to put
it in the living room.

to be a BLT

to be a bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich

It's **a BLT**. Do you want me to make you one?

to be a blubber head

to not be very intelligent, be stupid, foolish, unthinking, imbecile, dull-witted, stupid, unintelligent, fool, dolt or lout

He **is a blubber head** who does not know what he is doing.

to be a bludger (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be a slothful, indolent, foot dragging or good for nothing person

to be a bludge (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be an easy, a snap or simple task or chore

to be a blue

(historical) to be a person in the Union Army during
the American Civil War

My father **was a blue**.

(to be) a blue

a policeman

When **a blue** arrives, I'm on my way.

to be a Blue (British English)

supporter of the Conservative Party

You're wasting your time with her. She's **a Blue**.

(to be) a blue (Australian/ New Zealand English)

to be an argument, disagreement, clash, fall out

We had **a big blue** last night.

to be a blue (Australian/ New Zealand English)

to be a mistake, blunder or error

That **was a big blue**.

to be a blue (British English)

to be a fan or supporter of Oxford (dark blue) or Cambridge (light blue) at the different sport games

to be a blue and white

to be police car in New York

There **is a blue and white** on the corner. Has something happened?

to be a blue baby

(Pathology) **cyanosis**: a bluish coloration from the skin caused by lack of oxygen in the blood

A baby born with cyanosis **is a blue baby**.

to be a blue-blood

to be a person who is of very high social position

You may think that the you **are a blue-blood** but the joke is on you.

to be a blue book (British English)

to be a blue bound report issued by Parliament or by the Privy Council

to be a blue chipper

to be the best, excellent, outstanding or first rate (especially in the area of sports)

He **is a blue chipper**. No one can out run him.

to be a blue coat

to be a policeman

to be a blue collar ballet

to be professional wrestling

to be a blue collar neighborhood

(U.S.) to be a lower to middle-middle class neighborhood predominated by persons who work in industry

Many **blue collar neighborhoods** are very conservative.

to be a blue collar worker

1. to be a worker who is paid by the hour rather than a salary

She **is a blue collar worker** who must work around the clock.

2. to be a worker who wears a uniform and who does physically difficult i.e. machinist or construction worker

To **be a blue collar worker** is not to necessarily earn a minimum salary.

(to be a) blue-dog Democrat

to be a conservative Democrat. Such persons usually vote with the

Republicans. (U.S. politics)

Many **blue-dog Democrats** have changed to the Republican party.

(to be a) blue-eyed boy (British English)

to be one's fair-haired boy, favorite, preference or the apple of one's eye

He **is** the boss' **blue-eyed boy**. He can do no wrong.

to be a blue flag (British English)

to be a European award for clean, tidy and safe beaches

(to be) a blue-hair

to be an elderly woman

I felt that I was being invaded by a bunch of **blue-hairs**.

to be a blue hell (British English)

to be a trying, difficult, tough or demanding situation

My marriage **was a blue hell**, pure and simple.

to be a bluejacket

to be an informal term for a sailor in the navy

to be a blue joke

to be an indecent, off-color or risqué joke

You should be careful in what jokes you tell. That **was a blue joke**.

(to be a) blue law

to be one of the laws in the U.S. which forbids department stores and liquor shop being opened on Sunday

Because of the **blue laws**, it is dead downtown on Sunday. All the stores are close.

to be a blue-light special

to be a bargain, special or good deal

I bought the purse here. There **was a blue-light special**.

(to be a) blue Monday

to be any Monday because it is the first day of the week after the weekend (blue in this context means depressing)

This is an especially **blue Monday** because it is also cold and rainy.

to be a blue movie

to be a movie which risqué, indecent, obscene, dirty or vulgar

This **is a blue movie**; therefore, I would not take a minor to see it.

to be a blue murder (British English)

(in sports) to be a total, utter, complete or absolute defeat

It **was a blue murder**. The score was five to zero.

to be a blue nose

to be queasy, overnice or overdiligent

She **is a blue nose** who gets upset quickly and easily.

to be a blue nose

to be a person who is puritanical, strait-laced or prudish or austere

She **is a blue nose** who is always looking down on everyone.

to be a blue nose

(informal) goody-goody, too nice for words, stuffy, Victorian, goody two-shoes or Miss Prim and Proper

to be a Bluenose (Canadian English)

a person from Nova Scotia

to be a blue rinser (British English)

to be an elderly or old lady

to be a blue state

(U.S. politics) to be a state where the Democratic party dominates

California **is a blue state**.

to be a blue-stocking (British English)

to be a woman who is more interested in books or studies than in romance

She **is** nothing but **a blue-stocking**.

(to be a) bluesman

to be a musician who plays the blues

Most of the great **bluesmen** had hard and difficult lives.

to be a blunder

to be a mistake, fault, error or stupidity

This **is a blunder** that I will never forget.

to be a blunt (British English)

to be a marijuana cigarette

to be a blur

to be that which is seen indistinctly, not to be well-focused, to be indistinct

The ship **was** just **a blur** on the horizon.

to be a blushing bride

to be a virgin who is about to get married, to be a virgin bride

She **is a blushing bride** who has no idea what marriage is.

to be a BMW (Black North American)

to be a **Black Man Working**

Girl, don't complain. At least, he's **a BMW**.

to be a blur

to be that which is seen indistinctly, not to be well-focused,
to be indistinct

The ship **was** just **a blur** on the horizon.

to be a blushing bride

to be a virgin who is about to get married, to be a virgin bride

She **is a blushing bride** who has no idea what marriage is.

to be a bo-peep (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be a quick look

to be a board (British English)

to be a sign or placard

to be a boarder (British English)

to be a resident as opposed to a day student, to be a student
who lives on campus

(to be) a boat race (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be one's face

She has **a boat** that only a mother could love.

to be a bob (British English)

to be a shilling

to be a bob

to be a quick, short, up and down movement

to be a Bob Cryer (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a liar

to be a bobble hat and scarf (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a laugh

to be a Bobby (British English)

to be a policeman

He ***is a Bobby.***

to be a bobby-dazzler (British English)

to be an incredible, fantastic or astounding person

to be a Bobby Dylan (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a villain

to be a bobèche (French in English)

to be the cupped-ring of a candle-holder used to capture the drippings of the candle

to be a bobfoc (British English)

to be an ugly woman with a sexually desirable body

She's ***a bobfoc.*** Just put a bag over her head.

to be a bod (British English)

to be a person or character

to be a bodge judge (British English)

to be a job done badly or poorly, to be a botch-up job

to be a bodega (Spanish in English)

to be a small grocery store

to be a bodega (Spanish in English)

to be a wine cellar

to be a bodega (Spanish in English)

to be a place where wine is sold or to be a liquor store

(to be) a body bag

to be a large bag made to contain human remains

Before a body is placed in a casket, it is kept in a **body bag**.

to be a body blow

1. to be a hard hit, during a fight, in the areas from the neck to the waist

It **was a body blow** that knocked him out.

2. to be serious loss, total loss, dead loss, complete loss, disappointment, trouncing or defeat

His betrayal **was a body blow** which took him years to get over.

3. to be a let down, bitter pill, comedown, drubbing or rebuff

to be a body builder

one who exercises to put one's body in optimum shape, usually for a competition

She looks so good because she **is a bodybuilder**.

to be a body corporation

(legal) a person, association, or group of persons legally incorporated, a company or partnership which is a single entity

(to be) a body double

to be a person used in movies to substitute an actor, usually in nude scenes

Some actors do not like doing nude scenes; therefore, they use **a body double**.

to be a bodyguard

to be a person employed to protect someone (usually a celebrity, government official or leading business person)

To do his job well, **a body guard** must be well trained.

to be a body of water

to be a large area water i.e. a lake

It's **a body of water** which is being destroyed little by little.

to be a body rub

to be a massage

to be a body search

to be a thorough search of one's body for drugs, weapons or other type of counter band

to be a body shell

to be the hard outer core, structure or framework of a vehicle

(to be) a body shop

to be a factory in which the body of a car is either manufactured or repaired

(to be) a body shop

to be an employee agency which specializes in providing workers for ground-level jobs

(to be) a body shop

to be a gym or health club

(to be a) body slam

to be a term used in wrestling in which an opponent is lifted, hurled

and thrown on the mat

The **body slam** that he gave his opponent must have been painful.

to be a body snatcher

to be a person who steals corpses once they have been buried

Because persons used to fear **body snatchers**, they would bury their loved-one in unmarked graves.

to be a body snatcher

to be an agency which recruits an already employed executive to fill the top management position of another company, many time for a rival company

to be a body type

to be a type of print used in the main text of printed material

(to be) a body type

to be the shape of the body

She has a **body type** that is hard to dress.

to be a Boer (South African English)

to be a white South African of Dutch descent, to be an Afrikaner

to be a Boer (South African English)

to be an Afrikaner farmer

to be a Boer (South African English)

(during apartheid) to be a white policeman or any one in the prison system

to be a bof (British English)

to be a boring old fart (old man)

Don't listen to him. He's **a bof**.

to be a boff (British English)

to be sex or sexual intercourse

to be a boff (British English)

to be a blow, hit or punch

to be a boffin (British English)

to be a derogatory and insulting term for a scientist or any person involved in technical research

to be a boffo (British English)

to be a success or hit

to be a boffolo (British English)

to a joke or a punch line

to be a bog

to be a swamp or marsh

to be a bogan (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be a boring, dull, flat or unexciting conventional person

to be a bogan (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be an ill-bred, uncouth, unmannerly or crude person

to be a bogey (British English)

to be a cop

to be a bogie (British English)

(railroad) to be an open freight car

to be a bogeyman

(used by parents to so that children behave) to be an imaginary bad or evil spirit who scare children

to be a bohemian

to be an unconventional or unorthodox person, term usually refer to persons involved in the arts

He will never settle down. He **is a bohemian**.

to be a boho

to be an abbreviation of bohemian

to be a bohunk

to be insulting and disparaging term for a unskilled person from eastern Europe

to be a boil

to be an abscess or ulcer

That's **a boil** that you have on your leg. Leave it alone.

to be a boiler

to be a derogatory and insulting term for a plain or unattractive woman

to be a boiler house (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a spouse

to be a boiler room

to be a room or place where brokers conduct intensive telephone campaigns to sell stocks and bonds of either dubious value or which are highly speculative

to be a boilover (Australia and New Zealand English)

to an astounding, flooring, surprising or totally unexpected defeat of one's favorite sports team

to be a boîte (French in English)

to be a night club or cabaret

to be a boîte (French in English)

to be a restaurant

to be a bolillo

to be a derogatory or insulting manner to refer to a Mexican who is perceived 'to act or behave white'

(to be brown on the outside but white on the inside)

to be a bollard (British English)

to be a traffic sign or post

to be a bollocking (British English)

to be a harsh or severe admonishment, castigation or reprimand

to be a bollix (Irish English)

to be a silly, ridiculous or foolish person

to be a bollix (Irish English)

to be a disgusting, revolting or obnoxious person

to be a bollock

to be a testicle

to be a bolt from the blue

to happen suddenly and without any warning, to be a sudden and entirely unforeseen event

His resignation **was a bolt from the blue**.

to be a bolt-hole (British English)

to be a haven, hideaway or getaway

to be a bomb

(a movie or book) to be bad, below standard, second rate or no good, to be a flop

This movie **is a bomb**. How could he have

made it.

to be a bomb (British English)

to be a smash hit or dazzling success

to be a bomb (British English)

to be a fortune (as in 'to make a fortune' or 'to cost a fortune')

a bombshell

to be a great surprise or shocker

What she said was **a bombshell**.

to be a bombshell

to be an extremely attractive and sexy woman

She's **a** real **bombshell**.

to be a bon vivant (French in English)

to be a person who lives well, to be a person who surrounds him or herself with luxury

to be a bonbon (French in English)

to be candy

to be a bona vacantia (Latin in English)

literal meaning: to be ownerless goods

(Law) to be a person who dies without an heir

to be a bonce (British English)

to be a person's head

to be a bone

1. to be one of the structures used to compose the skeleton
2. (Anatomy/Zoology) to be an os

3. to be a structure from an edible animal, used as food i.e. ham bone
4. to be ivory, whalebone or tusk
5. to be a small concession intended to pacify or calm, to be graft, a lure or gift

The elected official threw us **a bone** hoping to keep our mouth shut.

6. (slang) to be a kickback, payola, hush money or protection money
7. to be a color
8. (slang) to be a student who studies diligently
9. *to be a vulgar term for penis*

to be a bone addict

to be a woman who is obsessed with sex (with a male)

to be a bone head

1. to be a person who is stupid, dumb, not very intelligent or dull

He's such **a bonehead**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be someone who is torpid, obtuse, bovine, undiscerning or slow-witted
3. *(vulgar) to be an asshole, ass or dumb ass*

to be a bonehead from the neck up

to be dull-witted, stupid, unintelligent, stupid, foolish or unthinking

He is handsome and can play a mean game of basketball but he **is a bonehead from the neck up.**

(to be) a bone-on

to be an erection (of the penis)

to be a bone of contention

center or subject of dispute or problem, controversy, conflict, debate

Tell me what's is your **bone of contention**. I would like to nip this bud now.

to be a bone receptacle

to be receptacle for the ashes or bone of the dead, to be an ossuary

to be a bone scraper

to be a surgical instrument for scraping bones

to be a bone setter

one who sets or treats dislocated, fractured or broken bones

He is a **bone setter** and not a doctor. A bone setter is usually allowed to practice only in non-industrialized countries (traditional healer).

to be a bone shaker (British English)

to be a vehicle which poor or bad suspension

This car **is a bone shaker.**

to be a bone shaker

to shoot craps, to gamble, bet or wager on dices

I wouldn't trust him with my money. He's nothing but **a bone shaker.**

a bone shaker (British English)

a old car which shakes because of its poor suspension

I don't like riding in his car; it's ***a bone shaker***.

(to be) a bone to pick

1. to be a disagreement, difference of opinion, misunderstanding, or dispute

I need to talk to you now. I have **a bone to pick** with you.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be disaccord, dissidence, altercation, lack of agreement, dissension or contention

3. (less formal to informal) to be a quarrel, bickering or squabbling

to be a bone yard

to be a cemetery

This **is** the **bone yard** where all my family is buried.

to be a boner

to be the erection of the penis as the result of being sexually stimulated

to be a boner

to be a slip, goof-up, flaw or dumb mistake

All I can say is that **was a boner**. You must be super embarrassed.

to be a bonne bouche (French in English)

literal meaning: a good taste in the mouth

meaning in English: (cooking) an appetizing and sweet item of food at the end of the meal

to be a bonne femme (French in English)

literal meaning: in the manner of a good housewife

meaning in English: (cooking) prepared or cooked in a simple manner

to be a bonnet (British English)

to be a car hood

to be a Bonnie and Clyde (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a snide (to be a fake, not genuine or authentic)

to be a bonny baby

to be a healthy, not sickly looking or not too thin baby

to be a bonny sum

to be a large or more than sufficient amount

That's **a bonny sum**. I do believe that I'm satisfied.

to be a bonsella (South African English)

to be a tip or gratuity

to be a bonsella (South African English)

to be little extra or a bonus

bonzer (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be excellent, first-rate, swell, crackerjack

to be a boo-boo

to be a blunder, mistake, slip-up or error

That ***was a boo-boo***. I did not mean to say that.

to be a boob

to be not very intelligent, be a chump or sap

I can't believe that you did that. All I can say

is that you **are a boob**.

to be a boob

breast of a woman

This **boob** is bigger than that one.

to be a boob tube (British English)

a strapless, elastic tight-fitting top for a woman

to be a booby prize

to be the prize given to the loser

This **is a booby prize**. It's nothing to be proud of.

to be a booby trap

to be a bomb below an apparently innocent object, i.e.
a bomb placed below a body or in a bag

Don't touch anything. There could **be a booby trap** here.

to be a booby trap

to be a practical joke in which an object is placed
on top of a door ready to fall when someone passes through

to be a boofhead (Australian English)

to be a scatterbrain, fool, ninny, idiot or simpleton

to be a bookie

(the problem here is the word, **bookie**. Except in legal gamble organizations, such as casinos, a bookie is a criminal. His job is to place bets or to take the bets of others on the outcome of a sporting event (especially but not exclusively horse races). **'Bookie'** is slang for **'bookmaker'**)

I'm not here to hear your life story. **I'm a bookie**, not a priest!

to be a bookmaker

to be a person who takes and places bets

If you want to make a bet, call John. He's a **bookmaker**.

to be a book of words (British English)

to be a libretto

to be a book seller (British English)

to be a bookstore or book shop

to be a bookstall (British English)

to be a newsstand, kiosk or (British English) newsagent

to be a bookworm

to always be reading or have one's nose in a book

Because he **is a bookworm**, he never goes out and socializes.

to be a boom and mizzen (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a prison

to be a boom box

to be a large portable radio, to be a ghetto box

That **is a** nice **boom box**. Where did you get it?

to be a boomer (North American English)

(short for a baby boomer) to be a person born in the U.S. between 1946 to 1964

Bill Clinton **is a boomer**.

to be a boomer (Australian English)

to be a large male kangaroo

to be a boomer (Australian English)

to be a large wave

to be a boomerang

to be blow-back, to be an action which has consequences or which backfires

There's no other way to put it but what happened ***was a boomerang***.

to be a boon companion (British English)

to be a good pal or friend with whom one enjoys spending time

to be a boondoggle

to be an extravagant, excessive, overindulgent or squandering project

to be a boong (Australian English)

to be an insulting and offensive term for an Aborigine

to be a boot (British English)

to be a trunk of a car

to be a boot (British English)

to be a homely or plain, to not be the nicest looking or the most attractive person

to be a bootblack

to be a person who cleans and/or shines one's shoes

to be a boot boy

to be a close-cropped rowdy and violent young male who wears heavy boots

to be a bootlegger

to be an illegal seller and distributor of CDs

He's quite a **bootlegger**. He even has music that is hard to find.

to be a bootlicker

to be a fawner, backslapper or backscratcher

Because he **is a bootlicker**, he can not be trusted.

to be boots (British English)

to be a hotel bootblack

to be a boot sale

to be the sale of those articles that no longer needs

to be a booty

(usually refers to a woman's) to be one's behind, bottom, derrière or (British slang) bum

to be a booty call

to be sexual rendezvous, to have sexual intercourse

to be a booze bus (Australian English)

to be a police inspection bus park at the side of road to give a breathalyzer test

to be a booze cruise (British English)

to be a boat trip from Britain to mainland Europe to purchase alcohol and cigarette at a cheaper price

to be a boozehound

to be a person who drinks too much, to be an alcoholic

You know where he's at. He's **a boozehound**; he's in the bar.

to be a boozer

to be an alcoholic

He **is a boozer** who is going nowhere.

to be a boozier

to be a frequent, heavy or hard drinker, to be one who enjoys drinking a little too much

to be a boozier

to be a pub or bar

to be a bore

1. to be a pest, annoyance, nuisance or *pain in the ass*
2. to be a drip, wet blanket, pill or loser
3. to be dullsville or nowhere, to be someone who bores one to sleep or death

to be a bore (British English)

to be a gauge, to be the internal diameter of a gun barrel

to be a Boris Becker (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a pecker (to be one's penis)

to be a born and bred (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a bed

to be a borough (British English)

to be a basic unit of local government

to be a boss

(in a job) to be the person in charge

He's a **boss** in a start up.

to be a boss

to be the person in charge of a situation or group

Although he **is the boss** of the group, it does not mean that he's my boss.

to be a boss

to be a cow

to be a boss-cocky (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be a farmer who employs field hands

to be a boss-cocky (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be a person in authority

to be a boss hogg (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a bog (to be the toilet)

to be a bossy

to be a cow or calf

to be a bossy boots (British English)

to be very domineering, overbearing or over-aggressively

She **is a bossy boots** who thinks she can tell everyone what to do.

to be a bot (Australian English)

to be a perpetual borrower who never has anything to lend

She smokes but never has a cigarette. She **is** such **a bot**.

to be a bother

to be a pest, nuisance or annoyance

She **is a bother** that I can no longer tolerate.

to be a bother

to be an effort, pain or hassle

Please, having you in our home **is not a bother**.

to be a bother

to be a puzzlement, confusion, bewilderment or perplexity

to be a bother

to be a nag, bore, a pain in the neck or gadfly

to be a bothy (British English)

1. to be a hut, shack, shed, shanty or (Scot) but-and-ben
2. to be a one-room cottage

to be a bottle and glass (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be one's *arse* (to be one's bottom or derrière)

to be a bottle and stopper (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a copper (to be a policeman or cop)

to be a bottle blond

to be a person who has dyed his or her hair blond

She is not a natural blonde. She **is a bottle blonde**.

to be a bottle boy (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be an offensive/insulting term for a gay male

to be a bottle of coke (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a bowler

to be a bottle of pop (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a shop

to be a bottle of porter (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a daughter

to be a bottle of sauce (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a horse

to be a bottle of Scotch (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a watch

to be a bottle party (British English)

to be a party where each guest bring a bottle of alcohol

to be a bottle shop

to be a liquor shop, state store or (British English) off-licence or offie

to be a bottler (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be someone who has lost his nerves

to be a bottlo (Australian English)

to be a liquor shop, to be a store where one's buys alcohol

(to be a) bottom feeder

to be of very low social status and who survives by any means possible

Many people consider lawyers and used car salesmen as ***bottom feeders***.

to be a bottomless pit

to be a persons who eats a lot, to be someone who can eat one out of house and home

He ***is a bottomless pit***. Two sandwiches is nowhere near enough.

to be a boulder holder (British English)

to be a bra

to be a boulder holder (British English)

to be a jockey strap

to be a bouncer

to be a person who is employed by a bar or club
to keep order

He is so big and masculine because he **is a bouncer**.

to be a bounder (British English)

to be a rogue, scoundrel, incorrigible, creep

to be a bouquet of assholes

to be an annoying, obnoxious or disgusting person

to be a bounty hunter

to be a person who pursues criminals for money

He **is a bounty hunter** who will stop at nothing to bring someone in. He loves money.

to be a Bourke (Australian English)

to be an unsettled and a remote, isolated, far or distant area

to be a boutade (French in English)

to be an escapade, practical joke, trick or prank

to be a bovine

to be a cow, buffalo or bison

to be a bowl of fruit (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a suit

to be a bowler (British English)

to be a derby hat

to be a bowler (British English)

(cricket) to be equal to the pitcher in baseball

to be a bowler hat (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a *twat* (to be a stupid, dumb, disgusting or revolting person)

to be a bowl of chalk (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a walk

to be a bowler hat

to be a *twat* (to be a stupid, dumb, disgusting or revolting person)

to be a box

to be one's vagina

to be a box (gay expression)

to be the male genitals as contained within a garment, such as in one's underwear

to be a box lunch

(oral sex) to be the genitals of a male

This morning I had **a box lunch**.

to be a box of birds (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be happy, contented, like a pea in a pod or satisfied

to be a box-room (British English)

to be a very small room used for storage

to be a box-room (British English)

1. to be a tiny bedroom
2. to be a storage room

to be a box-shifter (British English)

to be a company which sacrifice customer service in order

to maximize sales

One of the largest retail company in the U.S. **is a box-shifter.**

to be a box-up

to be a mix-up, blunder or mistake

to be a boycott

to be an organized call to not buy or handle a particular product,
to refrain or abstain from buying or dealing with something as a
form of protest

You can't buy those. Don't you know that there **is a boycott** on grapes?

to be a boy band

to be a singing group of young males to attract pre-teen and younger
teen girls

to be a boy racer (British English)

to be a young male who loves to drive aggressively and fast
in a fancy sports car

to be a boy toy

to be a young male with a older, well-to-do female

He's at her beck and call. He's **a boy toy.**

to be a boy wonder

to be an exceptionally intelligent or bright male child

to be a bra-buster

to be a woman with extraordinarily large breast

to be a bracer

to be a strong or stiff alcoholic drink to help brace
a person to do something difficult or to hear bad news

to be a bracero (Spanish in English)

to be a seasonal laborer in the agricultural sector of the U.S.

to be a brack (Irish English)

to be a cake or pastry filled with fruit

to be a bracket (British English)

1. to be a large fern
2. to be an area of land covered with both ferns and undergrowth

to be a Bradbury (British English)

to be a one pound note

to be a braggart

to be a boaster, loud or big mouth, windbag or swagger

He has always **been a braggart**.

to be a Brahman (Hindi in English)

to be the highest of the Hindu cast

to be a brain

to be a very intelligent or smart person

No wonder he got into Harvard; he **is a brain**.

to be a brain box (British English)

to be a person who is astute, clever, no one's fool or on the ball

He's **a brain box** so I would be careful in going up against him.

to be a brain-drain

to be the leaving of the educated class to another city or country

There's **a brain-drain** beginning to happen in the U.S. .

to be a brainiac

to be a very smart or intelligent, to be an Einstein

to be a brainstorm

to be a meeting or gathering where ideas are produced spontaneously

to be a brainstorm

to be a sudden or out of the blue clever idea

to be a brainstorm (British English)

to be a moment when one is not lucid, rational or mentally capable

to be a brain teaser

to be a puzzle or cross word puzzle

to be a brain trust

to be a group of intellectuals who advises persons in government and politicians

to be a brain trust (British English)

to be a group of experts who spontaneously answer questions in front of an audience or on the radio

to be a brand leader

to be a major or principle company in a particular area

Apple **is a brand leader** in personal computers.

to be a brand name

to be the name, mark or trademark of a product, i.e. GM or Sony

If it **is a brand name**, it will cost a lot.

to be a brass (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a prostitute

to be a brass band (*British English/ cockney rhyming slang*)
to be one's hand

to be a brass door (*British English/ cockney rhyming slang*)
to be a *whore*

to be a brass flute (*British English/ cockney rhyming slang*)
to be a prostitute

(to be a) brass plate (*British English*)
to be a shingle (as in to put out one's shingle)

I have already put up my **brass plate**.

to be a brat
to be a badly behaved child, to be a child who does not listen
to their parents or elders

She **is a brat** who needs a good spanking.

to be a brat pack
to be a group of young, brass, popular, handsome rowdy and rich
film stars who are very good friends and who hang together

There has **been a brat pack** every generation.

(to be) a brave face
to look composed, sound, sturdy, unshrinking or dauntless during an
especially trying time
I know that she is upset although she is putting on **a brave face**.

to be a brazen face
to be insolent, shameless, forward or brash

What **a brazen-face** girl; nothing shames her.

to be a brow day (*Scottish English*)

to be a lovely, nice or fine day

to be a brawl

to be a fight, scuffle, ruckus or altercation

That **was a brawl** that destroyed the bar.

to be a breadhead (British English)

to a person who is fixated, crazed or obsessed with making money

to be a bread and butter issue

to be a basic issues that are fundamental to one's existence

This **is a bread and butter issue** that everyone should be interested in.

to be a bread and butter issue (political term)

to be a term used to define issues which are considered basic and fundamental

The problem of unemployment **is a bread and butter issue**.

to be a breath of fresh air

to be something new and refreshing, be a new face

All the students love her; she's **a breath of fresh air**.

to be a breath of life to someone

to invigorate, liven up, animate, stimulate, inspire, motivate, or arouse

His presence in her life **was a breath of life to her**.

to be a bread bin (British English)

to be a bread box

to be a bread knife (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be one's wife

(to be) a bread line

to be a line of persons waiting in line for free food from a governmental or private agency

I was so embarrassed when my sister saw me standing in **a bread line**.

to be a bread roll (British English)

to be a bun or roll

to be a bread-winner

to be the person in the family who earns the majority of the money for that the family can live

Just because you **are the bread-winner**, it does not mean that you call the shots. We are equal.

to be a break

to be a rest, to be a pause or a temporary stoppage of work or school

Let's take **a break** for ten minutes. When we come back we'll be more refreshed.

to be a break

to be a fracture of one's bone

It **was a** bad **break**. I had to put my arm in a cast.

to be a break (British English)

to be an interval, interruption or pause, i.e. to use the restroom (not used as in English to refer to the daily pause at school)

to be a break

to be an escape or breakout from an institution, i.e. prison or jail

It **was a (jail) break** that no one was expecting.

to be a break

to be an opportunity, opening, chance or stroke of luck

His mentioning our web site on his radio **was a break** that really helped our business.

(to be) a breakdown

(mechanical) to no longer function or operate

I had **a breakdown** on the way here. That car always gives me problem.

to be a breakdown

to be a collapse, coming apart, falling apart or failure

There **was a breakdown** in the talks. No other talks have been scheduled.

to be a breakdown

(emotional) to be a nervous or emotional collapse, to be a nervous breakdown, to be coming apart at the seams

to be breakdown gang (British English)

to be a wrecking crew

to be a breakdown lorry (British English)

to be a tow truck

(to be a) break up

to be a separation, divorce or a parting of the ways

The **break up** was especially nasty.

to be a break with the past

to be a discontinuation, rupture or separation with what had been

What I need **is a break with the past.**

to be a breakaway from

to be a sudden and radical departure from what had been long-established or time-honored

Allowing women into the club **was a breakaway from** a tradition that went back hundreds of years.

to be a break-in

to be an illegal or forced entry in a place, i.e. into one's home or place of work

There **was a break-in** last night. That makes three this month.

to be a breakout

to be an escape from an institution, i.e. from prison or jail

It **was a breakout** that no one had thought possible.

to be a breakthrough

to be an important discovery that one has been working toward

The finding of these diaries **is a breakthrough** that no one was expecting.

to be a breath of fresh air

to be something new and refreshing, to be a new face

All the students love her; she's **a breath of fresh air**.

to be a breath of life to someone

to invigorate, to liven up, to animate, to stimulate,

His presence in her life **was a breath of life to her**.

(to be) a breather

to be a pause, a break, or the stopping for a minute or two to rest

If I don't take a **breather**, I'm going to start making mistakes.

to be a breeze

to be easy or not at all difficult

The exam **was a breeze**.

to be a brew (*British English/ cockney rhyming slang*)

to be a cup of tea

to be a brew (*British English/ cockney rhyming slang*)

to be a pint of beer

to be a brew of

to be a mixture or group of people who could be volatile or dangerous

There **was a brew of** people which really scared the authorities.

to be a brewery

to be an establishment where beer is produced for commercial consumption

to be a Brian Clough (*British English/ cockney rhyming slang*)

to be a puff (to be a cigarette)

to be a bribe

to be a kickback or pay-off, to be hush-money or graft

It **was a bribe** of quite a bit of money. Of course, I didn't take it.

to be a bric-à-brac (*French in English*)

to be a junk dealer or (British English) seller of rubbish

to be a brick

to be a kilogram of tightly compact marijuana in the

form of a brick

to be a brick-and-mortar business

to be a real business which exists in an actual city on an actual street versus a virtual business which exists only in cyberspace

Because it **is a brick-and-mortar business**, I have to pay rent and upkeep.

to be a brick short of a load (British English)

to not be the most intelligent person, stupid, dumb or backward

He's nice but frankly he **is a brick short of a load**.

to be a brick short of a load (British English)

to be crazy, mentally unbalanced, not all there, not totally sane

Stay away from him. He **is a brick short of a load**.

to be a brickie (Australian English)

to be a bricklayer

to be a bride

1. to be a woman who is about to get married
2. to be a woman who has just married

to be a bridegroom

1. to be a man who is about to marry
2. to be a man who has just gotten married

to be a bridge

to be a connection to link two incompatible parties

This can **be a bridge** between you and your husband if you let it.

to be a brig (Scottish English)

to be a bridge

to be a bridgehead

(military term) to be a base, foundation, hold, support, place on which to stand or position oneself

to be a bright spark (British English)

(ironic) to be a person who is witty, astute, smart as a fox or smart as a tact

Yeah, I heard you. Right. She **is a bright spark**.

to be a bright student

to be an intelligent or very smart student

Don't worry about her. She's **a bright student**.

to be a bright young thing

to be a pretty, perky, smart and alert young person

Haven't you seen his latest conquest. She's **a bright young thing**.

to be a brilliant student

to be a very smart, intelligent, quick or gifted student

He **is a brilliant student** who will go far.

(to be a) Brit (British English)

to be a resident of the United Kingdom

The **Brits** sometimes speak an English incomprehensible to Americans.

to be a Briticism

to be an expression in English used only in British, rather than other versions of, English

That **was a Briticism** if I've ever heard one.

to be a Briton (British English)

to be an inhabitant of The United Kingdom

to be a bro'

(short for brother) to be a black man

He's **a bro'** that you can trust.

to be a broad

to be an insulting term for a woman

Who's **that broad**?

to be a broad bean (British English)

to be similar to a lima bean

to be a broad brush

to be a sweeping, wide or wide-spreading comprehensiveness which lacks fineness and detail

That **is a broad brush** with which you are painting everyone. Do you think that's fair?

to be a broad-minded person

to be a person who is open, inclusive, unbiased or liberal

Because she **is a broad-minded person**, she will listen to you.

to be a broad sheet (British English)

to be a newspaper which is considered more serious and much less sensationalist than a tabloid

to be a brock (British English)

to be a badger

to be a Brock's benefit (British English)

to be a fireworks display

to be a brogue (British English)

to be an Irish or Scottish accent in English (as distinct from an American or English accent)

to be a broken bones

to be fractured, shatter or splinter bone (usually as a result of an injury or accident)

As a result of the bombing, she has a number of **broken bones**.

to be a broken home

to be a home in which the parents have divorced, to be a single-headed household

to be a broker

to be a dealer, intermediary or middle-man

He **is a broker**. Why do you need to go through a middle man.

to be a broolly (British English)

to be an umbrella

to be a broomrape (British English)

to be a parasitic plant

to be a broom stick (British English)

to be a brush with a twig and a long handle

(to be) a Bronx cheer

to be a loud boo or any other expression of derision

They gave her performance **a Bronx cheer**.

to be a broth of a boy (Irish English)

to be a lively or energetic young male, to be a young male who is full of life

to be a brothel

to be a place where one can find a prostitute, a house where prostitutes work

to be a brother

to be a black male

He's **a brother** who you can trust.

to be a brother-german (British English)

to be an archaic outdated term to describe one's full-brother, as opposed to one's half-brother

to be a brouhaha

to be a commotion, tumult, ruckus or uproar

It **was a brouhaha** for nothing. Nothing happened.

to be a brown bag lunch

to have bought one's own lunch to work rather than buy it at a restaurant

to be a Brown Betty (British English)

to be a large earthenware teapot

to be a Brown Betty

to be a baked desert or pudding made with apples or other type of fruit

to be browneye (Australian English)

to a person who bends over to show his or her buttocks,
to be a person who moons someone (American English)

to be a brown-noser

to be simpering, fawning, compliant, submissive, menial, groveling or crawling

He **is a brown-noser** who will do anything.

to be a brown noser

to be sycophant, apple polisher, brown-nose or bootlicker

to be a brown out

to be a partial or not a total black out (only some electrical power is turn off or down)

(to be) a brownie point

a point of approval that one gets from one's boss as a result of trying to please or accommodate him

Good, for all that you got **a brownie point**.

to be a browse

to be a magazine made to be casually looked at

to be a bruiser

to be an aggressive and problematic person who always are looking for an argument or fight

He's **a bruiser**. He is always looking for someone to fight.

to be a bruiser

to be a professional boxer

to be a brunette

to be a brown-hair person

to be a brush-up (British English)

to clean or tidy oneself up

to be a bubba

to be a white Southern male, depending on context this word can be used affectionately or insultingly

He's **a bubba** and he's proud.

to be a Bubble Bath (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a laugh

to be a bubble brain

to be stupid or dumb, to not be the smartest person

She's pretty but also **a bubble brain**.

(to be) a bubble butt

to have a large backside, to have a derrière shaped like a large bubble

She's pretty and has a beautiful body. She has **a bubble butt**.

to be a bubble head

to be stupid, dumb or not the smartest person

She's pretty but also **a bubble head**.

to be a buck (North American, Australian and New Zealand English)

to be a dollar bill

Do you have **a buck**?

to be a buck (British English)

to be a basket used to trap eels or eel trap

(to be) a buck

to be a sexually attractive, independent, young male

I have never seen such **a buck** like him before.

to be a bucket shop (British English)

to be a travel agency which specializes in selling cheap ticket

It's **a bucket shop** where you can get a ticket to anywhere.

to be a buckling (British English)

to be a smoked herring

to be a buckshee (British English)

to be a gift, present, gratuity or something free of charge

to be a bud

to be a friend, sidekick or pal

He's **a bud** so I don't want to hear anything about him.

(to be) a buddy

friend, pal, sidekick, (British English) marrow

Since we've **been buddies**, we haven't had problems.

to be a budget

(North America/government) to be an estimate, costs, financial statement, operating expenses or (British) tax bill

to be a budgie (British English)

to be a small parakeet

to be a buff

to be a devotee, fan or aficionado

He's **a movie buff**. He goes at least three times a day.

to be a buffer (British English)

1. to be a shock absorbing piston projecting from a cross-beam at the end of a railway track

2. to be a shock absorbing piston on the front and rear of a railway vehicle

to be a buffer (British English)

to be a silly or foolish older person, to be a featherbrain or pin head

to be a buffet (British English)

(railroad station) to be a lunch counter or snack bar

to be a buffoon

to be a jester, clown, or jokester

Stop **being** such a **buffoon** and take this class seriously.

to be a bug

to be a secret microphone planted in one's home or phone
to eavesdrop on one's conversation

I think that there **is a bug** in my house.

to be a bug

to be a generic term for an insect

(to be) a bug

to be a microorganism which causes flu

I got a **bug** so I can't come in. I'll infect everyone.

to be a bug (British English)

to be a bedbug

(to be) a bug in one's ear

a subtle suggestion or hint

He put a **bug in my ear** that she was not really my friend.

to be a bug-fucker

1. to be a male with a small penis
2. to be a small penis

to be a bugger (British English)

to be a male who engages in anal sex

to be a bugger (British English and North American English)

to be cheeky, impudent, insolent or sassy

to be a bugger (British English and North American English)

to be a rogue, bum, good-for-naught, louse or stinker

to be a builder's merchant (British English)

to be a building supply firm

to be building society (British English)

to be a savings and loan association

to be a bull

to be a male bovine

to be a bull

to be a large male animal, i.e. male elephant

to be a bull

(stock market) to be a person who buys low to sell high

to be a bull

(Roman Catholic Church) to be a papal edict

to be a bull and cow (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a row (argument or quarrel)

to be a bull artist

to be someone who is able to convince others of a lie, to be someone who is astute in deceiving or tricking others

Don't believe anything that he says. He's ***a bull artist***.

to be a bull bitch

to be a derogatory term for a female who appears more male than female

to be a bull dagger

to be a derogatory term for a lesbian who appears more male than female

to be a bull diker

to be a derogatory term for a lesbian who appears more male than female

to be a bull dyker

to be a derogatory term for a lesbian who appears more male than female

to be a bull-dog

to be a persistent, stubborn, resolute or determinate person

He's ***a bull-dog***. He will keep scratching until he finds something.

to be a bulldog (British English)

to be a monitor or proctor's assistant at Oxford or Cambridge

to be a bull dyke

to be a derogatory term for a lesbian who appears more male than female

to be a buller (British English)

(short for bulldog) to be a monitor or proctor's assistant at Oxford or Cambridge

to be a bullet-head

to be a person who is not easily hurt, offended or insulted, hard, unpitiful, untouched, unmerciful, insensitive, callous, unfeeling, shrewd, frigid or uncaring

He **is a bullet head**. He doesn't give a damn about anyone but himself.

to be a bull in a china chest

to be clumsy or awkward person

I don't like to take him with me; he **is a bull in a china chest**.

to be a bull session

to be a meeting where persons complain and express their feeling

I did not know that this was going to ***be a bull session***.

to be a bull shit artist

to be someone who is able to talk anyone into anything

I don't believe anything that he says. He's ***a bull shit artist***.

to be a bull shitter

to be a braggart or peacock

You ***are*** nothing but ***a bull shitter***. I don't believe anything that you say.

to be a bull shooter

to be a person who boasts and brags

to be a bullock

to be a castrated bovine who has been raised for beef

to be a bull's eye

1. to be an easy target or mark to hit

He was an easy target; he **was a bull's eye**.

2. to be a victim, laughingstock or fool

He has always **been a bull's eye**.

to be a bully

to be a person who uses force and violence to cow,
to cower or to intimidate

He's a **bully**.

to be a bully boy (British English)

to be a male who intimidates, bullies or brow beats

to be a bum

to be a person who does not work and who lives off of others

He's nothing but **a bum**.

to be a bum fuck

to be or have anal sex

to be a bumble (British English)

to be a bureaucrat, lowly clerk in love with red tap, puffed up
minor official or pompous bureaucrat

to be a bumboy (British English)

to be a young homosexual male prostitute

to be a bum-freezer (British English)

to be an especially short jacket or an *ass freezer*

to be a bumhole engineer (British English)

to be an offensive and vulgar term for a gay male

to be a bum rap

to be a fake charge, to be set up for a crime that one has not committed

He spent years in prison on **a bum rap**.

(to be) a bum steer

to erroneous advice or instruction

I trusted him but he gave me **a bum steer**.

to be a bum's rush

ejection of a person from a public place

Make no mistake. That **was a bum's rush**.

(to be) a bummer

a disappointment

What **a bummer!** I thought that he was my friend.

to be a bummer

to be bad, not to be something which is good

It **was a bummer** that I couldn't watch the movie in Memphis.

to be a bumpkin

to be rustic, to be a hillbilly, hick, (Scot) cuddy or (British) joskin

He **is a bumpkin** so what do you expect?

to be a bunch

to be a lot of, group, cluster, heap or mass

There's **a bunch** of reasons why I don't agree.

to be a bunch punch

to be an act of serial copulation with one female and a group of males

to be a bundle

to be a lot or a great deal of money

That's **a bundle**. Where did you get so much money?

to be a bundle of nerves

to be extremely nervous or anxious

I must calm down; I'm **a bundle of nerves**.

to be a bungalow

to be cottage

to be a bungalow (British English)

to be a one-story house

to be a bunk-up (British up)

to be an extra help up, to be a leg-up, to be a push up

to be a bunny

to a child name for a rabbit

to be a bunny (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be a easy mark, victim, soft touch or dupe

He is and will always **be a bunny**.

to be a bunny boiler

to be a vengeful woman who has been wronged in love

to be a bunny fuck

to be very quick sex

to be a bunny hugger

to be an insulting term for an animal lover

to be a buppie

to be a black yuppie (young urban professional)

to be a 'burb

to be a suburb

I live in one of the **'burbs** near New York.

to be a bureau

to be a chest of drawers

to be a bureau (British English)

to be a writing desk with drawers

to be burfi (Hindi in English)

to be an Indian sweet

to be a burglar

to be a thief or robber who breaks into one's home

He's a **burglar** but he is not a killer.

to be a burka (Persian in English)

to be loose fitting garment which covers a woman from head to toe so that she can not be seen

to be a burn (British English)

to be a cigarette

to be a Burnt Cinder (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a window

to be a bursar (British English)

1. to be a treasurer
2. to be a scholarship student or (British English) exhibitioner

to be a bushwhacker (Australian English)

to be a person who lives in the bush (in an isolated rural area)

to be a Bushey park (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a lark

to be a bushman's breakfast (Australian English)

to be no breakfast

to be a bush lawyer (Australian and New Zealand English)

to be an unqualified lawyer, to be a lawyer who is not up to par

to be a business day

to be Monday through Friday, to be a working day

Monday **is a business day** but Saturday is not.

to be a busker (British English)

to be a street entertainer

to be a Buster Keaton (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)

to be a meeting

to be a busy bee

to be very busy and organized, to be occupied

Forget calling her. She's quite **a busy bee** now.

to be a busy-body

to be someone who minds other people's business

Be careful what you say; she's **a busybody** from way back.

to be a busy-Lizzie (British English)

(common house plant) to be an East African plant which blossoms white, red or pink flowers

to be a bust-up (British English)

to be a serious argument, dispute or quarrel

to be a busybody

to be a snoop, meddler or eavesdropper

She **is a busybody** so please don't tell her anything.

to be a but and ben (Scottish English)

to be a two room cabin or hut

to be a butch

to be a woman who has masculine traits or characteristic

She may ***be a butch*** but to call her so is very insulting.

to be a butcher

to be a meat-merchant, cutter, vendor or seller

My father **was a butcher**. My grandfather and great-grandfather had also been one.

to be a butcher

mass-murderer, killer, annihilator or murderer

I no longer know if he had **been a butcher** or not.

to be a butt of joke

to be a victim or on the receiving end of a joke, to be a laughingstock

He walked away because he does not like to be **a butt of a joke**.

to be a butterball

to be a heavy, chubby or fat person

She has ***been a butterball*** for quite a long time.

to be a butthead

1. to be an obnoxious, disgusting or sickening person
2. to be a dumb or stupid person

to be a butthole

to be the anus

to be a buttinsky

to be a snoop, busybody or meddler

Stop being such a buttinsky. Mind your own business.

to be a buttons (British English)

to be a bellhop

to be a butt-peddler

to be a prostitute, whore, hooker or call girl

to be a butty (British English)

to be a buddy

to be a buy

to be a product that one can purchase at a good price,
to be a bargain or a steal

I was wrong to believe that my house **was a buy**.

to be a buy-out

to purchase the controlling share of a company in order
to gain control over the company

It **was a buy-out** which I could not resist. It was a steal.

to be a buy-out

to pay an employee to retire early from his/her position in a company

to be a buzz-cut

to cut one's hair very short with clipper

to be a by-blow (British English)

to be an outdated expression for a male's illegitimate child, to be a bastard

to be a by-election (British English)

to be a special election of a member to fill a vacancy in the House of Commons

BYO (British and Australian English)

to be a '**bring your own**' (own means bottle of alcohol) party

to be a BYO joint (British and Australian English)

to be a '**bring your own**' (own means bottle of alcohol) club

BYOG (British, New Zealand and Australian English)

to be '**bring your own grog**' (grog means bottle of alcohol)

to be a BYOG joint (British, New Zealand and Australian English)

to be '**bring your own grog**' (grog means bottle of alcohol)

to be a bystander

to be a person a witness, a spectator, onlooker

He's not involved. He's only **a bystander**.

