

THE BODY:

A TREASURE

TROVE OF

MEANINGS IN

ENGLISH

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Indo-European Languages

Germanic

North Germanic

East Norse

Danish Swedish

West Norse

Icelandic Norwegian

Germanic

East Germanic

Gothic

Germanic

West Germanic

High German

German

Low German

Low German

Old Frisian Old English
Frisian Middle English

***Modern English**

*Although English is a **Germanic** Language, it has been strongly influenced by **Classical Greek** and **Latin**, **Vulgar Latin** as well as **Norman** and **Parisian French** (especially after the Norman Invasion of 1066).

Italic

Latin **(Romance)**

French Italian Spanish Portuguese Romanian Catalan
Provençal

Other Languages in the Indo-European Family of Languages

Hellenic Greek

Celtic (Keltic) Languages
Breton Irish Scots Gaelic Welsh

Slavic
Bulgarian Czech Macedonian Polish Russian Slovak
Slovenian Ukrainian Serbo-Croatian

Indo-Iranian
Sanskrit
Bengali Hindi Punjabi Urdu

Old Persian
Persian

The English Language

Old English

(Anglo-Saxon, Frisian, and Old Norse)
Germanic Invasions until after the dislocation as a result of
the Norman Invasion in 1066
450-1150*

Middle English

(strongly influenced by **Norman** French)
11th century – 14th century (Chaucer)

Early Modern English

(influenced by **Parisian** French)
Chaucer – Shakespeare

Modern English

Shakespeare – until the present

*included in this period were the Scandinavian invasions
between 850- 1042

Countries where English is spoken as the First language:

Great Britain and Europe

England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Gibraltar

North America

United States and Canada

Africa

Botswana, Brunei, Cameroon, Cayman Islands, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Latin America and Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Bermuda, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Dominica

Asia and Pacific Islands

Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka

Australia

Australia, New Zealand

Did you know that the vocabulary describing the body contains a *treasure trove of information*? Many of the words utilized to describe parts of the body usually have several grammatical functions. The word **hand**, for example, can be a noun, (I hurt my **hand**. Can you give me a **hand**?) or a verb (**Hand** me the tool). The richness of the vocabulary utilized to describe the body, however, does not stop at the level of structure. In fact, it goes hand in hand with the other with what can be another problematic aspect of not just English, but with any language. The literal versus the metaphorical meaning of a word. The body term **mind** is a prime example. The **mind** is only literal as a noun (its first and primary definition, the secondary definitions are figurative); as a verb **mind** is only figurative or metaphorical:

mind

1. intellect, intellectual faculty, cognitive function
His **mind** is something magnificent to observe.
2. psyche, ego, subconscious
3. soul, spirit, inner being
4. (slang) genius, mental giant, brain, Einstein, wizard, whiz
He is a **mind** that I would love to explore.
5. brain power, brains, wit, quickness, wittiness
He has a sharp **mind**; nothing escapes his attention.
6. (slang) gray matter, smarts, **good head on his shoulder**,
noggin, noodle

7. sanity, saneness, senses
8. (slang) marbles
He has lost his **mind**.
9. rationality, sense of reason, judgment, common sense
How his **mind** works is beyond me.
10. disposition, humor, temperament
11. bent, tendency, propensity
His **mind** tends to focus on the morbid.
12. feeling, partiality, bias, liking, belief
13. notion, whim, idea
14. intention aim, purpose, design

to mind

1. to attend, give one's attention to, pay attention to
Mind my words; it's not over.
2. to watch, to see, to observe, to pay heed to
3. to obey, follow, adhere to, to respect
If you do not **mind** me, you will pay the consequences.

4. to attend, to watch, to look after
Can you **mind** the children while I run to the store.

5. to guard, to be careful, to be wary, to think twice of, to weigh
Mind him; he can't be trusted.

6. to care about, to be concerned about
I do **mind** where and how you live.

7. to remember, to recall, to recollect
I **mind** the day when I first came here.

The body term **mind** is by no means unique. Many of the meanings of different body parts have been greatly stretched beyond the literal. Do you know what it is to be a **second-hand Rose**? Are you a **brain**? What's a **no brainer**? What does it mean to **press the flesh**? Have you ever had anyone **sweep you off your feet** or to **pull your leg**?

In the following sentences, can you determine the part of speech, (noun, verb, adjective, or adverb), of the words of the body? Does that information have anything to do with your understanding the meaning of the sentences? If so, why? Does, for example, the definition of the word '**head**' changes depending on whether it is a verb or noun? Are there sentences which you understand while others you have absolutely no idea of their meaning? Do you know why? Do you think that the literal versus figurative meaning has anything to do with your ability to understand a word? You probably know the literal meaning of each part of the body. That is a matter of study and memorization. However, do you have any idea what words such as '**heart**', '**head**', '**face**', and

'**stomach**' mean culturally in English? In other words, figuratively or metaphorically speaking, what do you know what the above words mean?

The Body

1. Whatever you decide to do, it **is no skin off my teeth**.
2. It's not true that one can not be too thin. She's only **skin and bones** and she looks horrible.
3. They **dropped to their knees** and prayed.
4. When the other car hit me from behind. I hit my **head**.
5. I'll **scratch your back** if you scratch mine; therefore, if you **back** my bill, I'll support yours.
6. It was not easy for him to **face** the child that he had abandoned.
7. He **shouldered** his way through the crowd.
8. I was able to do it because I **figured** that I could not lose.
9. He is always **throwing out his chest** and bragging about his accomplishments.
10. He had to **pay an arm and a leg** for the house.
11. After living abroad, I have a **cast-iron stomach**. I can eat anything with no problem of getting sick.

12. Despite my arguments and pleas, he **turned a deaf ear**.
13. That dress with its very long neckline is definitely **eye-catching**.
14. The child **mouthed** his response.
15. My God, they sure must be in lust. They are always **necking**.
16. His guilt is **as plain as the nose on his face**.
17. I'll **keep my fingers crossed** that everything goes according to plan.
18. He can't help you; he **is all thumb**.
19. She is always putting her life **on the back burner**. Everything and everyone come before her.
20. He has such a **big head** that I doubt he even knows that you exist.
21. Ever since she married, she has been living in the **lap of luxury**.
22. The reason that he was able to be promoted so quickly and easily was that he **got a leg up**.
23. I can't **stomach** not only her but anyone in her family.
24. She fought her attacker **tooth and nail**.
25. He **fingered** the man who robbed him.

26. They **handed around** the cigarettes.
27. You have the worst **handwriting** in the world.
28. The way that he was **eying** her was an embarrassment.
29. His guilt is **written all over his face**.
30. As he is the president of the company, he will **head** the meeting.
31. His method is **cutthroat**. Expect no mercy from him.
32. He only **pays lip service to** respecting the law.

From what has been written above, it is obvious the vocabulary describing the body contains a treasure trove of information. Much of the vocabulary utilized to describe body usually have several grammatical functions as well as metaphorical meanings.

Clarifyingit.com has created and published **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF MEANING** to help you to begin to understand the most creative, illuminating, and culturally specific area of English: **The Body**.

What do you know about the body and the words that describe it?

1) With the exception of the **jaw**, **face**, **penis**, **vagina**, **testicles** and the **figure**, the words which describe the external body come from the Germanic rather than Latin side of English. Therefore, English-, Dutch-, German-, Swedish-, and Norwegian-speakers share, or at least at one time had shared, many of the same words to name different parts of the body. The reason for this is simple. Most of words to describe the body in English are some of the oldest in the language. Many have been in the language before 900: **neck**, **mouth**, **tongue**, **tooth**, **ear**, **throat**, **chest**, **finger**, **eye**, **nose**, **toe**, **nail**, and **foot**. Others have been present since 1000: **lips**, **chin**, **breast**, **bosom**, **elbow**, **back**, **buttock**, **hip**, and **ankle**.

2) Although most of the words to describe the external body are Germanic, the vocabulary to describe the internal organs are much more balanced between the two areas of English, the Latin-based and Germanic-based. However, it should be noted that the most important organs in English are Germanic-based: **heart**, **mind**, **liver**, **bone** and **gut**. All these words became a part of English during the language earliest period; except for the **gut**, which entered the language before 1000, all entered into the language before 900.

3) The Latin-based names for internal organs, for example the **skeleton**, the **spleen**, the **stomach**, and the **spine**, are all relatively new to the language. **Skeleton** came into the language in the late 16th century, **spleen** in the late 13th to early 14th century, **stomach** in the early 16th century, and **spine** in the early to mid-15th century.

It should also be noted that those Latin-based words used to describe the outer-body are also relatively recent entries. **Face** came into

the language in mid 13th to early 14th century, **figure** in 12th century, and **vagina** and **penis** in the late 17th century.

4) There are a number of words in English, which may appear to come from the same source but do not. The word '**arm**' is a primary example. When referring to the part of the body, the word is one of the oldest in the language. It came into English before 900. It is of Germanic origin (Old English **earm**; Old Norse **armr**; Old Frisian **erm**; Old Swede, Old High German, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Frisian, African, Dutch **arm**, German and Swiss German **Arm**, Icelandic **armur** **handleggur**, Latin **brachium** **bracchium**, French **bras**, Spanish **brazo**, Italian **braccio**, Portuguese **braço**)

'Arm,' when it refers to weapons, as in a firearm, originated from Latin. It came into English through Old French. Its entrance into the vocabulary is relatively recent. As a verb, 'arm' came into the language from the early to mid 13th century (**to arm: Middle English and Anglo-French armen, Old French armer, Latin armare**). As a noun, it came into the language a hundred years later (Middle English *armes*, Latin *arma*).

The word for '**butt**' is also very interesting. When the word refers to the **buttock**, **derriere**, **backside**, or **rear end**, its origin is from the Dutch '**bot**', which means 'stumpy' and the Swedish and Danish 'but' which means 'stubby.' When '**butt**' means to strike or push with the head or horns, the origin of the word is the Anglo-French or Old French for 'to thrust or to strike' (**Anglo-French butter, Old French boter**). When '**butt**' refers to a target or a person who is the object of ridicule or contempt its origin is Middle French.

In British English, the term **marrow** has two very distinct meanings and, although it may not appear, two very different roots. As a body term, **marrow** is one of the oldest words in the English language. The root is Germanic. In British and Scottish English, the word **marrow** has another meaning which has nothing to do with any part of the body. It is a term used in northern England and Scotland for a partner, spouse or close friend. This makes sense ONLY if one understands that **marrow** used in the sense of fellow worker, helpmate or companion does not have the same root as the body term **marrow**. **Marrow**, meaning friend, although also Germanic in origin, did not come from the Old English **mearg** or **mearth**; rather, it came from the Middle English **marwe** which meant fellow worker and partner. The origins of **marwe** is Old Norse; it meant friendly. **Marrow**, as a body term, is one of the oldest words in the English language however as friend it is not. It entered in English during the late Medieval period or early Modern period, 1400-1450.

The Body, figuratively speaking

Do you know what the **cheeks** symbolize? If I tell you to not give me any **cheek**, what am I saying? (*Don't talk back to me*). Did you know that the **shoulder** is both a noun and a verb? Did you also know that the figurative meaning of **shoulder**, as a verb, is to push, shove, bear, support, or assume responsibility? When **the cat has your tongue**, what does he have? (*your power to speak*) If you shout out to me, just before going out to do a performance, **break a leg**, are you wishing me harm? No. To shout '**break a leg**' means good luck or 'knock them dead.' If you '**lose your heart**' is it as bad as to '**lose your mind**.' No. '**To lose one's mind**' is not at all good. It only means 'to go crazy.' '**To lose one's heart**' can either be good or bad. It all depends on to whom you lose it. If it is to someone who does not feel the same way, it is bad and very painful. However, if the other person feels the same, it is not only good; it is fantastic. '**To lose one's heart**' is to fall madly in love or '**to fall head over heels**.' Does '**to not have teeth**' have anything to do with '**not having the stomach for something**.' No. It also has nothing to do with '**not having a heart**' or '**not having the heart**', '**the gall**', '**the nose**', '**the eye**', or '**the ear for**'. If something does not **teeth**, it has no power or force. A law or regulation only has **teeth** if it has the power to make people obey. If it does not, **it has no teeth**. **To not have the stomach for something** is not to have the desire to do something. If I don't have the **stomach** for a fight, it means that I do not want to fight. '**To not have a heart**' means that you are not a very nice person. '**To not have the heart**' means that you are unable to, not able to or not will to do something. If you **have gall**, it means that you are very audacious, bold, **cheeky** or imprudent. '**To have the nose for**' is to be good at finding and recognizing something or to have the talent for something. '**To have the nose for news**' means that you are either a good reporter or gossip. If you **have the eye for someone** it means

that you like that person; that you find that person attractive. '**To have the ear for something**' means that you have a natural or innate ability to learn music or languages.

Almost each part of the body symbolizes at least one characteristic or trait. At times, a body part represents more than one attribute. The **heart**, for example, does not only stand for love. In the expression, **to get to the heart of the matter**, **heart** is synonymous to the core, kernel, seed, and germ. In the expression **to learn something by heart** is to memorize or know something word for word. '**To eat one's heart out**' has nothing to do with the core of something, memorizing something, or being in love. In this expression the **heart** represents sorrow, mourning, pining for or agonizing over.

The attributes or qualities which a culture gives to different parts of the body reveal a great deal about how that culture sees itself and its members. **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE** is an extensive dictionary which not only aids you in learning how different parts of the body are used both grammatically and semantically but it is also a *cultural text* whose main goal is to help you to understand how different parts of the English-speaking world see its reality.

How one sees the **mind**, the **heart**, the **liver**, the **gall-bladder**, the **penis**, the **eyes**, or **ears** has a lot to do with the culture in which one lives. In Spanish, for example, the digits on one's **hands** and one's **feet** have the same name (*dedos* and *dedos de pie*). In English, that is not the case. As odd as it might sound, English-speakers have much more of a relationship with the digits on their **hands**, (**fingers**), than on those on their **feet**, (**toes**). Did you know that in English each **finger** has a name? The finger in English which is associated with insulting someone is **the**

middle finger). It is **the ring finger** which is associated with both getting engaged and married. It is **the thumb** which is used to hitch-hike or get a free ride.

Fingers are used to express a variety of things in society. It is associated with controlling someone, (**to wrap someone around one's little finger**), with hoping for the best (**to cross one's fingers**) and with having a bad experience (**to get one's fingers burned**). Either individually or as a group, toes have no such associations. It should not be surprising, therefore, that, relatively speaking, there are almost no expressions which **toes**.

How can THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE help you?

Understanding how the body is seen in English allows you to go beyond the superficial. It helps you to get more than just a glimpse of how persons who speak English conceive and create their reality. Instead of consulting a vast number of dictionaries and language books of expressions, finally, there is a book which contains the overwhelming majority, if not all, the different meaning of words used to represent the body.

With **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE**, you can finally begin to **make heads or tails** (learn) of the metaphorical and cultural meanings of some of the most fundamental words of English. You will find that many jokes, puns, double-entendres and riddles will no longer **go over your head** (be outside your realm of understanding). At last you

will **have your feet firmly set on the path of** understanding and using English as it is actually understood and used.

As mentioned previously, the majority of the vocabulary used for the body are in Germanic in origin. However, English contains a number of Latin and Greek based affixes (prefixes and suffixes) which also mean parts of the body. **BODY LANGUAGE OR THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE** contains some of the different Greek and Latin affixes which are in English. (See the example below) This section is especially important to the native speakers of English who is not familiar with the more formal or collegiate aspect of their vocabulary. This is the aspect of the language which must be mastered to pass the many standardized tests given throughout primary and secondary school. These are also the words that one must know to do well in the SAT's, ACT's or GRE's. In this work, the affixes will be presented with the definition; however, no examples will be given. To get a more detail explanation, including vocabulary, please consult the companion book, **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE: PREFIXES, SUFFIXES AND ROOTS.**

Also included in **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE** are some of those verbs which naturally go with a particular body part. For example, in the section on the **'blood'**, a section on the verb **'to bleed'** will also be included. Another example would in the section on 'the mind,' a number of verbs, such as 'to think', 'to know' and 'to remember' will be examined from different perspective.

How THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE is structured:

There are quite a few of books on body idioms; however, there is no book on the market which is as complete as the one which you are now reading. Most books normally give the expression and a one sentence explanation. **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE** gives the reader more, much more. Not only are you presented with an explanation of what a particular word means both literally and metaphorically, the different meanings are subdivided into categories: **standard, more stylized or formal, informal or idiomatic and slang.** Whenever possible, other expressions are also given. Therefore, with **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE** you not only learn how, for example, the **head** or **eyes** are used in English but other frequently used expressions are also given. The following is a sample of how **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE** is structured:

Skin

(entered into English before 1000)

Old English **scinn**, Middle English Old Norse **skinn**, Dutch **schinden**, Danish **hud skind**, Frisian **fel hûd**, Icelandic and Norwegian **hud**, Swedish **hud skinn skinna päls**, German **Schinden**, Latin **cutis**, French **peau**, Spanish **piel**

Prefixes and/or suffixes which mean **skin**:

dermato-, **dermat-**, **dermo-**, **derm-** (from Greek *derma*, skin)
combining forms meaning skin, hide or covering

-dermis combining forms meaning skin, in general, or the layer of skin
just below the epidermis (known as the *derma*)

-dermatous combining forms meaning skin meaning possessing skin or
skinned

pell- (from Latin: *pell pellis* Greek: *pelz* a skin Latin: *pellicius* made
of skins) combining forms meaning skin

skin

1. epidermis, cuticle, derma, cutis, pellicle
2. (animal) hide, pelt, jacket, fleece, fell, fur, leather, vellum, integument
3. (fruit) rind, peel, hull, shell, husk, cover, covering, pod, case
4. overlay, coating, coat, layer, lamina, film
5. wineskin, pouch, container

to skin

1. to peel, scale, bark, strip, scalp, unwrap, remove, shed
It was not unusual **to skin** one's enemies in Ancient Mesoamerica.
2. (more stylized) to flay, exfoliate, scale, denude, excorticate, excoriate
3. (informal) to throw off, shed, strip off, cast off, peel off
4. (fruit or vegetables) to shell, husk, shuck, hull, rind, pare

skin and bones

1. on the decline, very skinny, unhealthy, corpse-like, frail, underfed, undernourished, wasted, **skeletal**, too lean, deathly thin

I don't know what happened to her but she's nothing but **skin and bones**.

2. (more stylized) gaunt, emaciated, wasted, **fleshless, hollow-eyed**, shrunk, pinched, frail, haggard, **raw boned, hollow cheeked**, spare, drawn, **hollowed cheeks**

3. (informal) thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, throw a shadow, thin as a reed, half-starved, half-famished
4. (slang) scrawny, twiggy, **boney**, like a plucked chicken or skinny as a railing

skin deep

1. superficial, on the surface, not very profound, not deep
What she feels for you is only **skin deep**. She doesn't love you.
2. (more stylized) shallow, outermost, outside, external. outward, exterior
It is true that beauty is only **skin deep**.
3. unreal, artificial, plastic, fake, fraud, delusion, phony

Can't you tell that that is she is only crying crocodile tears. Her feeling of sorrow is only **skin deep**.
4. (informal) hoax, make-believe, two-dollar bill, ruse, sham
5. empty, devoid, slight, meaningless, unimportant, signifying nothing, vacuous

His feelings for you are only **skin deep**. Can't you see that?
6. (more stylized) of little or no import, inconsequential, hollow negligible, insubstantial, inconsequential matter, inconsiderable, inappreciable, inane
7. (informal) petty, paltry, trivial, not worth mentioning, frivolous

8. (slang) no-account, picayune, penny-ante, fiddling, trifling, not worth a hill a beans, plug nickel, not worth the paper it is printed on, straw, red cent

skin flick

1. adult films, films dominated by sex, pornographic, obscene, lewd, vulgar or coarse, x-rated films, sexploitation

Another name for **skin flick** is pornography.

2. (more stylistic) films which are suggestive, prurient, indecent, profane, salacious, fulsome or erotic
3. (informal) films which are vile, nasty, filthy, raunchy, risqué, off-color, hard-core, soft-core or bawdy, peep shows, blue movies, pornography
4. (slang) films which are smutty, gross or blue, stag films, nudies, cheesecake, porn, **leg art**

skin flint

1. to be extraordinarily cheap, frugal, economical or thrifty

My aunt was a real **skin flint**. She would not lend a penny without asking for interest.

2. (more formal) brummagem, parsimonious, miserly,
3. (informal) **closed-fisted**, stingy, penny pincher, tight, **tightfisted** cheapskate, tightwad, money-grubber, miserly, petty

What a **skin flint**!

to be wet to the skin

1. to be wet, very wet or soaked

He got caught in the rain and **was wet to the bone**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be imbrued, immerged saturated, immersed, infused, penetrated, impregnated, imbued, inundated
3. (informal) to be wringing wet, soggy, **soaked to the bone**, soak and wet, doused, drenched, wet down, soaked through, drowned, sopping, dripping, wet through, sippy, **wet to the bone** or soused

**THE BODY AND ITS
TWISTED HISTORY IN
THE ENGLISH**

The study of the language of the body in English is the study of the long, twisted, and, at times, incredulous development of one of most rigid, flexible, irregular, simplified and widely studied and spoken, languages to ever develop.

English is like an onion, each layer representing a period of great change. Although wrapped in an outer layer of Latin and French, this covering is somewhat a roost. Although the overwhelming majority of English words draw their origin from Old French, Anglo-French, Parisian French, Latin, and Greek, English is not a Romance language; it never has been. Even during the period of Roman domination, the period when many of the Romance languages in Western and Southern Europe were being developed, the Latin influence on the language and culture of what was then Britain was superficial, at best. With the exception of persons at the very highest level of society, most of the British remained Celtic, linguistically and culturally speaking.

Perhaps if the Romans had not been forced to withdraw, Roman culture and language would have slowly spread throughout Britain. And, as a result, Britain would have eventually developed the type of language and culture which had been flourishing across the channel in France. However, in 450 Britain's ties to the dying Roman Empire and its colonies were cut. It was in that year when factions of the western branch of the Germanic groups (Angles, Saxons, Jutes, and Frisians) crossed the North Sea to conquer and colonize what would eventually become England.

The invasion and colonization of England was unlike what had happened in other parts of the former Roman Empire. Across the Channel in France, for example, the Franks did not destroy the different peoples whom they encountered; nor did the different Germanic peoples who invaded Spain and Italian. One of the main reasons for the non-annihilation was that what the Gauls, Visigoths and Goths found were highly Romanized hybrids. Rather than destroy, the victor assimilated with the vanquish. It is for this reason that France, Spain, Italy and Portugal remained culturally and linguistically an extension of the Roman Empire, long after its destruction. As a result, these countries developed closely related languages which belong to the Roman or Latin branch of the Indo-European Family of Languages.

England's fate was radically different. By the time the different Germanic groups invaded Britain, the little bit of Latin culture which had been adopted had been almost completely replaced by the native Celtic ones. The different Germanic groups were quite familiar, and as mentioned previously, greatly respectful of the Romans, their culture and language. They felt no such reverence toward the Celts. They either killed or drove westward most of the Celtic inhabitants of England. Prior to the Germanic invasions, Britain had belonged to Celtic language group. After, as a result of the almost complete destruction of the native population, the language, and culture, which developed and flourished in England firmly belonged in the Germanic camp. With the exception of a few place names, Celtic influence in English ceased.

Old English

The language which developed as a result of the Germanic invasion was purely Germanic. It is true that the different Germanic groups had,

before, and especially after the conquest, had come in contact with Latin. However, the Latin adopted did not come from every area of the language. Most of the words were religious; which was only natural since most of the contact between the Germans and Romans was through the Church in the form of Roman missionaries. The English also borrowed from Latin to express new ideas in the area of clothing, and food. All together, during this time, approximately 450 words from Latin were adopted into English. (see appendix 1)

Despite, the incorporation of Latin into English, the culture and language which developed in England, up until the twelfth century, were almost purely Germanic in nature. The Jutes and Saxons formed the basis of the Kentish and the Southern English dialects. The Anglians settled in two areas, the northern and center areas. They were responsible for the Midland and Northumbrian form of English. It was also during this period, as a result of the ascendancy of the West-Saxon kingdom, the written dialect of Wessex became, for a time, the written standard language of England. During that period, works were either written in West Saxon or works written in other dialects were translated into it.

For the first three centuries after the destruction of the Roman Empire, the western branch of the Germanic language formed the basis of the English language. It from this period that one hundred of the most common words in English come. (appendix 2)

The following are the words of the body which entered into English during its first three hundred years. This period of the English language is called, *Old English* or *Anglo-Saxon*:

Body Language

(entered into the language before 900)

Body

Old English **bodig**, Old High German **botah**

Flesh

Old English **flask**, Middle English **flask**, Old Frisian **flask**, Old High German **fleisk**, Old Norse **flesk**, German **Fleisch**, Dutch **vless**

Limb

Old and Middle English **lim**, Old Norse **lim**

Head

Old English **heafod**, Middle English **he(v)ed**, Old High German **houbit**, Old Norse **hofuth**, Dutch **hoofd**

Hair

Old English **hær hære**, Middle English **here haire**, Dutch **haar**, German **Haar**, Old Norse **har hæra**, Old High German **haria**

Eye

Old English **ege** (**eage**), Middle English **eie ie**, German **Auge**, Dutch **oog**

Ear

Old English **eare ear æhher**, Middle English **ere**, Old Norse **eyra ax**, German **Ohr Ähre**, Dutch **oor aar**

Nose

Old English **nosu nasu næse**, Frisian **noas**, Icelandic **nōs**, Danish **næse**, Norwegian **nese**, Dutch **neus**, German **Nase**, Swedish **näsa**, Latin **nasus**, French **nez**, Spanish **nariz**

Mouth

Old and Middle English **muth**, Old Norse **munnr**, German **Mund**, Dutch **mond**

Tongue

Old and Middle English **tunge tungen**, Old Norse **tunga**, Dutch **tong**, German **Zunge**

Tooth/Teeth

Old and Middle English **toth**, Old Norse **tonn**, Dutch **tand**, German **Zahn**

Cheek

Old English **ce(a)ce ceoce**, Middle English **cheke**, Dutch **kaak**, Middle Lower German **kake**

Neck

Old English **hnecca**, Middle English **nekke**, Old Norse **hnakki**, Dutch **nek**, German **Nacken**

Shoulder

Old English **sculdor**, Middle English **sholder schulder shulderen**, Dutch **schouder**, German **Schulter**

Hand

Old and Middle English **hand hond**, Old Norse **hond**, Dutch **hand**, German **Hand**, Goth **handus**

Arm

Old and Middle English **earm**, Old Frisian **erm**, Goth **arms**, Old Norse **armr**, Old High German Old Swedish Dutch **arm**, German **Arm**

Finger

Old and Middle English **finger**, Old Norse **fingr**, Dutch **vinger**, German **Finger**, Gothic **figgers**

Thumb

Old and Middle English **thuma**, Old Norse **thumall**, Dutch **duim**, German **Daumen**, Old Swede and Old High German **dumo**

Nail

Old English **nægel næglan**, Middle English **nayl naille**, Old Frisian **neil**, Old Swede and Old High German **nagal**, Old Norse **nagl**, Germanic **naglaz**, Dutch **nagel**, German **Nagel**

Quick

Old English **cuic cwicu**, Middle English **quik**, Old Norse **kvikr**, Old Swede **quik**, German **queck keck**, Latin **vivus**, French **vif**, Spanish **carne viva**

Fist

Old English **fyst**, German **Faust**, Dutch **vuist**

Lap

Old English **læppa**, Middle English **lappe**, Old Norse **lappr**, Dutch **lap**, German **Lappen**

Knee

Old English **cneo**, Middle English **cneo(w)**, Old Norse **kne**, German **Knie**, Dutch **knie**, Latin **genu**, French **genou**, Spanish **rodillas**

Foot

Old and Middle English **fot**, German **Fuss**, Dutch **voet**, Greek **πούς pod**, Latin **pes ped**, French **pied**, Spanish **pie**

Toe

Old and Middle English **ta**, Old Norse **ta**, German **Zeh Zehe**, Dutch **teen**, Latin **digitus**, French **doigit**, Spanish **dedo de pie**

Heel

(entered into English before 850)

Old and Middle English **hela**, Old Norse **hæll**, Dutch **hiel**

Behind

Old English **behindan**, Middle English **behinden**

Bone

Old English **ban**, Middle English **bon**, Germanic **bainan**, Old Frisian and Old Swede **ben**, Old Norse **bein**, Dutch **been**, German **Bein**, Latin **os ossis**, French **os**, Spanish **hueso**

Marrow

Old English **mearg**, Middle English **marowe**, Old Norse **mergr**, Dutch **merg**, German **Mark**, Latin **medulla**, Spanish **médula**, French **moelle**

Brain

Old and Middle English **brægen gregen**, Low German **brägen**, Dutch **brein**, Latin **cerebrum**, French **cerveau**, Spanish **cerebro**

Late Old English (Early Middle English)

The **northern branch of the Germanic language** did not begin to influence English until the latter part of the eighth and ninth century. From almost three hundred years, until the eleventh century, England was bombarded by invading groups from Scandinavia. The Scandinavians, depending on their nationality, settled in the urban as well as the rural areas of England. While the Norwegians colonized Ireland, the Scottish Island, the Isle of Man, and parts of England's

north-west, the Danes settled mostly in the north and east part of England.

Unlike the first Germanic invasion of the Celtic Britain, the Scandinavian overrun of England did not lead to the elimination the English. The fundamental reason was simple. They were the same people; therefore, the racial and linguistic animosity which had marked the first invasion was absent. Destruction was replaced by absorption and assimilation. The language which the invaders spoke, Old Norse, helped to form the basis of what is now standard English.

At the core, Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse were the same language. Despite the differences in grammar, persons who communicated in Old English and Old Norse were mutually intelligible. In the area of vocabulary, many words were either identical or very similar. As a result, the type of influence that Old Norse had in English was not destructive. Although there were cases where Old Norse terms did replace Anglo-Saxons ones, the norm was that the borrowing of Old Norse words took place when there were no Old English equivalent. In the area of vocabulary, two of the most distinctive borrowings of Old Norse into English were words with 'sk' or the 'sk' sound, (sky or scrub), and those with the hard 'g' sound, (get or egg).

Old Norse words which entered into the language were not only content words (**open class words**). People from one language group are constantly borrowing words from this area of the lexicon (nouns, verbs, adjective and adverbs). Although it should be mentioned that many of the **content words** borrowed from Old Norse were core words; that is, words which either have no synonyms or those which are used to name things in a language which do not have synonyms. What was extremely unusual about the influence of Old Norse on English was that **functions**

words were also borrowed. Function words are structural or grammatical and, therefore, belong to **closed class words**. Very rarely, if ever, are new words added to this category.

Words from Old Norse did not begin to be used in English until after the 11th century, once the Vikings had invaded, and sacked, both south-west and south-east England.

Body Language (entered into English before 1000)

Skin

Old English **scinn**, Middle English Old Norse **skinn**, Dutch **schinden**, German **Schinden**

Brow/ lash

Old English **bru**, Middle English **browe**, Old Norse **brun**, German **braue**

Lip

Old English **lippa**, Middle English **lippe**, Dutch **lip**, German **Lippe**, Norwegian **lepe**

Chin

Old and Middle English **cin cinn**, Old Norse **kinn**, Dutch **kin**, German **Kinn chin**

Elbow

Old English **elnboga elboga**, Middle English **elbowe**, Old Norse **olnbogi**, Middle Dutch **ellenboghe elleboog**, Old High German **ellinbogo**, German **Ellenbogen**

Knuckles

Middle English **knokel**, Middle Low German Middle Dutch **knökel**, Dutch **kneukel (knok)**, German **Knöchel (Knochen)**

Back

Old English **bak**, Middle English **bæc**, Old Frisian **bek**, Old Norse Old Swede **bak**

Leg

Middle English and Old Norse **leggr**, Danish **læg**

Buttock

Old English **buttuc**, Middle English **buttok**

Blood

Old English **blod**, Middle English **blod**, Germanic **bloda**, Old Norse and Goth **bloth**, Old Frisian and Old Swede **blod**, Old High German **bluot**, German **Blut**, African, Danish, Norwegian or Swedish **blod**, Dutch **bloed**, Latin **sanguis**, French **sang**, Spanish **sangre**

Ass (vulgar)

Old English **ærs ears**, Middle English **ars**, Old Frisian **ers**, Old Norse, Middle Low German, Old Swedish, and Old High German **ars**, Dutch **aars**

Although many of the words spoken during this period were later eliminated, according to some accounts eighty-five percent, the importance of Old English in Modern English can not be exaggerated. The fact is that Old English forms the backbone of the English which is spoken today. It is for this reason that, despite all the subsequent influence that Latin, (both the classical and vulgar version); Classical Greek; and French, (both the Norman and Parisian version); may have had, English is not a Romance language. At its core, English is a Germanic language. Because of Old English, the basic structure of English is Germanic. The bulk of the prepositions, pronouns, auxiliaries, conjunction as well as words of fundamental concept come to English from the old English period. Most of the most frequently used words in English trace their origin back to Old English. Therefore, to find the cognates of most, if not all, of the most basic, fundamental, and frequently used words of English, one must go to the different Germanic languages of both branches of the language tree. (appendix 4)

Middle English

The Norman Invasion took place in 1066. However, although the Normans greatly influenced the English language, for the first century or so Old English remained, in general, unchanged. For the student of the history of the English language, even fifty years or so after the Norman invasion, English had remained being a language which most English speakers would not easily recognize. Although inflections for both nouns and adjectives were becoming obsolete, inflections in other areas of the grammar were still important.

Old English started transitioning into Middle English around the mid point of the 12th century. Although not a language that most speakers of modern English would recognize, Middle English most

definitely was a language much more recognizable. In every area, English was changing. In the areas of pronunciation, the pronunciation of vowels was becoming more like their pronunciation in modern English. For example, long vowels became short when they were before two or more consonants: sleep vs. slept/ deep vs. depth . Another example would be the elimination of diphthongs as in the word 'deop' to the simple vowel and the replacement of the 'y' in words such as 'hyll' or 'fyr' to the 'i' as in 'hill' and 'fire'. In the area of orthography the transition from Old to Middle English was nothing to sneeze at: 1) the elimination of the 'æ' to, depending on the word, the short 'a' or long 'e', 2) the replacement of the 'c' with the 'ch' as in 'child', 3) the replacement of 'cw' with 'qu' as in 'queen', 4) the elimination of þ and ð with the 'th' and 5) the replacement of the 'c' for the 'k' before front vowels as in the word 'keep' . In the area of grammar the changes were quite dramatic. In a nutshell, English ceased being a synthetic or inflected language in which some words indicate such grammatical relationship such as number, case, gender or tense. English became an analytical language in which particles, rather than inflections, are used to express grammatical relationships (*handsomer* vs *more* handsome). In the area of verbs, English began to have only two cases, strong and weak, now known as regular and irregular.

Ironically enough, even a century after the Norman conquest, the influence of French in English was kept at a minimum. The reasons for this are numerous. For one, English was considered the language of the socially inferior; therefore, as a rule, it was treated by elites of the society, many of whom did not speak or understand English, with indifference. As a result, the language was, for almost two centuries, considered a dialect spoken by those who had no power. Norman French remained in its position as the official language until the forced separation of Normandy from England. Although during this period a

great number of words from French enter into English, the number was no where near the amount that would be borrowed later.

French imported more than ten thousand words into English. As a result, hundreds of words from Old and Middle English were forced out of the language. (appendix 5) However, it must never be forgotten that despite tremendous influence that French had in English, it never had the impact that Old Norse had. Old Norse actually changed the very essence of English; French did not. The reasons are not hard to understand. By 1066, English was too well established in both its written and spoken form to be easily eliminated or changed. Norman French never became a natural language of England as a whole; it was only a means of communication to the tiny elite of the country. Also, intermarriage can not be ignored. The Normans did not remain separate from the population which they conquered. Many times the offspring of such unions spoke either both Norman French and English or only English.

English remained English; French was incorporated within the existing structure to make it stronger and richer. In no area of structure did French change English. This fact can be easily demonstrated. For example, in the area of syntax (word order) only in very few cases do adjectives follow the noun (attorney general or court martial). In all other cases, the norm is that the adjective precedes the noun. Another example would be in the area of verbs. When French verbs entered into English, their grammatical structures remained outside. That is to say, only the essence of the verb was incorporated; all of their grammatical endings were eliminated. They generally came into the language as regular rather than irregular verbs. As a result, the 'weak' past inflection 'ed', became much more dominant, eventually becoming the normal ending of most verbs in English in the past tense. It is for this reason

that the overwhelming majority of irregular verbs in the past are from the Germanic, rather than the French or Latin, area of English. (appendix 6)
French did not enter the language English all at once. It did so in stages:

1. first one hundred years ---- no increase of French in English
2. last one half of the 12th century ---- slight increase
3. 1200-1250 ---- increase
4. post 1250 ---- greater increase
5. 1300-1400 ---- period of the greatest borrowing
6. 1400 ---- sharp drop and eventual tapering off

Words of the body which came into English prior to 1250

Figure

(1175-1225)

Old French and Middle English **figure**, Latin **figura**, French **forme**, Spanish **figura**

Skull

(1175-1225)

Middle English **scolle**, Old Norse **skalli skoltr**, Latin **calvaria calva**, French **crâne**, Spanish **calavera**

Words of the body which came into English post 1250

Face (1250-1300)

Middle English, Anglo-French, Old French **facia**, Latin **facies**,
Late Middle English **facen**, French **visage face**, Spanish **cara**

Whiskers (whisk + er) (1325-1375)

whisk

Middle English (Scots) **wysk**, Scots **wisk quhisk**, Old Norse **visk**,
Swedish **viska**, Danish **vishe**, Old High German **wisken**

Jaw (1325-1375)

Middle English **jawe jowe**, Latin **maxilla mala fauces**, Old
French **joue joe**, French **mâchoire**, Spanish **mandibula**

Palm (1300-1350)

Old English **folm**, Middle English **paume**, Middle French and
Latin **palma**, French **paume**, Spanish **palma**

Stomach (1300-1350)

Middle English **stomack**, Old French **stomaque estomac**,
Greek **stomakhos**, Latin **stomachus venter**, French
estomac, Spanish **estómago**

Testicles **(1375-1425)**

Latin **testiculus**, French **testicules**, Spanish **testiculos**

The late Middle Ages was one of great changes in England. The growth of towns, the death of feudalism, hastened by the Black Death, and the rise of the middle class and free, self-governing communities all led to the growing domination and self-assuredness of the English language and culture. Slowly, all levels of the population began to see that the language in which they communicated was more than a dialect that only the peasantry spoke.

The new attitude led to the growing importance of English in all areas of society. The fourteenth century witnessed the resurgence of English in the official and governmental spheres. In 1349, English began to replace French as the language of instruction; by 1382, it was rare to find a school where French, rather than English, was the language of instruction. In 1362, Parliament opened, for the first time, in English rather than French. It was also in that year that law courts were ordered to be conducted in English rather than Norman French.

The new growing self-awareness of English continued into fifteenth century. It was the period that the first monarchs who were completely fluent in English reigned, Richard II and Henry IV. It was also in that period that Geoffrey Chaucer wrote *Canterbury Tales*, William Langland wrote *Piers Plowman*, and John Wycliffe for the first time, successfully translated the entire bible into English.

As Englishmen became more confident in the language which they spoke, they opened up to possibilities which had once been rejected. As

was shown in the table above, it was not until the fourteenth and fifteenth century that thousands of French words were allowed to enter into English. It was also during these centuries that a large number of Latin words entered English.

Throughout the history of English, Latin has, on and off, entered English. However, it was not until the period immediately prior to and during the Renaissance, did the English begin to borrow Latin in any great quantity. Although there were scholars such as Sr. John Cheke, who believed that English could be used to express any idea, there were those who believed that English was a language which could, without any problem, put into words less sophisticated, more concrete ideas. It was ideal to express blunt, straightforward and plain-spoken ideas. However, Latin and Greek were considered much better suited to verbalize the more abstract, nuance, subtle and conceptual areas of life.

Originally, much of the Latin which had come into English had done so indirectly French. That changed, however, once original Latin text became available. Latin, and eventually Greek, began to be borrowed directly.

By the time the early modern period, all the vocabulary used to describe the body was already well established. The only new words of the body which came into the language were those of the internal organs. The body parts which were discovered during the early modern and modern period have either Latin or Greek origin, languages which doctor and scientist continued utilizing long after the world had ceased. Of these parts of the body, almost none is rich in metaphors or symbolism.

THE BODY:

*A TREASURE TROVE OF
MEANINGS IN ENGLISH*

*VOLUME 2: THE BONE,
MARROW, SKULL,
SKELETON, BRAIN, HAIR,
BLOOD AND TO BLEED*

Bone

(entered into English before 900)

Old English **ban**, Middle English **bon**, Germanic **bainan**, Old Frisian and Old Swede **ben**, Old Norse **bein**, Dutch **been**, German **Bein**, Latin **os ossis**, French **os**, Spanish **hueso**

Prefixes and/or suffixes which mean **bone**:

os-, **ossi-** (combining form of the Latin *os* bone)

oste-, **osteo-** (combining form of the Greek *osteon* bone)

bone

1. one of the structures used to compose the skeleton
2. (Anatomy/Zoology) os
3. structure from an edible animal, used as food i.e. ham bone
4. ivory, whalebone, tusk
5. small concession intended to pacify or calm, graft, lure, gift

The elected official threw us a **bone** hoping to keep our mouth shut.

6. (slang) kickback, payola, hush money, protection money
7. a color
8. (slang) a student who studies diligently
9. *vulgar term for penis*

bones

1. skeleton
 2. the body
- Because of the way she died, I fear that her **bones** will not rest in peace.
3. the basic essential framework of something
 4. (slang) pair of dice

a bone to pick

1. disagreement, difference of opinion, misunderstanding, dispute
I need to talk to you now. I have **a bone to pick** with you.
2. (more stylized/formal) disaccord, dissidence, altercation, lack of agreement, dissension contention
3. (less formal to informal) quarrel, bickering, fighting

as dry as a bone

1. parched dried up, dried, arid, drained, dried out, withered, shriveled
I don't understand how you farm here; the land is **as dry as bone dry**.
2. (more stylized/formal) desiccated, totally dehydrated, parched, exsiccated, waterless, thirsty, needing moisture, sear
3. (less formal to informal) dry-as-dust, withered, shriveled, droughty, harden, sun-dried, wilted, shriveled up, bare, baking

bare-boned

1. corpse-like, frail, underfed, undernourished, wasted, **skeletal**, too lean, deathly thin
It is not very healthy to be so **bared bones**.
2. (more stylized/formal) gaunt, emaciated, wasted, **fleshless**, **hollow-eyed**, shrunken, pinched, frail, haggard, **raw boned**, **hollow-cheeked**, spare, drawn, **hollowed cheeks**
3. (informal) thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, throw a shadow, thin as a reed, half-starved, half-famished

4. (slang) scrawny, twiggy, **boney**, like a plucked chicken or skinny as a railing

bare-bones

the least or the most minimum amount, most essential components, stripped down to its most basic, the lowest limit

I don't know how you can live here. This house is **bare-bones**, at best.

bag of bones (slang)

derogatory term for a very thin or skinny person, be as thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, throw a shadow or thin as a reed

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

bone breaker

an individual whose job it is to break bones, i.e. an enforcer for organized crime

He is a **bone breaker** who will shatter your arms in less than five minutes if you do not pay what you owe.

bone china

expensive and fragile dishes, cups, etc. made with bone ash

bone crushing

1. strong enough to crush, shatter or splinter one's bone

No one could have survived this crash; it was **bone crushing**.

2. extraordinarily and extremely painful, problematic, or expensive

Since the wedding, I have been under **bone-crushing** debt.

bone dry

1. dried up, dried, arid, drained, dried out, withered, shriveled

I don't understand how you farm here; the land is **bone dry**.

2. (more stylized/formal) desiccated, totally dehydrated, parched, exsiccated, waterless, thirsty, needing moisture, sear
3. (less formal to informal) dry-as-dust, withered, shriveled, droughty, harden, sun-dried, wilted, shriveled up, bare, baking

bone head

1. to be a person who is stupid, dumb, not very intelligent, 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, dumb ass*

bone headed

1. to be that which is something which is stupid, dumb, foolish, not not very intelligent, dull

What a **boneheaded** decision!

bone headedness

1. stupidity, dull-wittedness, empty-headedness, dumbness

His **bone headedness** is sometimes hard to believe.

2. (more stylized/formal) insensateness, imbecility, insipidness, witlessness, fatuity

3. (informal to slang) **brainlessness**, **blockheadedness**, lumpishness, **simple** or **feeble-mindedness**

bone-idle

1. lazy, slack, lackadaisical, listless, idle

He won't help you. Since he has graduated, he has been **bone-idle**.

2. (more stylized/formal) indolent, slothful, lethargic, inert, dilatory
3. (less formal to informal) free-and-easy, do-nothing, heavy
4. (French) *fainéant*

bone marrow

the substance in the hollow center of the bone

bone meal

finely crushed or grounded bone used as either fertilizer or feed

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.

bone porcelain

expensive and fragile dishes, cups, etc. made with bone ash

bone receptacle

1. receptacle for the ashes or bone of the dead
2. ossuary

bone scraper

1. surgical instrument for scraping bones
2. (more stylized/ formal) xyster

bone setter

one who sets or treats dislocated, fractured or broken bones

A **bone setter** is not a doctor and usually allowed to practice only in non-industrialized countries (traditional healer).

bone setting

the practice of setting, situating, moving back into position or positioning the bones

bone shaker

a rough, shattering or hard ride in a vehicle

What a **bone shaker**! I will never accept a ride from her again.

bone structure (of the face)

the structure of the face

With your **bone structure**, you don't need that much make-up.

bone-tired

1. extremely and extraordinarily tired, worn-out, exhausted

I have never been so **bone-tired**.

2. (more stylized/formal) fatigued, spent, weary
3. (informal to slang) dead, tuckered out, **dead on one's feet**, dog-tired, done-in, bushed, beat or pooped, be wrung dried, be like a dishrag, be played, wiped, burnt or tired out

bone weary

1. drained, extraordinarily tired, overworked, worn-out, exhausted

I am **bone-weary**. If I don't rest than I'm going to back.

2. (more stylized/formal) fatigued, spent, weary
3. (informal to slang) dead, tuckered out, **dead on one's feet**, dog-tired, done-in, bushed, beat or pooped, be wrung dried, be like a dishrag, be played, wiped, burnt, tired out

bone-yard (slang)

cemetery, grave yard, churchyard, burial ground, memorial park

brittle bones

bones which are easily breakable, rickety or fragile

Because he has **brittle bones**, he can not play like normal children.

broken bones

fractured, shatter or splinter bones (usually as a result of an injury or accident)

As a result of the bombing, she has a number of **broken bones**.

close to the bone

a truthful remark that hurts, offends or insults

What she said was very **close to the bone**.

crazy bone

the part of the elbow where the ulna nerve is only slightly protected; therefore, very sensitive and when struck causes a tingling sensation in the arm and hand

I hate when I hit my **crazy bone**; I don't like the tingling in my arm.

fossil bone

1. geological deposit containing bones
2. ossiferous

funny bone

1. the part of the elbow where the ulna nerve is only slightly protected; therefore, very sensitive and when struck causes a tingling sensation in the arm and hand

Whenever I hit my **funny bone**, I can not help but laugh.

2. a sense of humor, ability to appreciate and/or express what is funny or humorous

in one's bone

a very strong feeling that is almost instinctive, premonition

I feel it **in my bones** that all is not right.

lazybones (slang)

1. lazy, slack, lackadaisical, listless, idler, deadbeat, sluggard

He won't help you. Since he has graduated, he has become a **lazybones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) ne'er do-well, loafer, malingering
3. (informal to slang) goldbricker, good-for-nothing, slug bed, lazy boots, lazy legs

rickety bones

bones which are easily breakable, brittle or fragile

Because he has **rickety bones**, he can not play like normal children.

skin and bones (slang)

1. on the decline, very skinny, unhealthy, corpse or skeleton-like, frail, underfed, undernourished, wasted, **skeletal**, too lean, deathly thin

She is not thin; she is **skin and bones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) gaunt, emaciated, wasted, **fleshless**, **hollow-eyed**, shrunk, pinched, frail, haggard, **raw boned**, **hollow cheeked**, spare, drawn, **hollowed cheeks**
3. (informal) thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, throw a shadow, thin as a reed, half-starved, half-famished
4. (slang) scrawny, twiggy, **boney**, like a plucked chicken or skinny as a railing

small bone

(more stylized/ formal) ossicle

to the bone

1. to wound someone to the point of exposing the wound

2. to penetrate something deeply i.e. cold

She was frozen **to the bones**.

3. to say or do something that affects someone deeply

His remark cut me **to the bone**.

to be a bag of bones (slang)

derogatory term for a very thin or skinny person

She **is** nothing but **a bag of bones**.

to be a lazy bone (slang)

1. to be a person who is lazy, slack, lackadaisical or listless, idler, deadbeat, sluggard

He won't help you. Don't you know that he is a **lazybones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) ne'er do-well, loafer, malinger

3. (informal to slang) to be a goldbricker, good-for-nothing, slug bed, lazy boots, lazy legs

to be as dry as a bone

1. to be parched dried up, dried, arid, drained, dried out, withered or shriveled

I don't understand how you farm here; the land **is as dry as bone dry**.

2. (more stylized/formal) desiccated, totally dehydrated, parched,

exsiccated, waterless, thirsty, needing moisture, sear

3. (less formal to informal) dry-as-dust, withered, shriveled, droughty, harden, sun-dried, wilted, shriveled up, bare, baking

to be bone chilling

1. to be very scary, frightened or horrifying

That novel **was bone chilling**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be appalling, intimidating or menacing
3. (less formal to informal) to be hair raising, creepy, goosepimply, filled with terror or paralyzing, **have one's heart in one's mouth**, **make one's hair stand on end**
4. to be chilled or numbed with cold, very cold, freezing, freezing or frozen to the bones, **get goose flesh**, turn blue

I can't wait until I get home; this wind **is bone chilling**.

to be bone dry

1. to be extremely dry to the point to being parched, parched, dried up, dried, arid, drained, dried out, withered or shriveled

I can't live here; this land **is bone dry**.

2. (more stylized/formal) waterless, thirsty, needing moisture, desiccated, totally dehydrated, parched, exsiccated or sear
3. (less formal to informal) wilted, shriveled up, bare, baking, dry-as-dust, withered, shriveled, droughty, harden or sun-dried

to be bone-idle

1. lazy, slack, lackadaisical, listless, idle

He won't help you. Since he has graduated, he has **been bone-idle**.

2. (more stylized/formal) indolent, slothful, lethargic, inert, dilatory
3. (less formal to informal) free-and-easy, do-nothing, heavy

to be bred in the bone

1. to have a natural inclination toward something, have something in one's blood, be part of one's personality or way of being

The way that he sees the world **was bred-in-the-bone**. He will not change.

2. to be deeply committed, zealous, unwavering, unswerving, firm, resolute, staunch

He **is bred-in-the-bone** conservative. He will never change.

to be bare-bones

to be the least or the most minimum amount, most essential components, stripped down to its most basic or the lowest limit

I don't know how you can live here. This house **is bare-bones**, at best.

to be chilled to the bone

1. to be extremely cold, freezing or frozen to the bones, **get goose flesh**, turn blue

It is so cold that I **am chilled to the bone**.

2. to be scared, **chilled to the marrow**, scared stiff, **frightened to the bone**, very frightened or terrified

I **was chilled to the bones** after reading the novel.

to be frozen to the bones

1. to be terrified, trembling with fear, **chilled to the marrow** or **frightened to the bone**, **have one's hair stand on end**

When he came into the room, I was suddenly **frozen to the bones**.

2. to be very cold, freezing, frostbitten, frozen stiff or solid, chilled or numbed with cold

It was so cold that I **was frozen to the bone**.

to be nothing but skin and bones

1. to be very skinny, unhealthy, wasted, **skeletal**, corpse or skeleton-like, frail, underfed, undernourished, too lean or deathly thin

I don't know what happened to her but she **is nothing but skin and bones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be emaciated, wasted, **fleshless**, **hollow-eyed**, skrunken, pinched, gaunt, frail, haggard, **raw boned**, **hollow cheeked**, spare, drawn or **hollowed cheeks**
3. (informal) to throw a shadow, be thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, thin as a reed, half-starved or half-famished

to be skin and bones

1. to be undernourished, wasted, **skeletal**, too lean, very skinny, unhealthy, corpse or skeleton-like, frail, underfed or deathly thin

She thinks that she is only slim I say that she **is skin and bones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be, spare, drawn, **hollowed cheeks** wasted, **fleshless**, pinched, frail, haggard, gaunt, emaciated, **hollow-eyed**, skrunken, **raw boned** or **hollow cheeked**
3. (informal) to be thin as a reed, thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted half-starved, half-famished or gangling, throw a shadow

to be soaked to the bone

1. to be wet, very wet or soaked

He got caught in the rain and **was soaked to the skin**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be imbrued, immerged saturated, immersed, infused, penetrated, impregnated, imbued or inundated
3. (less format to informal) to be wringing wet, soggy, **soaked to the skin**, soak and wet, doused, drenched, wet down, soaked through, drowned, sopping, dripping, wet through, sippy, **wet to the skin** or soused

to be (something) to one's bone

to be strongly, basically, essentially, intrinsically and fundamentally something, be something in one's guts

She **is French to her bone**.

to be wet to the bones

1. to be soaked, very wet or wet

I got caught in the rain so, by the time I got home, I **was wet to the bones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be impregnated, imbued, saturated, immersed, infused, inundated, imbrued, immerged or penetrated

3. to be wringing wet, soggy, soaked through, drowned, sopping, dripping, wet through, soppy, **wet to the skin, soaked to the skin**, soak and wet, doused, drenched, wet down or soused

to bone

1. to remove the bones from fish or meat
2. to fertilize with bone
3. to steal, pilfer, rob, finger, appropriate, expropriate, misappropriate
- 4 (vulgar) to have sexual intercourse

to bone up on

1. to study a subject intensively i.e. as a way to prepare for an examination, study

If I don't **bone up** on French, I will not pass the exam next week.
2. (less formal to informal) to cram, crack a book, hit the books

to break every bone in one's body

1. to be horribly injured or hurt, i.e. from a car accident or fall

It's going to take a long time to recover; he **broke every bone in his body**.
2. to fatally or almost fatally injure someone i.e. to give someone a bad beating

They beat him within an inch of his life. They **broke every bone in his body**.

to break bones

to fracture, splinter or shatter someone's bones as a result of punishment (usually done by an enforcer in organized crime)

It was my job to **break bones**.

to break one's bones

to fracture, splinter or shatter one's bones (usually as a result of an accident or an injury)

When he fell he **broke** a number of **his bones**.

to change into bone

to ossify

to chill one to the bones

1. to make cold or turn blue, freeze, **give goose flesh to**, turn blue

This wind **chills me to the bone**.

2. to scare, **chill to the marrow**, scare stiff, **frighten to the bone**, terrify

This novel is so scary that it **chills me to the bones**.

to cut close to the bone

1. to say a truthful remark that hurts or offends

I think that his remark hurt so much because it **cut so close to the bone**.

2. to reduce down to the bare minimum, to minimize to the lowest amount

So that I could continue living in California, I **cut** my expenses **close to the bone**.

to cut cost to the bone

1. to drastically reduce the cost, discount to the minimum price, charge the lowest price possible, decrease cost

We need to get the rid of all this merchandise; therefore, it is necessary to **cut cost to the bone**.

2. (less formal to informal) to cut down, pare to the bone, deeply discount, cut back, slash

to cut near to the bone

1. to say a truthful remark that hurts or offends
I think that his remark hurt so much because it **cut so close to the bone**.

2. to reduce down to the bare minimum, to minimize to the lowest amount
So that I could continue living in California, I **cut** my expenses **close to the bone**.

to cut one's finger to the bone

to cut oneself badly to the point of needing stitches

Because he **cut his finger to the bone**, he had to go to the hospital.

to cut one to the bone

1. to wound or injury to the point of exposing the bone
He **cut you to the bone**; I have to get you to the hospital.
2. to say or do something that affects someone deeply

His remark **cut me to the bone**.

to feel in one's bone

1. to sense, feel something so strongly that it feels almost instinctive, know, have a premonition

I **feel it in my bones** that he's not a good person.

2. to foreknow, be instinctive, anticipate, forerun, foresee, forebode, intuit

(less formal to informal) to have a funny feeling, have a feeling, have a hunch or a sneaking suspicion

to fracture one's bones

to break, splinter or shatter one's bones (usually as a result of an accident or an injury)

When he fell he **fractured** a number of **his bones**.

to freeze one to the bones

1. to make cold or turn blue, chill, **give goose flesh to**, turn blue

This wind is **freezing me to the bone**.

2. to scare, **chill to the marrow**, scare stiff, **frighten to the bone**, terrify

That novel was so scary that it **froze me to the bones**.

to get chilled to the bones

1. to become extremely cold, freezing or frozen to the bones, **get goose flesh**, turn blue

It is so cold that I **am getting chilled to the bone**.

2. to be scared, **chilled to the marrow**, scared stiff, **frightened to the bone**, very frightened or terrified

I **got chilled to the bones** after reading the novel.

to get soaked to the bones

1. to become soaked, very wet or wet

I got caught in the rain so, by the time I got home, I **got soaked to the bones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be saturated, immersed, infused, inundated, imbrued, impregnated, imbued, immersed or penetrated
3. to be wet through, sopping, **wet to the skin, soaked to the skin**, soak and wet, doused, wringing wet, soggy, soaked through, drowned, sopping, dripping, drenched, wet down or soused

to have a bone to pick with someone

1. to have a misunderstanding, dispute, disagreement or difference of opinion,

It's obvious that you're angry. Do you have a bone to pick with me?

2. (more stylized/formal) to have a dissidence, altercation, lack of agreement, disaccord, dissension or contention
3. (less formal to informal) to be quarreling, bickering or sparring

to have no meat on those bones

1. to be corpse or skeleton-like, frail, underfed, deathly thin, undernourished, wasted, **skeletal**, too lean or very skinny

She thinks that she looks good but I say that she **has no meat on those bones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be pinched, frail, haggard, gaunt, emaciated, **hollow-eyed**, spare, drawn, **hollowed cheeks**, wasted, **fleshless**, shrunken, **raw boned** or **hollow cheeked**
3. (informal) to throw a shadow, be half-starved, half-famished, gangling, thin as a reed, thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned** or wasted

to have one's bone tell one something

1. to literally feel something strongly as a result of a bone disease i.e. arthritis

My bones tell me that it's going to snow tomorrow.

2. to instinctively feel, have a feeling, intuit, sense, have a hunch

My bones tell me that despite everything she can be trusted.

to know in one's bones

1. to feel instinctively, sense

Even though everyone believes to the contrary, I **know in my bones** that you're going to win.

2. (more stylized/formal) to intuit, perceive, discern, have premonition, be conscious or aware of

3. (less formal to informal) to have a hunch or a feeling

to lay someone's bones to rest

1. to bury, lay to rest

Tomorrow, we will **lay her bones to rest**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to inter, sepulcher, inhume, entomb
3. (informal to slang) to put six feet under

to make no bones about

1. to acknowledge, confess, admit, recognize

I'll **make no bones about** the fact. I was wrong.

2. (more stylized/formal) to own, profess, avow, concede
3. (less formal to informal) to fess up, own up to

to make no old bones

to not get old, never get past one's prime, never reach one's golden age or the winter of one's life

The way that he is living; he will **make no old bones**.

to not have a (type of bone) in one's body

1. to not be, not have the tendency or inclination,

He does **not have an unkind bone in his body**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to not have the proclivity, propensity, predisposition, predilection, penchant
3. (less formal to informal) to not have the leaning, turn or bent

to pare down to the bone

1. to drastically reduce the cost, discount to the minimum price, charge the lowest price possible, decrease cost

I don't have any money; therefore, I've **pared** my expenses **down to the bone**.

2. (less formal to informal) to cut down, cut to the bone, deeply discount, cut back, slash

to throw one a bone

to give, allot or offer as a means to pacify, appease, take the edge off of, placate, mollify, humor or soften

So that she would stay, he **threw her a bone**. He promised that when she was well he would drive her to the airport.

to toss one a bone

to give, allot or offer as a means to appease, soften, take the edge off of, placate, mollify, pacify, dulcify or humor

Nothing will change. All she is doing is **tossing you a bone**.

to work one's finger to the bone

1. to work very hard, push oneself, work until one is totally exhausted

So that I would go to the university, my parents **worked her fingers to the bone**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to overexert oneself, labor, toil, earn one's livelihood, work like a Trojan
3. (less formal to informal) to work day and night, work overtime, do double duty, beat one's brain out, work one's fingers to the bone, burn the midnight oil, work like there's no tomorrow, plod along, plug away, peg away, **work one's head off**
4. (informal to slang) to sweat and slave, work one's tail off, drudge, work like a dog, kill oneself, work like a slave, work like a horse,

work like a galley, burn the candle on both ends, slave away, **set one's shoulder to the wheel**, **keep one's nose to the grindstone**, grind

5. **(vulgar)** to work one's ass off, work one's behind off

What's bred in the bone will come out in the flesh

What one is determined by one's heredity. It is innate.

What's bred in the bone will come out in the blood

What one is determined by one's one's heredity or genes, to be innate

Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me

One should ignore insulting words as they can not really physically hurt you and that they do not really matter

bare-boned

1. corpse-like, frail, underfed, undernourished, wasted, **skeletal**, too lean, deathly thin

It is not very healthy to be so **bared bones**.

-

2. (more stylized/formal) to be gaunt, emaciated, wasted, **fleshless**, **hollow-eyed**, skrunken, pinched, frail, haggard, **raw boned**, **hollow-cheeked**, spare, drawn or **hollowed cheeks**

3. (informal) to throw a shadow, be thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, thin as a reed, half-starved or half-famished

4. (slang) to be scrawny, twiggy, **boney**, like a plucked chicken or, skinny as a railing

big boned

1. fat, plump, well-proportioned, overweight, stout, round, rotund, heavy-set, **large boned**, heavy-framed, large-framed, **big boned**
2. (more stylized/formal) well-fed, **fleshy**, **full body**, ample, fattish, corpulent, portly, thickset, stocky, **moon-faced**, **round-faced**
3. (informal) pudgy, chunky, chubby, filled out
4. (slang) roly-poly, big as a cow, pig, ox, horse

boned

1. having a specific kind of bone, i.e. **large** or **small boned**
2. having the bones taken out, i.e. fillet fish
3. fertilized with bones

large boned

1. fat, plump, well-proportioned, overweight, stout, round, rotund, heavy-set, **large boned**, heavy-framed, large-framed

She isn't fat; she **is large boned**.
2. (more stylized/formal) well-fed, **fleshy**, **full body**, ample, fattish, corpulent, portly, thickset, stocky, **moon-faced**, **round-faced**
3. (informal) pudgy, chunky, chubby, filled out

4. (slang) roly-poly, big as a cow, pig, ox or horse

boner

1. stupid or embarrassing mistake,

Last night, I made a real **boner**.

2. (informal to slang) blunder, blooper, slip-up, boo-boo
3. (vulgar) *an erection of the penis*

to make a boner

1. to make a stupid mistake, make a fool of oneself

Last night in front of everyone, I **made a real boner**.

2. (informal to slang) to flounder, flub, slip up, make a mistake

to pull a boner (slang)

1. to make a faux pas, have a slip of the tongue or Freudian slip

I **pulled a real boner** that will haunt me for years.

2. (more stylized/formal) to err, misreckon, miscalculate
3. (informal to slang) to stumble, goof or botch up, bungle, screw or slip up, **put one's foot in one's mouth**

boneless

without bones, having the bones removed

I only buy **boneless** fish.

bony

1. very skinny or thin

She thinks that she's thin but the reality is that she is **bony**.

2. full of bones

I don't like this type of fish. It is too **bony** for my taste.

3. having prominent bones as in big boned

4. (more stylized/formal) osseous, osteal

Marrow

(entered into English before 900)

Old English **mearg**, Middle English **marowe**, Old Norse **mergr**,
Dutch **merg**, German **Mark**, Latin **medulla**, Spanish **médula**,
French **moelle**

Prefixes and/or suffixes which mean **marrow**:

medulla-, **medull-** (combining form of the Latin *medulla* marrow)

marrow

1. the soft substance in the hollow of the bone
2. kernel, core, nucleus, focal point
3. (anatomy) medulla
4. (less formal to informal) **heart and soul, heart, soul**, sap
5. substance, sum and substance
6. (less formal to informal) building blocks, **flesh and blood**, nuts and bolts, meat, **body**
7. vitality, verve, strength, vigor, life, vigor, energy, gusto, vim
8. (less formal to informal) fire, panache, oomph, spice
9. (slang) moxie, starch
10. (Italian) brio
11. (Scottish and North English dialect) mate, companion, fellow, close or best friend, helpmate, playmate, classmate
12. (less formal to informal) buddy, brother, sidekick, chum
13. (French) ami
14. (Scottish and North English dialect) spouse, husband, wife
15. (less formal to informal) rib, better-half, bride

16. (slang) rib, old man, old lady, hubby

baby marrow

baby courage

to be chilled to the marrow

1. to be extremely cold, freezing or frozen to the bones, **get goose flesh**, turn blue

It is so cold that I **am chilled to the marrow**.

2. to be **chilled to the bone**, scared, scared stiff, **frightened to the bone**, very frightened or terrified

I **was chilled to the bones** after reading the novel.

to be frozen to be marrow

1. to be terrified, trembling with fear, **chilled to the bone** or **frightened to the bone**, **have one's hair stand on end**

When he came into the room, I was suddenly **frozen to the marrow**.

2. to be very cold, freezing, frostbitten, frozen stiff or solid, chilled or numbed with cold

It was so cold that I **was frozen to the marrow**.

to be shocked to the marrow

1. to be totally astonished, astounded, stunned, surprised, or startled

I **was shocked to the marrow** after hearing her words.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be rendered speechless, disconcerted or perplexed

3. (less formal to informal) to be flabbergasted, hit between the eyes, set back on one's heels, bowled over, blown away, floored, taken aback, overwhelmed, overpowered, hit like a ton of bricks or thrown for a loop

to be (something) to the marrow

to be totally, completely, without any question or absolutely

She **is** American **to the marrow**.

to pierce to the marrow of a problem

to go directly to or penetrate to the very core, heart, essence or gist of the problem

What she did **pierced to the marrow of the problem** at hand.

to take the marrow out of one

1. to sap the strength from, weaken, make feeble
Being with her **took the marrow out of him**.
2. (more stylized/formal) to enfeeble, debilitate, deprive of strength, deplete, enervate, diminish, devitalize

Skull

(entered into English before 1175-1225)

Middle English **scolle**, Old Norse **skalli skoltr**, Greek **kranion**,
Latin **calvaria calva cranium**, French **crâne**, Spanish **calavera**

Prefixes and/or suffixes which mean **skull:**

crani-, **cranio-** (combining form of the Latin *cranium* skull and Greek *kranion*)

skull

1. bony framework which encases the brain and supports the face
2. the head as the center of knowledge and understanding
3. (slang) the brains, the head, the mind

skull and crossbones

1. picture of a skull with two bones crossed below it, formerly used on the flags of pirates
2. picture of a skull with two bones cross bones, used on containers to show content is poison
3. picture of a skull with two bones crossed below, used as a warning of danger

skull-cap

small round close-fitting cap worn on top of the head, worn by Christian priest and Jewish men

out of one's skull

1. crazy, insane, crazed, unsound, hysterical
He's **out of his head** with fever.
2. emotionally unstable, deranged, **not in one's right mind**, unbalanced, **of unsound mind**, overwrought
3. (informal) touched, unhinged, nutty, unglued, wacky, **out of one's head**, wild, in hysterics
4. (slang) bonkers, dippy, off one's rocker, dotty, cracked, nutty as a fruit cake, not have all one's marbles, screwy, off the deep end, bananas

5. (Latin) non compos mentis

to skull

to hit someone on the head

to be out of one's skull

1. to be crazy, out of one's mind

As a result of taking so many different kinds of drugs,
he's **out of his skull**.

2. to be blind drunk

He's out of skull. We have to get him home.

to get it through one's thick skull

to get it, finally understand or comprehend

Get it through your thick skull that I'm never going
back to you. Never!

to not be able get something into one's thick skull

to not be able to learn or remember something

I **can't get** this poem **into my thick skull**.

to not be able get it through one's thick skull

to not be able to understand or comprehend something

I **can't get it through my head** that he will never speak
to me again.

thick skulled

(slang) stupid, thickheaded, wooden-headed

Because he is so thick skulled, he won't understand a word.

Skeleton

(entered into English before 900)

Dutch **gebeente geraamte karkas skelet**, Afrikaans **geraamte**,
German **Skelett**, Swedish **skelett benstomme**, Frisian **biente
geramte**, Greek **skeletón**, Latin **sceletus ossa**, French **squelette**,
Spanish **esqueleto**

Prefixes and/or suffixes which mean **flesh:**

sclera-, **sclero-** (combining form of the Greek *skleros* hard)

skeleton

1. the bones forming the framework of human beings and animals
2. bone, structure, bones, anatomy
3. supporting structures of a building
4. framework, frame, structure, shape
5. beam, rafters, girders
6. shell, hull
7. support, scaffold, platform
8. slang for an extremely skinny person
9. (slang) scarecrow, bag of bones, cadaver
She thinks the skinnier the better; she now is a **skeleton**.
10. the most basic and important part with no detail
The **skeleton** outline was enough to get a good idea of what they were planning.
11. outline, sketch, layout, draft
12. blueprint, diagram, rough draft
13. cast, mold, die
14. something boiled down to its essence

skeleton crew

just enough people working to keep an organization open
On Christmas and other major holidays, we only have a **skeleton crew** working.

skeleton key

key which has been fitted to open a number of different locks

Because I have a **skeleton key**, I don't have to be weighed-down with a bunch of keys.

the skeleton in the closet

1. a secret of something embarrassing that has happened to one in the past, blemish, slander, libel

He can't run for president because he has a number of **skeletons in the closet**.

2. (more stylized/formal) denigration, aspersion, calumny, stigma
3. (less formal to informal) taint, black mark or spot, smear
4. a family scandal which has been kept secret, secret, not to be mentioned, publicized or spoken of

He doesn't have any idea of the **skeleton in the closet** that is about to fall out.

5. (more stylized/formal) confidential matter, private affair, not for public consumption, privy

the skeleton in the cupboard

1. a secret of something embarrassing that happened to one in the past, blemish, slander, libel

He can't run for president because he has a **skeleton in the cupboard**.

2. (more stylized/formal) denigration, aspersion, calumny, stigma
3. (less formal to informal) taint, black mark or spot, spot, smear
4. a family scandal which has been kept secret, secret, not to be mentioned, publicized or spoken of

He doesn't have any idea of the **skeleton in the cupboard** that is about to fall out.

5. (more stylized/formal) confidential matter, private affair, not for public consumption, privy

skeleton in the feast

someone or something in a festive event which reminds one that all is not well or happy

Knowing that my mother would not be with us this summer is a **skeleton in the feast**.

skeleton-like

infirm, rickety, skin and bones, in poor health, wasted, reduced to skin and bones, on the decline, not healthy

It is obvious that he has been sick; he is now **skeleton-like**.

skeleton staff

just enough people working to keep an organization open or running

On Christmas and other major holidays, we only have a **skeleton staff**.

to be the skeleton of oneself

to only vaguely look like oneself (said after a great illness or other kind of dramatic change)

I saw Mary yesterday and she **is** only **a skeleton of herself**.

to skeletonize

1. to reduce to a skeleton outline
2. to construct in an outline
3. to reduce the number in a military unit to a minimum amount

Brain

(entered into English before 900)

Old and Middle English **brægen** **grogen**, Low German **brägen**, Dutch **brein**, Latin **cerebrum**, French **cerveau**, Spanish **cerebro**

Prefixes and/or suffixes which mean **brain:**

cerebr-, **cerebro-** (combining form of the Latin *cerebrum*)

brain

1. part of the central nervous system enclosed in the cranium, consisting of gray and white matter, functioning as the coordinating center of sensation, intellectual, and nervous activity

In the US, if there is no **brain** activity, the person is considered dead.

2. aptitude, mentality
3. (slang) gray matter, smarts, braininess
4. wisdom, wit, comprehension, cognition, insight, grasp
5. discernment, perception, judiciousness
6. recognition, cognizance, realization, apprehension
7. (slang) leader, head man, the man, kingpin
8. thinker, wizard, an Einstein, mental giant, whiz

He **is a real brain**.

brains

1. intelligence, understanding, intellect, mind

I wish that I had his brains.

2. a brilliant or extremely smart person

He is the **brains** behind everything.

3. the controlling or guiding part i.e. in a computer or robot
It is the software and not the hardware which is the brains in the computer

4. the substance of the brain of the animal, used as food

brain child (slang)

the creation or invention of someone

He will not let this go easily. This new product is his **brainchild**.

brain damage

injury of the brain which impairs one's function

brain dead

1. dead (in the US brain dead equals dead)
2. where there is no longer any activity in the brain
3. (slang) to be flat lined
He is brain dead; there is no need to continue with the life-support.
4. (slang) dumb, stupid, no mental giant, mentally backwards

brain death

when one has suffered irreversible brain damage

brain drain

when the intellectuals of a country leave

The brain drain in the poorer countries is a serious problem.

brain food

food to be beneficial to the brain i.e. fish

Fish is known as excellent brain food.

brain-gain

the opposite of brain drain

(when a country receives, through immigration, a great deal of highly educated immigrant)

US has always been the benefit of brain-gain.

brain picking

the acting of acquiring information on a particular subject through systemically questioning a person

brain power

1. one's mental or intellectual ability
2. one with superior intellectual capability

brain scan

an analysis of the brain by a machine

brain sick

insane, crazy, mentally unbalance

brain-storm

1. a sudden idea or impulse
I just had a **brainstorm**. Please listen to my idea.
2. palaver, session, consultation, gathering

brainstorming

a technique used to develop ideas and think of ways to solve a problem
Brainstorming is the best technique that I know to solve a problem.

brainstorming session

a meeting or group of meetings where the technique of brainstorming is used to develop ideas and think of ways to solve a problem

brain teaser

1. an especially difficult problem or puzzle which is fun to solve
The New York Times crossword puzzle is an especially difficult brain-teaser.

2. (informal) Chinese puzzle, hard nut to crack, mind-boggler, stumper, floerer

brain trust

a group of very intelligent person from various fields whose job is to help a politician or company to make decisions

Brains Trust (British)

panel of intelligent persons who express their opinion of current interest put to them by television or radio audiences

brain washing

the act of systematically change the attitude or ideas of someone through the use of torture, drugs, or psychological stress

Both sides use brain washing as a weapon.

brain wave

1. electrical impulses given off by the brain
2. a sudden idea or inspiration

brain work

1. work which is done principally by using the brain, mental activity
2. (more stylistic) thought, cerebration, concentration, lubrication, cogitation, wondering about

having one's mind on

1. speculation, thinking, thinking about, wondering about, considering

The **headwork** necessary to get this work done is going to be considerable.

2. (more stylistic) rumination, cerebrating, ruminating, cerebration, musing, pondering, brooding over, cogitation
3. (informal) chewing over, **having one's mind on**, chewing the cud, putting on one's thinking cap, **brainwork**, chewing over an idea, mulling over, wondering about, **headwork**

bird brain (slang)

1. a person who is flighty, frivolous
2. a person who is backward, simple, dull, empty-headed, vacuous

feather-brain (slang)

1. featherheaded, stupid, extremely silly or ridiculous, scatterbrained
What a feather-brained idea.
2. (slang) one who is not all there, missing some marbles, not having all one's buttons

hare-brain

1. one who is frivolous, flighty, impractical, rattle-brained
2. one who is featherbrained, not all there, missing some marbles, not having all one's buttons

lamebrain (slang)

1. one who is dull, unintelligent, witless, slow-witted
2. one who is stolid, crass, lumpish
3. one who is dense, thick-headed, thick, slow, stupid

rattle-brain (slang)

1. one who is unstable, unsteady, volatile, mercurial, erratic
2. (slang) one who is flaky, fickle
3. one who is foolish, silly, inane, eccentric

scatter-brain (slang)

1. one who is frivolous, flighty, impractical
2. one who is irresponsible, carefree, devil-may-care attitude
3. (slang) one who is dizzy, dippy, having a screw loose, on another planet
4. one who is clownish, always kidding
5. (slang) dreamy, drifty, woolgathering
6. (slang) with one's head in the clouds, in the ozone, not all there

to be brain-dead

1. to be dead

He **is brain-dead**; therefore, there's nothing else which can be done.

2. (slang) to be stupid or dumb

I think that he must **be brain-dead**; otherwise, how could he have done something so stupid.

to be one's brain-child

to be one's invention or creation

This is off-limit; it **is my brainchild**.

to be the brains behind something

to be the author of a particular activity or act

The workers did not think up this strike by themselves. Their union representative **was the brain behind this**.

to be the brains of the family

to be considered the most intelligent or the one who has the intellectual capacity of the family

Yes, I'm the beauty of the family while she's the brain.

to be without a brain cell ticking

to be dumb, stupid or not the most intelligent, to leave a lot to be desired

to beat one's brains out (see strive 1179)

1. to work hard, toil, sweat, strain oneself, work day and night

I **beat my brains out** so that the business would be successful

2. to do one's best, bend over backwards, go all out, give its one all

to beat someone's brain out

1. to kill someone by beating one to death

2. to give someone a severe beating

to blow one's brains out

to commit suicide by shooting oneself in the head

He was going to kill himself by **blowing his brains out**.

to blow someone's brains out

to kill someone by shooting one in the head

The assassin **blew the president's brains out**.

to brain-storm

to produce a sudden idea through spontaneous group discussion

We can not only **brainstorm** to solve this problem.

to brain-wash

to systematically change the attitude or ideas of someone through the use of torture, drugs, or psychological stress

He said that he was **brainwashed**. I don't know if I believe him.

to cudgel one's brains

to agonize or think hard to solve a problem or to understand a situation,

I have been **cudgeling my brains** to understand his position.

(more stylistic) to deliberate, cogitate, ponder, contemplate, meditate

to get something on the brain

to become obsessed with something, not be able to stop thinking about

When I **get something on the brain**, I am impossible to live with.

to have brains

to be very intelligent or smart, be a brainiac

to have politics on the brain

to be obsessed with politics

to have something on the brain

to be obsessed with something

I have **had food on the brain** ever since I have started fasting.

to have the brain of a pigeon

to be dull, not very intelligent, or backwards

to knock one's brains out

to apply oneself, buckle down, knuckle down

to rack one's brains

1. to agonize or think hard to solve a problem or to understand a situation

I have been **racking my brains** to understand his position.

2. (more stylistic) to deliberate, cogitate, ponder, contemplate

to turn someone's brain

to drive someone crazy, loco or mad

to use one's brain

to think or use one's head

It's time that you **use your brain**.

Success requires brain as well as brawn

to be successful one must use both the mental as well as the physical.

the brain-dead politics of the past

the ineffective politics of the past

brained

having a particular type of brain

1. small-brained
2. large-brained

addlebrained

1. muddled, muddleheaded, addle headed
2. dull dumb, dopey, dull-witted, slow-witted, half-witted, witless

birdbrain (slang)

1. flighty, frivolous
2. backward, simple, dull, empty-headed, vacuous

brain-damaged

to be damaged of the brain, be mentally disabled or retarded

The child was **born brain-damaged**.

lame-brained (slang)

1. dull, unintelligent, witless, slow-witted
2. stolid, crass, lumpish
3. dense, thick-headed, thick, slow, stupid

feather-brained (slang)

1. featherheaded, stupid, extremely silly or ridiculous, scatterbrained
What a **feather-brained** idea.
2. (slang) not all there, missing some marbles, not having all one's buttons, with a mind like a sieve

hare-brained

1. frivolous, flighty, impractical, rattlebrained
2. featherbrained, not all there, missing some marbles, not having all one's buttons
3. daring, venturesome, rash, dauntless, headlong, nervy
4. doing something in a over hasty, rash, frantic, hasty, impulsive, unrestrained, reckless, or impatient manner, acting without thinking, acting in a manner which is thoughtless, foolish, abrupt, impatient, irresponsible or impulsive, impulsively, wildly, carelessly, heedlessly, blindly or recklessly

She has lost her mind; she's **head over heels** in love.

5. (more stylized) acting in an unpremeditated, imprudent, thoughtless, incautious, unduly, impetuous, unheeding, indiscreet, unwary or unbridled manner, acting rashly, irrationally, quixotically or in an ill-advised manner
6. (informal) acting in a madcap, mad brained, short-sighted, unruly, brash, hell bent, **breakneck** or foolhardy way, acting in a devil-may-care, death defying, **harebrained**, heedless, helter-skelter, brash, **unmindful**, punch drunk, **mad brained** or foolhardy manner, not think before one acts, acting first and think later

mad brained

1. doing something in a over hasty, rash, frantic, hasty, impulsive, unrestrained, reckless, or impatient manner, acting without thinking
2. acting in a manner which is thoughtless, foolish, abrupt, impatient, irresponsible or impulsive, impulsively, wildly, carelessly, heedlessly, blindly or recklessly

She has lost her mind; she's **head over heels** in love.

3. (more stylized) acting in an unpremeditated, imprudent, thoughtless, incautious, unduly, impetuous, unheeding, indiscreet, unwary or unbridled manner, acting rashly, irrationally, quixotically or in an ill-advised manner
4. (informal) acting in a madcap, mad brained, short-sighted, unruly, brash, hell bent, **breakneck** or foolhardy way, acting in a devil-may-care, death defying, **harebrained**, heedless, helter-skelter, brash, **unmindful**, punch drunk, **mad brained** or foolhardy manner, not think before one acts, acting first and think later

rattlebrained (slang)

1. unstable, unsteady, volatile, mercurial, erratic, always kidding
2. (slang) flaky, fickle,
3. foolish, silly, inane, eccentric

scatter-brained (slang)

1. frivolous, flighty, impractical
2. irresponsible, erratic, capricious, fickle
3. (slang) dizzy, dippy, having a screw loose, on another planet
4. clownish, always kidding, silly, ridiculous
5. dreamy, drifty, woolgathering, quixotic, idealistic
6. (slang) with one's head in the clouds, in the ozone, not all there

to be brainwashed into believing that ...

to tortured or psychologically manipulation someone into believing that

brainless (slang)

1. stupid, dumb, not very intelligent

You are a brainless idiot.

2. mentally weak

3. witless, not clever, slow, dull

to be a hare-brained scheme

to have a crazy, wild, mad scheme

What he wanted was a hare-brained scheme.

brainiac (slang)

an extremely intelligent person

It's not fair. Not only is she beautiful but she is such a **brainiac**.

brainy

(slang) a very intelligent person

He is so brainy that he does not even have to study.

Hair

(entered into English before 900)

Old English **hær hære**, Middle English **here haire**, Dutch **haar**, German **Haar**, Old Norse **har hæra**, Old High German **haria**, Dutch **haar**, Danish **hår**, Swedish **hår hårstrå**, Norwegian **hår**, Frisian **heir**, Afrikaans **hare**, Latin **capillus crinis pila**, French **cheveux**, Spanish **cabello**

Prefixes and/or suffixes which mean **hair**:

pilo-, **pil-**, **pili-** (combining form of the Latin)

thrix, **tricho-** (combining form of the Greek)

capill- (combining form of the Latin: **hair-like**)

hair

1. (human) locks, tresses, curls
She has beautiful **hair**.
2. (slang) mane, mop
I'm amazed at his age that he still has **hair**.
3. stubble, whisker, mustache, bristle, nub
4. (animals) mane, coat, fur, pelt, skin, hide
5. fleece, down, feathers
6. filament, thread, fiber

a bad hair day

1. a day on which one's hair will not cooperate
My hair looks absolutely horrible. I'm having **a bad hair day**.
2. a bad day
Today **is a bad hair day**.
3. (informal) a horrendous, rotten, god-awful or horrid day

a hair-raising story

1. a story which shocks, scares, excites, galvanize or which is rousing
2. a story which **takes one's breath away, is soul-stirring, heart moving**, electrifying

3. (slang) a story which is rip, snorting, mind-blowing, kicky, far out, rip-snorting

by a hair

1. by a narrow or slim margin, scarcely, by a fraction of an inch, barely, hardly, by the narrowest of margin, just, barely, only, almost, close, pretty close, nearly equal, tight, sharply contested, near, nearly, pretty near, not quite, just only

He lost **by a hair**.

2. (more stylistic) by a very small, infinitesimal, minute or minuscule amount
3. (informal) **by a hair's breath**, by the narrowest of margin, by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose**, by an inch, **by a whisker**, **by hair's breath**, **by the skin of one's teeth** or by a fraction of an inch, get away by, **be neck and neck**, photo finish, **within a hair**, **shoulder to shoulder**, **by a whisker**, nip and tuck, **within an eyelash**, **at one's heel**, be by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose**, by an inch, **by a whisker**, **hair's breath**, **skin of one's teeth**, **within a hair's breath**

by a hair's breath

1. by a narrow or slim margin, scarcely, by a fraction of an inch, barely, hardly, by the narrowest of margin, just, barely, only, almost, close, pretty close, nearly equal, tight, sharply contested, near, nearly, pretty near, not quite, just only

He lost **by a hair's breath**.

2. (more stylistic) by a very small, infinitesimal, minute or minuscule amount
3. (informal) **by a hair's breath**, by the narrowest of margin, by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose**, by an inch, **by a whisker**, **by hair's breath**, **by the skin of one's teeth** or by a fraction of an inch, get away by, **be neck and neck**, photo finish, **within a hair**, **shoulder to shoulder**, **by a whisker**, nip and tuck, **within an**

eyelash, at one's heel, be by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose**,
by an inch, **by a whisker, hair's breath, skin of one's**
teeth, within a hair's breath

flyaway hair

unmanageable hair

I don't like riding in a convertible. I have **flyaway hair**.

haircloth

stiff wiry fabrics made of horse or camel hair

hair curling

1. horrifying, startling, jarring, jolting, numbing, frightening, bewildering, surprising

That's a **hair-curling** experience. I'm glad that you were not hurt.

2. (more stylistic) menacing, daunting, intimidating, appalling, discomfiting, dismaying, threatening
3. (informal) spine-tingling, creepy, thrilling, stirring, **heart-moving**, heart-stirring, rousing, hair curling, hairy, crawly, unnerved
4. (slang) rip-roaring, rip-snorting, far out, mind-boggling, mind-blowing, rattling

hair cut

the way that one's hair is shaped or styled as a result of getting it cut
This **hair cut** makes me look much younger.

hairdo

1. coiffure, **haircut, hairstyle**, the style in which a person wears one's hair

I didn't like her **hairdo**; it didn't **fit her face**.

2. (slang) coif, do

hairstylist

one who cuts and style hair

I don't like the new **hairstylist**.

hairline

1. lower edge of the hair along the upper forehead

As one's gets older, one's **hairline** recedes.

2. a very thin or slight crack or break

He has a **hairline** fracture

hair piece

1. (for men) toupee

His **hair piece** is very noticeable.

2. (slang/insulting) carpet, rug

3. (slang/ British) jasey

4. (women) wig, extensions

hair raiser

thriller, work of fiction written to keep the viewer or reader on the edge of his or her seat

That novel which I just read was a sure **hair raiser**.

hair raising

1. horrifying, startling, jarring, jolting, benumbing, frightening, bewildering, surprising

That's a **hair-raising** experience. I'm glad that

you were not hurt.

2. (more stylistic) menacing, daunting, intimidating, appalling, discomfiting, dismaying, threatening
3. (informal) spine-tingling, creepy, thrilling, stirring, **heart-moving**, **heart-stirring**, rousing, **hair curling**, **hairy**, crawly, **unnerved**
4. (slang) rip-roaring, rip-snorting, far out, mind-boggling, mind-blowing, rattling

hair shirt

1. self-punishment, pay the penalty, accept the consequences
I wish she would take off that **hair-shirt** and forgive herself.
2. (highly stylized) atonement, sackcloth and ashes, self- mortification, self-flagellation
3. (Latin) mea culpa

hair space

the smallest possible space used to separate letters and words in typesetting

hairsplitter

1. one who carps, quibbles or who always looks for the fine or nice to the point of extreme or exhaustion
I don't like to discuss with her; she is a **hairsplitter** to the point that we end up losing the point of the discussion.

2. (slang) one who is always splitting hairs, nit picking or belaboring a point to the point of extreme and exhaustion
3. some who is hypercritical, critical, over critical or who is always finding fault

Stop being such a **hairsplitter**. You are always criticizing.

hairsplitting

1. carping, quibbling, fine, nice

Stop **hairsplitting**. You know that he is not the person in charge. I don't care what name you call it.

2. (slang) **splitting hairs**, nit picking, belaboring a point
3. hypercritical, critical, over critical, faultfinding

Stop **hairsplitting**. You are always criticizing.

hair stroke

very thin line in writing or printing

hair-trigger temper

1. volatile, explosive

Be careful, he has a **hair-trigger temper**. He will fly off the handle **in the bat of an eye**.

2. very quick temper, hotheaded

hair-trigger

trigger on a gun that needs very little pressure to fire

hairpin turn

a very sharp U-turn

hair's breath

1. by a narrow or slim margin, scarcely, by a fraction of an inch, barely, hardly, by the narrowest of margin, just, barely, only, almost, close, pretty close, nearly equal, tight, sharply contested, near, nearly, pretty near, not quite, just only

I was within a **hair's breath** of getting caught.

2. (more stylistic) by a very small, infinitesimal, minute or minuscule amount
3. (informal) **by a hair's breath**, by the narrowest of margin, by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose**, by an inch, **by a whisker**, **by hair's breath**, **by the skin of one's teeth** or by a fraction of an inch, get away by, **be neck and neck**, photo finish, **within a hair**, **shoulder to shoulder**, **by a whisker**, nip and tuck, **within an eyelash**, **at one's heel**, be by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose**, by an inch, **by a whisker**, **hair's breath**, **skin of one's teeth**, **within a hair's breath**

longhair

1. intellectual, scholar, thinker, be a person who is gifted, smart or very intelligent

He might be a **longhair** but he has no common sense.

2. (stylistic) academician, philosopher, part of the intelligentsia or cognoscenti, part of the cognitive elite
3. (informal) egg head
4. (slang) to be a walking encyclopedia, brain, bookworm, long headed or crack

Don't be such a **longhair**!!

5. (insulting) to be a know-it-all, pendant, miss or mister know-it-all or geek
4. (French) au fait

never a hair out of place

1. to always have a neat and clean appearance

She's always dressed perfectly, **never a hair out of place**.

2. to always have everything in its place, always have everything where it is supposed to be

On Sunday, after bathing and dressing, he never **has a hair out of place**.

3. (negative) to be too meticulous, over fastidious, overparticular
4. (negative/informal) to be fussy, finicky, picky, hard to please

not a hair out of place

1. well-dressed, clean, neat, smartly dressed, looking very nice

I saw her before she went out on her date; she looked so nice, **not a hair out of place**.

2. (more stylistic) coiffured, fastidious, well-groomed, manicured, meticulous, smartly attired
3. (informal) **without a hair out of place**, smooth-shaven, primped up, put together well, looking like a million dollar, combed, clean shaven, **not a hair out of place**
4. (slang) nifty, natty, in one's Sunday's best, looking good, dressed to the nine

5. (slang to vulgar) looking good enough to eat

one's hair stand on end

1. astounding, startling, terrifying, scary, frightening, jolting, jarring

My hair stood on end when I saw the gun.

2. **making one's blood run cold**, giving goosebumps, pimples, the creeps or the chills, **making one's blood curdle** or **one's flesh crawl**, **freezing one's blood**, discombobulating, throwing off, being hair raising, **making one's hair curl**

3. to appall, nauseate, horrify, repel, disgust, revolt

His stories always **make my hair stand on end**.

4. (informal) grossing out, filling with loathing, **making one's skin crawl**, being disgusting, turning one's stomach, making sick

splitting hairs

1. making differences between things which are essentially the same, making fine distinctions which are petty and insignificant, discriminating and making distinctions which are nonsensical

Arguing whether he is Mexican or Puerto Rican, as far as this discussion is concerned, is only **splitting hairs**.

2. (more stylistic) distinguishing, discerning or differentiating to the point of being ridiculousness

3. (informal) to divvy up, mincing matters, splintering, dividing up that which does not need to be

4. fencing, hedging, evading, hesitating, shifting, misleading

He was not interested in knowing the definition of each word; he is **splitting hairs** to beat around the bush and lie.

5. (more stylized) compromising, paltering, mystifying, equivocating, making qualifications, dissembling, quibbling, vacillating, eluding, refraining from committing oneself, prevaricating, deceiving
6. (informal) weaseling, beating around the bush, waffling, giving the run around, begging the question, skirting the issue, hedging about, using weasel words, fudging
7. (slang) hemming and hawing, weaseling out of, shillying-shallying

the hair of the dog that bit one

to take a drink of the same liquor that got one drunk in order to cure a hangover.

to a hair

to be perfect to the smallest detail

He had everything in place **to the hair**.

within a hair's breath

1. by a narrow or slim margin, scarcely, by a fraction of an inch, barely, hardly, by the narrowest of margin, just, barely, only, almost, close, pretty close, nearly equal, tight, sharply contested, near, nearly, pretty near, not quite, just only, almost there, close to, within an inch of, for all practical purposes, in effect

He **was within a hair's breath** of being put to death.

2. (more stylistic) by a very small, infinitesimal, minute or minuscule amount, in essence, substantially, virtually, nigh upon, essentially, for all intents and purposes
3. (informal) **by a hair's breath**, by the narrowest of margin, by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose**, by an inch, **by a whisker**, **by hair's breath**, **by the skin of one's teeth** or by a fraction of an inch, get away by, **be neck and neck**, photo finish, **within a hair**, **shoulder to shoulder**, **by a whisker**, nip and tuck, **within an**

eyelash, at one's heel, be by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose, by a whisker, hair's breath, skin of one's teeth, within a hair's breath**, within an ace of, within a stone's throw, there in everything but name, practically, as good as

without a hair out of place

1. well-dressed, clean, neat, smartly dressed, looking very nice

I saw her before she went out on her date; she looked nice, **without a hair out of place**.

2. (more stylistic) coiffured, fastidious, well-groomed, manicured, meticulous, smartly attired
3. (informal) smooth-shaven, primped up, put together well, looking like a million dollar, combed, clean shaven, **not a hair out of place**
4. (slang) nifty, natty, in one's Sunday's best, looking good, dressed to the nine
5. (slang to vulgar) looking good enough to eat

without turning a hair

without showing any reaction or emotion, be stoic or self-controlled

She normally reacts **without turning a hair**.

to be a longhair

1. to be an intellectual, scholar, thinker, be a person who is gifted, smart or very intelligent

He might be a **longhair** but he has no common sense.

2. (stylistic) to be an academician, philosopher, part of the intelligentsia or cognoscenti, be part of the cognitive elite
3. (informal) to be an egg head or long head, be well-informed, deep or **clear-eyed**
4. (slang) to be a walking encyclopedia, brain, bookworm, long headed or crack

Don't be such an egghead!!

5. (insulting) to be a know-it-all, pendant, miss or mister know-it-all or geek
6. (French) au fait

to be enough to make one's hair curl

1. to surprise, shock, confound, startle

My credit card total **is enough to make my hair curl.**

2. (highly stylized) to abash, disconcert, discompose,
3. (informal) to floor, take aback, dumbfound

to be someone's fair-haired boy

1. to be one's favorite or preference

She **is the boss's fair-haired boy.**

2. (informal) to be one's darling, **after one's own heart, one's heart** or **the apple of one's eye**

to be within a hair's breath

1. to be almost there, close to, within an inch of, for all practical purposes or in effect
He **was within a hair's breath** of being put to death.
2. (more stylistic) to be in essence, substantially, virtually, nigh upon, essentially or for all intents and
3. (informal) to be within an ace of, within a stone's throw, there in everything but name, practically or as good as

to curl one's hair

1. to frighten or scare someone

The way that he looked **curled my hair**.

2. to shock, astound, startle, or surprise someone

The party that they gave me **curled my hair**.

3. (informal) to knock for a loop, blow one's mind, baffle, **take one's breath away**, bawl over, throw for a loop, strike dumb

to get gray hairs

1. to be worn out by one, get worn out by one, end up devoting all one's times to or on one, be or get frustrated or distressed to the point of total exasperation

If I don't stop worrying so much about my son, I am going to **get gray hairs**.

2. (more stylized) to be totally preoccupied, obsessed or concerned about one, fret over, be occupied with, abstracted by or fretful about, anguish over, agonize over, torture oneself over, be fretful over

3. (informal) to dwell on, chew over, **rack one's brain**, mull over, **wring one's hand**, **wring one's hands over**, **cudgel one's brain**, lose sleep, lose sleep over, stay awake at nights, harry over, **get gray hair over**, **have butterflies in one's stomach**, **lose one's hair over**, **lose one's hair**, get an ulcer, get an ulcer over, go to an early grave, **worry oneself so much that one loses one's hair**, worry oneself bald, **worry oneself so much that one almost loses one's hair**
4. (slang) to **sweat blood**, sweat bullets

to get in one's hair

1. to bother, badger, plague, hector, irritate, annoy, bore, aggravate

Sometimes my little brother **gets in my hair**.

2. (more stylized) to pique, provoke, exasperate, nettle, vex, chafe, weary, irritate, exasperate
3. (informal) to miff, **get on someone's nerve**, go against the grain, rile, rub someone the wrong way, try someone's patience, **get under someone's skin**, stir up, ruffle, peeve, pester
4. (slang) to **get on one's last nerve**, rankle, drive someone up the wall, bug, give one a pain, **gall**

to give someone gray hairs

1. to worry, deplete, wear out, cause or force to devote all one's times to or on, frustrate or distress one to the point of total exasperation

When Bobby was a teenage, he **gave me gray hairs**.

2. (more stylized) to keep one totally preoccupied, force one to anguish or fret over one, obligate one to agonize over

3. (informal) to make one **rack one's brain**, **wring one's hands over**, **cudgel one's brain**, lose sleep over one, lose sleep, stay awake at nights, **get gray hair**, **have butterflies in one's stomach**, **lose one's hair over**, **lose one's hair**, **pull out one's hair**, **pull out one's hair out by the roots**, **tear one's hair or tear one's hair out by the roots**, give one an ulcer, almost send one to an early grave, almost kill one, make one want to holler or scream, **worry so much that one loses one's hair**, **worry one so much that one almost loses one's hair**
4. (slang) to **make one to sweat blood**, make one sweat bullets or worry 24/7

to hang by a hair

1. to be barely hanging on, be in a very precarious, uncertain, unpredictable, volatile or unsound situation

I don't know what to do; I'm only barely hanging on,
hanging by a hair.

2. (informal) to hang by a thread, **be hanging by one's fingernails**
3. to depend on something insubstantial, flimsy, tenuous or slight

His alibi is **hanging by a hair.**

to have someone by the short hair (vulgar)

to have someone at a great disadvantage or in an unfavorable position

to let one's hair down

1. to quiet down, relax, calm down, unwind, relieve tension, unbend

It is only when I am on vacation that I have the opportunity
to **let my hair down**

2. (more stylized) to stop fretting or agonizing over
3. to take it easy, lay back, take a breather, sit back, take time out, let go of, let up
4. (slang) let it all hang out, let oneself go, let up, loosen up, hang loose, cool it

to lose one's hair

1. to go bald, not have hair,

As I get older, I keep **losing my hair**.

2. to deplete one, wear one out, get one sick

If he keeps it up, he's going to aggravate me to the point of **losing my hair**.

3. (more stylistic) to exhaust one, drain one, debilitate one
4. (informal) to make one **wring one's hands over**, **cudgel one's brain**, lose sleep over one, lose sleep, stay awake at nights, **get gray hair**, **have butterflies in one's stomach**, **lose one's hair over**, **pull out one's hair**, **pull out one's hair out by the roots**, **tear one's hair** or **tear one's hair out by the roots**, give one an ulcer, almost send one to an early grave, almost kill one, make one want to holler or scream, **worry one so much that one loses one's hair**, **worry one so much that one almost loses one's hair**, tire one out, finish one off
5. (slang) to **make one to sweat blood**, make one sweat bullets or worry 24/7, poop one out, kill one

to lose something by a hair

1. to lose by a narrow or slim margin, scarcely, by a fraction of an inch, barely, hardly, by the narrowest of margin, just, barely, only,

almost, close, pretty close, nearly equal, tight, sharply contested, near, nearly, pretty near, not quite, just only

I would feel better if I had not **lost by a hair**.

2. (more stylistic) to lose by a very small, infinitesimal, minute or minuscule amount, be defeated by the most minimum amount
3. (informal) **by a hair's breath**, by the narrowest of margin, by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose**, by an inch, **by a whisker**, **by hair's breath**, **by the skin of one's teeth** or by a fraction of an inch, get away by, **be neck and neck**, photo finish, **within a hair**, **shoulder to shoulder**, **by a whisker**, nip and tuck, **within an eyelash**, **at one's heel**, be by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose**, almost not lose, almost make it, almost win

to make one lose one's hair

1. to worry one obsessively, deplete one, wear one out, cause or force one to devote all one's times to or on one, frustrate or distress one to the point of total exasperation, force one to devote all one's times to or on one

When Bobby was a teenage, he **made me lose my hair**.

2. (more stylized) to keep one totally preoccupied, force one to anguish or fret over one, obligate one to agonize over
3. (informal) to make one **rack one's brain**, **wring one's hands over**, **cudgel one's brain**, lose sleep over one, lose sleep, stay awake at nights, **get gray hair**, **have butterflies in one's stomach**, **lose one's hair over**, **pull out one's hair**, **pull out one's hair out by the roots**, **tear one's hair** or **tear one's hair out by the roots**, give one an ulcer, almost send one to an early grave, almost kill one, make one want to holler or scream, **worry one so much that one loses one's hair**, **worry one so much that one almost loses one's hair**
4. (slang) to **make one to sweat blood**, make one sweat bullets or worry 24/7

to make one's hair curl

1. to frighten, scare, shock, **take one's own breath away**, astound, surprise, confounded

His behavior **made my hair curl**.

2. to leave dumbfounded, flabbergast, floored

His story **made my hair curl**.

to make one's hair stand on end

1. to astound, startle, terrify, scare, frighten, jolt, jar

What happened **made my hair stand on end**.

2. to **make one's blood run cold**, give one goose bumps, make one's blood curdle, give one the creeps or chills, **make one's flesh crawl**, freeze one's blood, discombobulate, throw off, **make one's hair curl**

3. to appall, nauseate, horrify, repel, disgust, revolt

His stories always **make my hair stand on end**.

4. (informal) to gross out, fill with loathing, make one's skin crawl, be disgusting, turn one's stomach, make sick

to make one almost pull one's hair out

1. to worry one obsessively, deplete one, wear one out, cause or force one to devote all one's times to or on one, frustrate or distress one to the point of total exasperation, force one to devote all one's times to or on one, force one to devote all one's times to or on one

When John was growing up, there was many a time that he **almost made me pull my hair out**.

2. (more stylized) to keep one totally preoccupied, force one to anguish or fret over one, obligate one to agonize over
3. (informal) to make one **rack one's brain, wring one's hands over, cudgel one's brain**, lose sleep over one, lose sleep, stay awake at nights, **get gray hair, have butterflies in one's stomach, lose one's hair over, lose one's hair, pull out one's hair, pull out one's hair out by the roots, tear one's hair or tear one's hair out by the roots**, give one an ulcer, almost send one to an early grave, almost kill one, make one want to holler or scream, **worry one so much that one loses one's hair, worry one so much that one almost loses one's hair**
4. (slang) to **make one to sweat blood**, make one sweat bullets or worry 24/7

to make one almost pull out one's hair

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When John was growing up, there was many a time that he **almost made me pull my hair out.**

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4. (slang) to **make one to sweat blood**, make one sweat bullets or worry 24/7

to make one almost tear one's hair out

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4. (slang) to make one to sweat blood, make one sweat bullets or worry 24/7

to make one pull one's hair by its root

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When John was growing up, there was many a time that he **made me tear my hair out by its roots.**

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When John was growing up, there was many a time that I would feel like **tearing my hair out by its roots**.

2. (more stylized) to keep one totally preoccupied, force one to anguish or fret over one, obligate one to agonize over
3. (informal) to make one **rack one's brain, wring one's hands over, cudgel one's brain**, lose sleep over one, lose sleep, stay awake at nights, **get gray hair, have butterflies in one's stomach, lose one's hair over, lose one's hair, pull out one's hair, pull out one's hair out by the roots, tear one's hair or tear one's hair out by the roots**, give one an ulcer, almost send one to an early grave, almost kill one, make one want to holler or scream, **worry one so much that one loses one's hair, worry one so much that one almost loses one's hair**
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stomach, lose one's hair over, lose one's hair, pull out one's hair, pull out one's hair out by the roots, tear one's hair or tear one's hair out by the roots, give one an ulcer, almost send one to an early grave, almost kill one, make one want to holler or scream, **worry one so much that one loses one's hair, worry one so much that one almost loses one's hair**

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4. (slang) to **make one to sweat blood**, make one sweat bullets or worry 24/7

to never have a hair out of place

1. to always have a neat and clean appearance

She's always dressed perfectly; she **never has a hair out of place**.

2. to always have everything in its place, always have everything where it is supposed to be

On Sunday, after bathing and dressing, he never **has a hair out of place**.

3. (negative) to be too meticulous, over fastidious, overparticular
4. (negative/informal) to be fussy, finicky, picky, hard to please

to not harm a hair on someone's head

to not harm or hurt a person in the least

Stop worrying. He will **not harm a hair on your head**.

to not have a hair out of place

1. well-dressed, clean, neat, smartly dressed, looking very nice

I saw her before she went out on her date; she did **not have a hair out of place**.

2. (more stylistic) coiffured, fastidious, well-groomed, manicured, meticulous, smartly attired

3. (informal) **without a hair out of place**, smooth-shaven, primed up, put together well, looking like a million dollar, combed, clean shaven, **not a hair out of place**
4. (slang) nifty, natty, in one's Sunday's best, looking good, dressed to the nine
5. (slang to vulgar) looking good enough to eat

to not lose one's hair over

1. to not worry about, not be preoccupied about, not be anxious or distressed by, be blasé, unworried or untroubled about, not worry or be concerned excessively about, not bother about

Do **not worry your head about** all that gossip and chattering.

2. (more stylistic) to not fret, be nonchalant, not be anxious, be placid, mellow or serene about, unperturbed, undismayed or undaunted about
3. (informal) to **not bother one's pretty little head**, not be concerned in the least about, care less about, not lose sleep over, not stay awake at nights, not give it a second thought about, **not get gray hair over, not get gray hairs over, not have butterflies in one's stomach, not lose one's hair over, not trouble one's head with**
4. (slang) to remain loose as a goose about, not sweat bullets about, not sweat blood about, remain loose about, have a devil-may-care attitude about
5. **(vulgar) to not give a damn about, not give a good god-damn about, not give a shit about, not give a fuck about**

to not see hide or hair of someone

to not see a person for a prolonged period of time, not see

or know anything about a person for a long time

I have **not seen hide or hair of my brother** for a few months.

to not touch a hair on someone's head

not to harm or hurt a person in the least

If you do what he wants, he **will not touch a hair on your head.**

to not have a hair out of place

1. to have a neat and clean appearance

He is dressed so nice; he does **not have a hair out of place.**

2. to have everything in its place, have everything where it is supposed to be

When he wants to dress very well, he does **not have a hair out of place.**

3. (negative) to be too meticulous, over fastidious, overparticular

4. (negative/informal) to be fussy, finicky, picky, hard to please

to not turn a hair

1. not to move at all, remain absolutely still

So that the police do not find you, you are **not to turn a hair.**

2. to not move a muscle

to part someone's hair

to come very close or near, approach, approximate, come within a stone's throw

The bullet came so close to my head that it almost **parted my hair.**

to pull one's hair out

1. to be anxious, worried, frustrated or distressed to the point of total exasperation

His behavior had me **pulling my hair out**.

2. to irk, raise someone's ire, provoke, peeve, try someone's patience to the extreme

to raise the hairs on the back of one's neck

1. to be made very frightening or scary

He was so scary that just looking at him **raised the hairs on the back of one's neck**.

2. (informal) to give someone the chills, **be hairy**, goose bumps or goose pimples, scare the living daylights out of someone, **make one's flesh crawl**, **make one's hair curl**, **make one's hair stand on end**

3. to be disturbing, unsettling or disquieting
The story **raised the hairs on the back of my neck**.

4. something which throws one, throws one for a loop, unnerves, discombobulates, shakes up, or jars

5. (slang) that which spooks or psyches one out

to rip one's hair out

1. to be anxious or distressed to the point of total exasperation

He had me **ripping my hair out**. I will never understand him or his behavior.

2. to irk, raise someone's ire, provoke, peeve, try someone's patience to the extreme
3. to cry hysterically, show excessive emotion, be out of control
4. (more stylish) to emote, rend one's clothing, flagellate, flail, whip, thrash or flog oneself, put on sackcloth and ashes, weep, sob
5. (informal) to carry on, **gnash one's teeth**, take on, **grind one's teeth**, go on
6. to rage, bluster, storm, rant, roar, lose one's temper

I was so angry that I **ripped my hair out**.

7. to bellow, thunder, fly into passion, bluster
8. to explode, hit the ceiling, blow one's cool, fly off the handle, blow up, ramp and rage, blow one's top, rant and rave, throw a tantrum, hit the roof, carry on
9. (slang) to freak out, pop off, let off, have a conniption, flip one's wig, flip, freak, blow a gasket, flip a lid, raise hell

to rip out one's hair

1. to be anxious or distressed to the point of total exasperation

I was so angry that I felt like **ripping out my hair**.

2. to irk, raise someone's ire, provoke, peeve, try someone's patience to the extreme
3. to cry hysterically, show excessive emotion, be out of control

4. (more stylish) to emote, rend one's clothing, flagellate, flail, whip, thrash or flog oneself, put on sackcloth and ashes, weep, sob

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9. (slang) to freak out, pop off, let off, have a conniption, flip one's wig, flip, freak, blow a gasket, flip a lid, raise hell

to split hairs

1. to make a difference between things which are essentially the same, make a fine distinction which is petty and insignificant, discriminate, make a distinction

Arguing whether he is Mexican or Puerto Rican, as far as this discussion is concerned, is only **splitting hairs**.

2. (more stylistic) to distinguish, discern or differentiate to the point of being ridiculousness

3. (informal) to divvy up, mince matters, splinter, divide up that which does not need to be

4. to fence, hedge, evade, hesitate, shift, mislead

He was not interested in knowing the definition of each word; **splitting hairs** is his way of beating around the bush and lying.

5. (more stylized) to compromise, palter, mystify, equivocate, make qualifications, dissemble, quibble, vacillate, elude, refrain from committing oneself, prevaricate, deceive
6. (informal) to weasel, beat around the bush, waffle, give the run around, beg the question, skirt the issue, hedge about, use weasel words, fudge

to tear one's hair out

1. to be anxious or distressed to the point of total exasperation

He had me **tearing my hair out**. I will never understand him or his behavior.

2. to irk, raise someone's ire, provoke, peeve, try someone's patience to the extreme
3. to cry hysterically, show excessive emotion, be out of control
4. (more stylish) to emote, rend one's clothing, flagellate, flail, whip, thrash or flog oneself, put on sackcloth and ashes, weep, sob
5. (informal) to carry on, **gnash one's teeth**, take on, **grind one's teeth**, go on
6. to rage, bluster, storm, rant, roar, lose one's temper
I was so angry that I **tore my hair out**.
7. to bellow, thunder, fly into passion, bluster
8. to explode, hit the ceiling, blow one's cool, fly off the handle, blow up, ramp and rage, blow one's top, rant and rave, throw a tantrum, hit the roof, carry on

9. (slang) to freak out, pop off, let off, have a conniption, flip one's wig, flip, freak, blow a gasket, flip a lid, raise hell

to tear out one's hair

1. to be anxious or distressed to the point of total exasperation

I was so angry that I felt like **tearing out my hair**.

2. to irk, raise someone's ire, provoke, peeve, try someone's patience to the extreme
3. to cry hysterically, show excessive emotion, be out of control
4. (more stylish) to emote, rend one's clothing, flagellate, flail, whip, thrash or flog oneself, put on sackcloth and ashes, weep, sob
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9. (slang) to freak out, pop off, let off, have a conniption, flip one's wig, flip, freak, blow a gasket, flip a lid, raise hell

to turn one's hair gray

1. to worry one, have one all wrapped up, deplete one, wear one out, cause or force one to devote all one's times to or on, frustrate or distress one to the point of total exasperation

What a child! He's going to **turn my hair gray**.

2. (more stylized) to preoccupy one, obsess or concern oneself about, cause one to fret over, occupy oneself with, abstract oneself by, fret oneself about, force one to anguish over, obligate one to agonize over, torture
3. (informal) to bring about or give rise to that one **racks one's brain, wring one's hands over, cudgels one's brain**, loses sleep over, stays awake at nights, **gets gray hair, has butterflies in one's stomach** or **looses one's hair over**, give someone an ulcer, send someone to an early grave, make one kill, make one want to holler or scream, **worry one so much that one loses one's hair, worry one so much that one almost loses one's hair**
4. (slang) to **cause someone to sweat blood** or bullets, worry or concern someone 24/7

to worry one so much that one almost loses one hair

1. to worry one, have one all wrapped up, deplete one, wear one out, cause or force one to devote all one's times to or on, frustrate or distress one to the point of total exasperation

When Bobby was a teenage, he **worried me so much that I lost my hair**.

2. (more stylized) to preoccupy one, obsess or concern oneself about, cause one to fret over, occupy oneself with, abstract oneself by, fret oneself about, force one to anguish over, obligate one to agonize over, torture
3. (informal) to bring about or give rise to that one **racks one's brain, wring one's hands over, cudgels one's brain**, loses sleep over, stays awake at nights, **gets gray hair, has butterflies in**

one's stomach or **looses one's hair over**, give someone an ulcer, send someone to an early grave, make one kill, make one want to holler or scream, **worry one so much that one loses one's hair**, **worry one so much that one almost loses one's hair**

4. (slang) to **cause someone to sweat blood** or bullets, worry or concern someone 24/7

to worry one so much that one loses one hair

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4. (slang) to **cause someone to sweat blood** or bullets, worry or concern someone 24/7

black haired

1. **brown-skinned**, **dark-skinned**, brunette, **black-haired**, **dark-haired**, **not fair skinned**, not light complexioned, dark complexioned, black, of African ancestry, **brown-haired**

There are **more black haired** people than **fair haired** ones.

2. (informal/possibly insulting) swarthy, tawny, dusky

brown haired

1. **brown-skinned, dark-skinned**, brunette, **black-haired, dark-haired, not fair skinned**, not light complexioned, dark complexioned, black, of African ancestry, **brown-haired Olive skinned** persons are normally **brown-haired**.
2. (informal/possibly insulting) swarthy, tawny, dusky

dark haired

1. **brown-skinned, dark-skinned**, brunette, **black-haired, dark-haired, not fair skinned**, not light complexioned, dark complexioned,

Many people in the southern part of Europe are **dark haired**.
2. (informal/possibly insulting) swarthy, tawny, dusky

golden haired

1. light, white, blond, blonde, flaxen, **fair-skinned**

She had been **golden haired** when she was a baby. She now gets the color out of a box.
2. (informal) **light-haired, fair headed, golden haired**

light haired

1. light, white, blond, blonde, flaxen, **fair-skinned**

She had been **light haired** when she was a baby. She now gets the color out of a box.
2. (informal) **light-haired, fair headed, golden haired**

to be black haired

1. **to be brown-skinned, dark-skinned**, brunette, **black-haired, dark- haired, not fair skinned**, not light complexioned, dark complexioned, black, of African ancestry, **brown-haired**

There **are more black haired** people than **fair haired** ones.

2. (informal/possibly insulting) swarthy, tawny, dusky

to be brown haired

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to be dark haired

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Many people in the southern part of Europe **are dark haired**.

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to be golden haired

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She had **been golden haired** when she was a baby. She now gets the color out of a box.

2. (informal) **light-haired, fair headed, golden haired**

to be light haired

1. to be light, white, blond, blonde, flaxen, fair-skinned

She had **been light haired** when she was a baby. She now gets the color out of a box.

2. (informal) **light-haired, fair headed, golden haired**

hairless

1. bald, baldheaded

He is **hairless** only on his head.

2. clean-shaven, smooth-shaven, smoothed-face

Men normally like a woman's legs to be **hairless** .

hairy

1. with lots of hair

I have never seen such **hairy** legs. Shave!

2. terrifying, scary, frightening, hair raising, horrifying

I never had such a **hairy** trip as the one to Iraq during the war.

3. (informal) giving someone the chills, goose bumps or goose pimples, scaring the living daylights out of someone, **making one's flesh crawl, making one's hair curl, making one's hair stand on end**

4. disturbing, unsettling, disconcerting, or disquieting

The story **raised the hairs on the back of my neck.**

5. (informal) something which throws one, throws one for a loop, unnerves, discombobulates, shakes up, or jars

6. (slang) that which spooks, psyches one out

Blood

(entered into English before 1000)

Old English **blod**, Middle English **blod**, Germanic **bloda**, Old Norse and Goth **bloth**, Old Frisian and Old Swede **blod**, Old High German **bluot**, German **Blut**, African, Danish, Norwegian or Swedish **blod**, Dutch **bloed**, Latin **sanguis**, French **sang**, Spanish **sangre**

Prefixes and/or suffixes which mean **blood**:

hem-, **hema-**, **hemato-**, **hemo-**, **haema-**, **haemat-**, **haemato-** (from the Greek *haîma* blood) combining form meaning 'blood' used in the formation of compound words

sangui- (from the Latin, *sanguis sanguin* blood) a combining form meaning 'blood' used in the formation of technical terms

Blood

1. an internal bodily function which circulates in the arteries and veins of the human being, other vertebrate, and invertebrate which carries oxygen to and carbon dioxide from the tissue of the body
2. the juice or sap of a plant
3. life, life-blood, being, vitality, being; vital principle or force
4. a person or a group of persons which is regard as the source of energy
5. during medieval period regarded as causing cheerfulness
6. temperament, humor, nature, temper, state of mind, spirit
7. disposition, character, mood, nature, make-up, propensity, penchant
8. passion, intensity of feeling, ardor, spirit, anger, vehemence, fury, hot blood
9. family background, descent, family tree, roots, line, ancestry, lineage, heritage
10. extraction, stock, pedigree, rank, high birth, nobility
11. kinship, kindred, blood ties, blood lines
12. something which is innate

It was a trait he had in the **blood**.

13. (slang) a black male person
14. (slang/British) adventuresome youth, high spirited young male
15. (cookery) stock, consommé, gravy, juice, liquid

bad blood

rancor, animosity, ill will, hostility, grudge, aversion, hostile relations, contention, malignity, malice

Ever since we have been children there has been **bad blood** between us.

baptism of blood

(also known as baptism of fire) first severe ordeal of violence and horror, any experience which tests one's courage, endurance or strength for the first time

Blood

a member of one of the most powerful and well organized street street gang in the U.S.

A **Blood** is a sworn enemy of members of other gangs.

blood and guts

1. depiction of extreme violence, war, brute force, brutality, savagery, fire or intensity

I hate **blood and guts** movies. They make no sense.

2. concerned with the basic or fundamental needs, problems and questions of life

These are **blood and guts** issues that must be addressed immediately.

blood and thunder

1. violence, sound and fury, fracas, fray, brawling, riot, scuffle, rumble, street-fight
2. sensationalism, melodrama, melodramatics, theatricality

blood avenger

one who takes revenge, revenges, exacts satisfaction or vindicate a wrong through violence

blood bank

1. place where blood is collected, processed, stored and distributed
2. reserve of blood for use in transfusion
3. a place where one goes to donate one's blood

The Red Cross owns this **blood bank**.

blood-bath

1. mass slaughter of human being

This war was a **blood-bath**, pure and simple.

2. a period of great loss or reversal

What happened to all the Internet companies was a true **blood bath**.

3. a non-violent but widespread purge or dismissal i.e. employees, party members

There was a **blood-bath** last night. Everyone is gone and the company is closed.

blood brother

1. a person who swears loyalty to another in a ceremony, usually includes the shedding of blood
2. persons born of the same parent or parents

I know that we don't look like each other but we are **blood brothers**.

blood clot

thrombus

blood colored

the color of blood

blood count

the count number of red and white blood corpuscles in a specific volume of blood

The **blood count** of a person who has A.I.D.S. is extremely important.

blood curdler

that which causes great fright, fear, terror or horror

That novel is a real **blood curdler**.

blood curdling

extremely frightening, scary, terrifying, horrifying, hairy, hair-raising

The man ran away as a result of the woman's **blood curdling** scream.

blood donor

one who donates one's blood in a blood bank

I have never been a **blood donor**.

blood drive

a campaign to get persons to volunteer to give blood, usually as a result of an emergency

The **blood drive** was a total and complete success.

blood doping

the injection of an athlete with his or a family member's blood immediately before a competition which, because of the addition of red-blood cells, increases the blood's oxygen-carrying capacity

blood feud

a prolonged violent struggle of persons of the same family, origin, ancestry, or descent

The worst type of war is that of a **blood feud**. No one hates like two brothers.

blood group

classes or categories in which blood can be divided, also called **blood type**

Knowing someone's **blood type** is extremely important to get a transfusion.

blood guilty

guilty of murder or manslaughter

blood heat

the temperature at which blood boils (98.6° F)

bloodhound

1. large dog with an extraordinary sense of smell, excellent hunting dog
2. a person who hounds, dogs, heels, treads on the heel of or pursues
You're not going to get away from him; he is a true **bloodhound**.

bloodless

1. without blood, no shedding or spilling of blood, free of blood
One reason that I am having this surgery is that it is **bloodless**.
2. sluggish, lethargic dull, listless, languid, lifeless, stagnant, spiritless, inert

It is not that he is not nice but he is so **bloodless**.
3. pale, pallid, sallow, pasty, chalky, gaunt, deathly, ghostly, white as a ghost, drawn, drained, ashen, colorless, white as a sheet, haggard, like death, anemic

Your **bloodless** face is evident that you are not feeling well.

bloodletting

1. killing or shedding of blood during a war or conflict
2. surgical removal of the blood of a patient to help with the curing process

Bloodletting used to be considered an important part of medicine.

3. a situation where large groups of people are fired from a company or purged from a political party (non-violent)

Every so often it is good that a political party has a little **bloodletting**.

blood line

descent line of an animal, pedigree

This horse's **bloodline** can be traced back to Saudi Arabia.

blood lust

an almost uncontrollable desire to kill, maim, or injure someone

blood money

1. betraying, stabbing one in the back, or selling one down the river in return for material resources, generally money

Judas' **blood money** was thirty pieces of gold.

2. money given in compensation to the next of kin of murdered victim

In many countries giving **blood money** is a part of the justice system.

3. money given as an inducement to commit murder

Take back your money. I don't accept **blood money**.

blood orange

an orange with a strong streak of red

It looks scary how the sun is such a brilliant **blood orange** color.

blood poisoning

a diseased condition of the blood caused by toxic matter or microorganisms

blood pressure

pressure of blood on the walls of its vessels varying in different parts of the body (varies according to age, health or emotional tension)

blood pudding

also called blood sausage, sausage which contains pork, dried pig's blood and suet

Blood pudding is rarely eaten in mainstream US but in England and Latin America it is a staple.

blood purge

execution of persons accused of treason or sedition

Hussein made a film of his **blood purge** of the Bath Party.

blood red

extremely dark red, red like blood

The **blood red** color of her dress is very dramatic.

blood relations

persons who are related by blood, also called **blood relations**

We are **blood relations**; therefore, we must stick together.

blood relatives

persons who are related by blood, also called **blood relation**

He may not be a **blood relative** but we are closer than any brother or sister could be.

blood revenge

to inflict punishment for, wreak revenge upon or exact one's pound of flesh from the killer of a murdered family member

Bloods

name of a street gang which originated in Los Angeles but which can now be found throughout the U.S.

The **Bloods** and Crypts are the two major street gangs in the U.S.

bloodshed

1. the pouring forth, streaming out, discharging, surging out or spilling of blood
2. carnage, butchery, killing, massacre, mass-murder, genocide

The **bloodshed** in Iraq was without justification.

blood shot

used to refer to eyes that are anywhere from slightly to very red, red and inflamed eyes as a result of broken small blood vessels

Put on some sunglasses, your eyes are totally **blood shot**.

blood sport

a sport which usually involves the hunting and killing of an animal, i.e. hunting, hunting down or hawking, bullfighting, cockfighting

I consider all types of **blood sports** barbaric.

blood stain

a mark or spot caused by blood

This **bloodstain** on this shirt is very telling.

blood-stock

a collection of pure bred horses, thoroughbred racehorses as a whole

The **blood-stock** of these horses is unsurpassable.

blood stream

blood circulating through the body

blood sucker

1. a creature which sucks the blood of another creature

A tick is a **blood sucker** that makes the life of a dog miserable.

2. one who extorts, black mails, squeezes, bleeds, or extracts money from someone

He is a **blood sucker** who squeezes all the merchants in the neighborhood dry.

3. one who lives off another, a parasite, a bleeder, a sponger, a mooch, a freeloader

He is such a **blood sucker**.

blood and iron politics

to obtain one's political aims through violence and brute force

Ultimately, **blood and iron politics** always fail.

blood sucking

leeching, extorting, sponging, mooching, bleeding, draining, freeloading

They all nothing but a bunch of **blood sucking** leeches.

blood sugar

1. level of sugar or glucose in the blood
2. relative percentage of sugar or glucose in the blood

blood, sweat, and tears

extremely hard, difficult, laborious, tough, arduous, strenuous, unrelenting effort

To get her to come took a lot of **blood, sweat, and tears**.

blood test

an analysis of the blood to check for disease

It is not difficult to get a **blood test** for A.I.D.S.

blood thirsty

1. murderous, homicidal, eager to kill

He is a **blood thirsty** killer who must be shot on the spot.

2. fierce, savage, vicious
3. sanguinary, sanguineous
4. inhuman, barbaric, brutal

It was difficult to read about such a **blood thirsty** battle.

5. containing or depicting extreme violence

That movie is a **bloodthirsty** depiction of the French Revolution.

6. harsh, grim, unrelenting, grinding, remorseless
7. cruel, hard-hearted, stony-hearted
8. vengeful, out for revenge, out for blood

blood transfusion

the transfusion or transfer of blood from one person to another

Some religions do not believe in **blood transfusions**.

blood type

classes or categories in which blood can be divided, also called **blood group**

blood typing

process of determining one's blood type or group

blood vessel

vessels in which blood circulates such as arteries, veins or capillaries

blue-blood

to be of very high social position, royalty, nobility, aristocracy

You may think that the you are a **blue-blood** but the joke is on you.

drawing of blood

(more stylize/formal) venesection, phlebotomy, cruor, venisection

feeding on blood

(more stylize/formal) hematophagous, sanguivorous

first blood

1. the first shedding of a blood in a boxing match
2. first point, leverage or advantage gained in a contest

fresh blood

new, energetic or vigorous persons who have new ideas

This organization has not been the same since it has gotten **fresh blood**.

hot-blood

agitation, ire, passion, fire, frenzy, rage, vehemence, fury, hot temper, wrath, wrathfulness

His **hot blood** does not allow him to think.

in cold blood

deliberately, intentionally, on purpose, knowingly, with malice aforethought

He killed the poor man **in cold blood**.

infusion of new blood

the act of bringing in new life and vigor or **fresh blood**

She was the infusion of new blood that the stale company needed.

mixed-blood

1. persons of different races (mulatto, Amasian, Eurasian, mestizo)

In some countries being a person of **mixed blood** is the norm.

2. an animal that is a mix of several breeds

A **mixed-blood** dog is not worth a lot.

more than flesh and blood can bear

unbearable, horrible, terrible, too much, very bad, awful, intolerable

What you have done is **more than flesh and blood can bear**.

new blood

new, energetic or vigorous persons who have new ideas,

fresh blood

This organization has not been the same since it has gotten **new blood**.

pure-blood

1. persons of a single-strain or race

Very few countries which can claim to have persons of **pure blood**.

2. an animal who is pure-bred

Pure blood?! Don't make me laugh. He's a mongrel.

royal blood

to be part of the royalty, king, queen, descended from or related to royalty

How can you allow her to live in such a manner; she has **royal blood**.

the call of blood

reversion to function according one's instincts

The call of blood can be sometime too strong to resist.

the ties of blood

the binds or the obligation of family

He will help you because **the ties of blood** are too strong to ignore.

until the last drop of blood

until death, until it is totally over, until one of the opponents is dead or finished

He will not stop **until the last drop of blood** is spilt.

without shedding blood

without killing, **blood and thunder**, injury, murder, mayhem or violence

It is not possible to have a war **without shedding blood**.

young blood

the youngest and most invigorating member of a family or organization

to acquire an appetite for blood

to love intense mayhem, violence and destruction, procure a taste for killing

This dog has to be put down; he has **acquired an appetite for blood**.

to act in cold blood

to do without feelings or passion, act coldly, intentionally, deliberately and with aforethought

He **acted in cold blood**; therefore, he is eligible for the death penalty.

to act in hot blood

to do something in anger or when one is not irrational

You can not **act in hot blood** or you will be sorry later.

to be a blue blood

to be an aristocrat, patrician, gentleman, part of the nobility or royalty, nobleman

He is not interested in you; he **is a blue blood**.

to be after one's blood

to seek to revenge or avenge oneself, exact payment for a perceived wrong by harming, injuring or killing

She **is after his blood**. I have no doubt that she will get it.

to be bathed in blood

to be full of blood or bloodshed, be replete or full of violence, mayhem and killing

After the army left, the town **was bathed in blood**.

to be full of blood and thunder

1. to be full of mayhem, violence or destruction

Right now there are no flights. The area **is full of blood and thunder**.

2. to be exaggerated melodrama, melodramatics or theatricality

Your performance **was full of blood and thunder**. Why?

to be like getting blood from a turnip

to be formidable, extremely difficult, arduous, exacting or complicated to get or obtain

Getting her to volunteer **is like getting blood from a turnip.**

to be like getting blood from a stone

to be extremely difficult, tough, an uphill struggle or impossible to obtain

Good luck! To do what you want will be **like getting blood from a stone.**

to be in one's blood

1. to be unable to forget someone almost to the point of obsession, be in the grips of, **be in one's mind**, bedevil, bewitch

Ever since he met her, she's **been in his blood.**

2. be almost a natural part of one, be inbred, innate or intrinsic

He has politics **in his blood.**

to be in the blood

to be in the family or genes, hereditary, genetics, congenital, innate, inherited, inborn, natural

This aspect of his personality **is in the blood.** He was born this way.

to be more than flesh and blood can bear

to be unbearable, horrible, terrible, too much, very bad, awful or intolerable

What you have done **is more than flesh and blood can bear.**

to be of pure blood

to be unmixed, untainted, pedigree, of good stock, **full** or **pure blooded**

In many cultures, to **be of pure blood** is to be considered superior.

to be out for blood

to **be after one's blood**, seek to revenge or avenge oneself, exact payment for a perceived wrong by harming, injuring or killing

I would be very careful and stay out of the way; she **is out for blood**.

to be spitting blood

1. to be totally inflamed, outraged, enraged, incensed or infuriated

Don't go near him now; he's **spitting blood**.

2. (informal to slang) to be fired up, seeing red, stirred up, have one's hackles up, **have one's blood boiling**, be burnt up or beside oneself

to be unable to get blood from a stone

to be unrealizable, impossible, unachievable, hopeless or beyond one's power

You can talk until your tongue falls out, I don't have the information that you need. You **can't get blood from a stone**.

to be waded in blood

to be surrounded in blood, be bloodied with the blood of others

As a butcher, I **was** always **waded in blood**.

to chill one's blood

1. to terrify, horrify, frighten, scare

His presence **chills my blood**.

2. (informal to slang) to **make one jump out of one's skin**, frighten out of one's wit, scare to death, **make one's hair stand on end**, **make one's blood run cold**

to create bad blood (between them)

to develop hostility or animosity (between two people or groups)

This war has **created** quite a bit **of bad blood** between France and the US.

to dig up one's bloody past

to find hidden information about one's past as a murderer through careful research

It was not easy but I **dug up his bloody past**. He killed many people.

to donate blood

to donate or give blood in a blood bank

When there is an emergency, I also **donate blood**.

to draw blood

1. to take blood from someone i.e. draw blood from someone's arm

They **drew** quite a bit of **blood** from him. They were going to do quite a few tests.

2. to bleed, to make bleed

When the dog bit her, he **drew blood**.

3. to affect, hurt, offend, wound, smart

His remark hit its mark and, as a result, **drew blood**.

to draw first blood

to get the first advantage, opportunity or leverage

Because he **drew first blood**, he was able to remain ahead and win.

to get a taste of blood

1. to have developed an intense mayhem, violence and destruction, procure a taste for killing, **acquire an appetite for blood**

Once a dog **gets a taste of blood**, he must be destroyed.

2. to accomplish or achieve early success that stimulates one to keep working hard

Once I **tasted blood**, I knew that nothing could stop me.

to get in one's blood

to become obsessed with, fixated or absorbed by, hung or wrapped up in, caught up or immersed in

She has **gotten modeling in her blood**.

to get one's blood up

1. to become incensed, indignant, very angry, infuriated, enraged or irritated

His attitude **got my blood up**.

2. (informal to slang) to become peeved, riled, ticked off, hot under the collar or on the outs

to get some fresh blood

to bring in new people or persons into an organization or company

We need to **get some fresh blood** to bring in some new ideas.

to get some new blood

to bring in new people or persons into an organization

This company needs to **get some new blood** or we're going to sink.

to give blood

to donate or contribute blood in a blood bank

When there is an emergency, I also **give blood**.

to gush blood

to pour, stream or flow out blood, rush, burst or pour forth blood

The wound was **gushing** a lot of **blood**.

to have a taste of blood

to love intense mayhem, violence and destruction, procure a taste for killing, **acquire an appetite for blood**

Even as a child he has **had a taste for blood** .

(to have) blood rush to one's cheeks

1. to turn red, redden, color, glow

Whenever I get cold, **blood rushes to my cheeks**.

2. to become embarrassed, red faced, mortified, abashed, flushed or shamed, get egg on one's face, blush

When she walked by him, **blood rushed to her cheeks.**

to have blood rush to one's face

to blush, flush, turn red, become embarrassed, abashed, flushed, red faced, mortified, or shamed

The minute she saw him, all the **blood rushed to her face.**

to have blue blood

to be born into a family of high nobility or aristocracy, be **pure blooded**, high born, **blue-blooded** or pedigreed

She **has blue blood** on both sides of her family.

to have (something) in one's blood

to share the nationality or race of a particular group

Why are you surprised that she likes that type of music.
She does **have Irish blood.**

to have one's blood on one's hand

to be directly responsible, accountable or answerable for one's death or demise

You could have prevented all of this. You have **his blood on your hand.**

to have one's blood on one's head

to be liable, responsible, answerable or accountable for one's demise or death

You should have kept your mouth shut. **His blood is on your head.**

to have one's blood up

1. to be very angry, infuriated, enraged, incensed, indignant,

or irritated

What he has said about my family **has my blood up**.

2. (informal to slang) to be hot under, the collar, on the outs, peeved, riled or ticked off

to have no blood in one's veins

to be a cold, unfeeling, passionless, frigid, unemotional, stoic, unsympathetic, harden, cold blooded or callous person

He **has no blood in his veins**; therefore, he can watch the child suffer without any problem.

to have one's blood boiling

to be incensed, angered, provoked, indignant or enraged

His attitude and remarks **have my blood boiling**.

(to have) **too much bad blood**

to have too much hostility, animosity and contention to forget the past

I would love to go back to him but there is just **too much bad blood** between us.

to have royal blood

to be part of the royalty, king, queen, descended from or related to royalty

How can you allow her to live in such a manner; she **has royal blood**.

to make one's blood boil

1. to anger, greatly irritate, provoke, rouse

What he said **made my blood boil**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to enrage, vex, infuriate, exasperate, nettle, incense
3. (informal to slang) to make one see red, fire up, raise one's ire, get one's dander up, stir up

to make one's blood run cold

1. to terrify, horrify, frighten, scare

What she threatened **made my blood run cold**.

2. (informal to slang) to **make one jump out of one's skin**, frighten out of one's wit, scare to death, **make one's hair stand on end**

to not shed a drop of blood

to accomplish without violence or peacefully, act non-violently

Amazing enough, he was able to become president and he did **not shed one drop of blood**.

to scent blood

to be able to detect, almost by instinct, the weakest, most vulnerable or the most alienated

The vultures can **scent blood** from miles away.

to shed blood

to kill, murder, annihilate, put to the sword, slay, **spill blood**

His goal was to **shed** as much **blood** possible.

to smell blood

to be able to detect, almost by instinct, the weakest, most vulnerable or the most alienated

The vultures can **smell blood** from miles away.

to spill blood

to cause the shedding of blood, kill, murder, annihilate, put to the sword, slay, **shed blood**

This war has **spilt** a lot of **blood**.

to squeeze the lifeblood out of

to destroy, kill, extinguish or quash the vital part, nucleus, core or the kernel of

He squeezed the **lifeblood** of the family; there's nothing left.

to succeed in drawing blood

to beat someone so badly that the victim sheds or spill blood

They beat him so badly that they **succeeded in drawing blood**.

to sweat blood

1. to work very hard, spare no effort, do one's best, struggle

To get this done, I had to **sweat blood**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to toil, labor, make effort, exert oneself, do one's utmost

3. (less formal to informal) to push or kill oneself, grind, work one's finger to the bone, set one shoulder to the wheel, slave or plug away, work away at, keep one's nose to the grind stone

4. to worry excessively, sweat bullets, strain one's nerve
Waiting for the test had me sweating blood.

to taste blood

1. to experience, for the first time, intense violence, including killing, and like it

Once you **taste blood**, you are lost.

2. to accomplish or achieve early success that stimulates one to keep working hard

Once I **tasted blood**, I knew that nothing could stop me.

to trace one's blood line

to track or follow one's genealogical tree

I **traced my blood line** back to the Ivory Coast.

to wade oneself in blood

to kill, slaughter, put to the sword, murder, hack to pieces, liquidate, tear from limb to limb, destroy

In the battle some of the soldiers wanted to **wade themselves in blood**.

Blood is thicker than water

family relations are more important than any other

Blood will tell

one's innate or inborn characteristics will always make themselves known

Blood will always tell; it is something that can be hidden.

One drop of black blood ...

part of American tradition which states that anyone who has African ancestry, despite any other ancestry, is considered Black

Although she has blond hair and blue eyes, you know what they say.
One drop of black blood makes you black.

What do you want, blood?

I have done everything that is possible to do and still you're not satisfied.
Do you want the impossible?

-blooded

having a particular type of blood or being a particular type of person

blooded minded

bad-tempered, ill-disposed, hostile, malicious

blue blooded

1. aristocratic, high born, wellborn, titled, royal
2. (animal) pedigreed, thoroughbred, purebred
3. well-bred or mannered, courtly, gallant, charming, cavalier
4. cosmopolitan, stylish, high-toned, polished, finished, high-class
5. affected, arrogant, proud, snobbish, self-important, pompous, presumptuous, cavalier
6. (less formal to informal) on one's high horse, high-and-mighty, hoity-toity, highfalutin,

7. (informal to slang) uppity, uppish, stuck-up

cold-blooded

1. animals which have a body temperature which changes according to the temperature around them

Cold and hot greatly affect **cold-blooded** animals.

2. a person without feeling, **cold-hearted**, cold, unfeeling, passionless, frigid, unemotional, stoic, unsympathetic, harden or callous

Don't waste your time; she is a **cold-blooded** person.

full blooded

unmixed, untainted, pedigree, of good stock or **pure blood**, **pure** or **whole blooded**

hot-blooded

1. having very strong and intense emotions, passionate, short tempered or no patience

She **is** so **hot-blooded**; she needs to control her emotions.

2. excitable, restless, temperamental, impulsive, high-spirited, audacious, ardent

She is so **hot-blooded**!

3. lustful, carnal, sensual, worldly, sexual, sex-crazy, erotic

4. (slang to improper English) **horny**

pure blooded

untainted, of good stock or **pure blood**, pedigree, **full** or **whole blooded**, unmixed

red-blooded

plucky, gritty, game, spirited, spunky, mettlesome, staunch, gutsy

There is nothing wrong with him. He is a normal, **red-blooded** child.

warm-blooded

animals which have a body temperature which remain constant despite the temperature around them

Human beings are **warm-blooded** animals.

to be blooded minded

1. to be ill-disposed to help in a problem or matter
2. to make the solving of a problem more difficult

to be blue blooded

1. to be aristocratic, high born, wellborn, titled or royal

I can't understand this engagement. She **is** not **blue blooded**.

2. (animal) pedigreed, thoroughbred, purebred
3. to be well-bred or mannered, courtly, gallant, charming or cavalier
4. to be cosmopolitan, stylish, high-toned, polished, finished or high-class
5. to be affected, arrogant, proud, snobbish, self-important, pompous,

presumptuous or cavalier

6. (less formal to informal) to be on one's high horse, high-and-mighty, hoity-toity or highfalutin
7. (informal to slang) to be uppity, uppish or stuck-up

to be cold-blooded

1. to be unemotional, pitiless, uncaring or frigid
2. to be cruel, harsh, ruthless, vicious or shrewd

I have never met a person who **is** so **cold-blooded**.

to be full-blooded

1. to be hearty, red-blooded, powerful, sturdy, strong as a lion, bull or horse, energetic or strapping

He **is** a **full-blooded** man; therefore I see no problem.

2. to be unmixed, untainted, pedigree, of good stock or **pure blood, pure** or **whole blooded**

Very few persons in the world **are full-blooded**. Most of us are mixed.

to be hot-blooded

1. to be passionate, be easily aroused, quick-tempered or angered

Because she **is hot-blooded**, I would be careful how you break the news.

2. to be excitable, restless, temperamental, impulsive, high-spirited, audacious, ardent

She **is** so **hot-blooded**!

3. to be lustful, carnal, sensual, worldly, sexual, sex-crazy or erotic
4. (slang to improper English) to be horny

to be pure blooded

to be **of pure blood**, unmixed, untainted, pedigree, of good stock, **full** or **whole blooded**

If you are looking for someone who **is pure blooded**, you are looking in the wrong area of the country.

to be red-blooded

to be mettlesome, staunch, gutsy plucky, gritty, game, spirited, spunky, brave, iron-hearted

He **is red-blooded**.

Blooded but unbowed

injured and hurt but not yet broken or undamaged

Yes, I am **bloodied but unbowed**. I will not give up.

Don't be so bloodied minded!

1. What a bad idea!
2. Don't be in such a bad mood!

Money is the lifeblood of commerce

Without money there is no business

bloodless

1. pale, sickly, colorless, anemic

2. pallid, sallow, ashen, pasty, chalky
3. gaunt, haggard, faded
4. livid, deathlike, deathly
5. ghostly, ghastly, grim, white as a ghost
6. lacking in human emotion or feeling

He is a **bloodless** human being who only thinks about money.

bloody

1. bloodstained, gory, blood-soaked
This coup d'etat was rather **bloody**.
2. (more stylized/ formal) ensanguined, sanguinary, sanguinolent
3. composed or resembling blood
4. protesting in a very loud voice
I screamed **bloody** murder.
4. protesting in a very boisterous and angry way
5. (vulgar/British) exclamation to express anger, annoyance, shock
His is a **bloody** nut!

Bloody Mary

1. nickname of Mary I, queen of England, daughter of Henry VIII and sister of Elizabeth I
2. a drink of vodka and seasoned tomato juice

I wonder was the drink **Blood Mary** named after Mary I.

to bloody

to injure or wound to the point of bleeding

He **bloodied** his opponent.

to be a bloody idiot (vulgar/British)

to be a damn imbecile or fool

He *is* such *a bloody idiot!*

to be bloody awful (vulgar/British)

to be unbearable, horrible, terrible, too much, very bad, intolerable or more than flesh and blood can bear

This movie *is bloody awful!*

to be bloody-minded (vulgar/British)

to always making trouble

to be bloody useless (vulgar/British)

to be good for nothing, be of little or no use, be worthless, no purpose or no avail

This car is no good; it *is bloody useless.*

to beat one's bloody

1. to bludgeon, batter, thrash, beat one's brain bloody club, pulverize, drub or badly

It is obvious that they tried to **beat him bloody**.

2. (informal to slang) to cream, clobber, wipe up the floor with, beat to a pulp, make mincemeat of, pummel, wallop, whip badly, trounce, beat black and blue or the bejeesus out of

to beat one's brain bloody

1. to club, pulverize, drub, bludgeon, batter, thrash, beat one bloody or badly

If he does not pay what he owes, he will **beat his brain bloody**.

2. (informal to slang) to make mincemeat of, pummel, wallop, whip badly, trounce, cream, clobber, wipe up the floor with, beat to a pulp

to have a bloody nerve (vulgar/ British)
to have a damn imprudence or audacity

You *have a bloody nerve* being here today.

to have a perfectly bloody something (vulgar/British)
to experience an awful or horrible something

I *have a perfectly bloody* date last night.

to give one a bloody nose

to punch or hit one in the nose, break or almost break one's nose

He was so angry that he **gave him a bloody nose**.

to not be bloody likely (vulgar/British)
to not be very likely

It *is not bloody likely* that he'll help me.

to scream bloody murder
to scream for help

When she was attacked, she *screamed bloody murder!*

He can bloody well do it himself (vulgar/British)

let him do it without my help, damn it!

Not bloody likely

No. Not *fuckin'* probable or likely.

You bloody idiot!!

You fuckin' or damn idiot.

Who bloody cares?!

No one gives a *damn* or a *good god damn*.

to bleed

(entered into the English language before 1000)

Old English **bledan**, Middle English **bleden**, Dutch **bloed** **aftappen**

aderlaten, Danish **bløde** **årelade**, German **bluten**, Swedish **blöda**

åderlåta, Norwegian **blø**, Frisian **bliede**, Latin **sanguinem**

effundo, French **saigner** **perdre du sang**, Spanish **sangrar**

desangrar

to bleed (bled, bled)

1. to shed or lose blood either internally or externally

We have to get him to the hospital; he is **bleeding** profusely.

2. to ooze, exude

This wound is **bleeding** quite a bit.

3. (more stylized/ formal) to exsanguinate, phlebotomize

4. to drain or take blood, blood let

5. to lethargize, exhaust, weaken, wear out, tire, tire, burn or knock out, debilitate, devitalize

6. to black mail, milk, get out of, squeeze, extort, fleece, obtain by force, embezzle

7. (plant) to exude sap, juice or resin from an opening or wound

8. (paint or dye) to undergo a spreading of color, run, spread over a material when exposed to moisture, be diffused

This is cheap material; it will **bleed** in the wash.

9. to suffer, pity, feel, lament, weep or be sorry for, sympathize, empathize

After I found out what happened, my heart **bled** for you.

10. to remove trapped air or liquid from a system, i.e. brake system of a vehicle, heating system

Heat will not be able to get through until the pipes are **bled**.

11. to empty of liquid or gas

bleed

1. hemorrhage, escape of blood from its vessels, abnormally heavy or violent bleeding, bleeding

It was the type of **bleed** that was not easily controlled

2. (printing) page margin trimmed so as to mutilate the illustration or text

to bleed a country dry

to exploit, suck dry or milk a country

Spain and England **bled the countries** of the America **dried**.

to bleed all over

to shed or spill blood over a large area, all around, everywhere or around

When he was shot, he **bled all over** the car.

to bleed for

to feel, weep, sympathize or empathize for, identify with, pity, feel emotion pain of someone else

I **bleed for** you and your family. I pray everything will turn out okay.

to bleed from

to have blood gush forth or exude from, be blood which emits or emerges from a wound or other source

I knew that it was serious when she started **bleeding from** the head.

to bleed like a pig

to bleed excessively or a lot, hemorrhage, bleed profusely

Don't let my bleeding worry you. I always **bleed like a pig**.

to bleed one dry

to squeeze, crush, twist, extract or wring from (i.e. money or resources)

What the government is trying to do is **bleed me dry**. They don't want me have any money, at all.

to bleed one for money

to extort, squeeze, drain or milk one for money, blackmail, embezzle, put the arm on, lean on, shake down or obtain by force one's money

Every week, these gangsters are trying **bleed me for money**.

to bleed one white

1. to bleed one until all the blood was gone, remove all the blood
2. to deprive, strip or take away all of one' resources or money

My children are beginning to **bleed me white**.

to bleed off

to draw, extract, remove, draw out

Before we continue, we have to **bleed off** the extra sap from the tree.

to bleed profusely

to lose large amount or an abundance of blood, shed an excessive amount of blood

Because she **bled** so **profusely**, there was nothing that could be done.

to bleed to death

1. to die as a result of bleeding profusely or losing an enormous amount of blood

If we don't get her to the hospital, she is going to **bleed to death**.

2. to blackmail, embezzle, extort, put the squeeze on, drain

I must go to the police; these men are **bleeding me to death**.

to have a nosebleed

to bleed from the nose

I **am** always **having nosebleeds**.

to have bled for

to die or sacrifice one's life for (usually as a result of being a soldier)

Those who **have bled for** their country, should be honored.

(to heart) **one's heart bleed for**

to feel bad, sorry, sympathy or empathy for

When I heard the news, my **heart bled for** you and your family.

bleeder

to be a person who bleed excessively when injured, be a hemophiliac,
be a person who suffers from hemophilia

bleeder (British Eng)

1. to be a despicable, disgusting or obnoxious
2. to be a person, especially a male, be a guy or fellow

bleeding

1. condition of losing or shedding blood

Once the **bleeding** begins, it is almost impossible to control.

2. the process of drawing, taking off or extracting blood

The **bleeding** of a patient is now considered bad.

bleeding

1. emitting, oozing or sending forth blood

This **bleeding** finger should be examined as soon as possible.

2. feeling or sentiment characterized by extreme tenderness, leniency or pity

She is a **bleeding** humanitarian.

3. (British) used as an intensifier, utilized to emphasize

You have never been anything but a **bleeding** fool.

4. (British) one of the many vulgar euphemisms for the vulgar term 'bloody', blooming, ruddy, blinking, flipping, flaming

5. (vulgar) *god-damned*, *damned*

bleeding heart

1. garden plant, which is native of China, with fernlike leaves and drooping clusters of pink heart-shaped flower

2. a person who is considered too kind, good, gentle, benevolent or tender

3. (less formal) a person who is tenderhearted, big-hearted or soft-hearted

to be a bleeding heart liberal

to be a liberal or a person who does not believe that persons should be held responsible for their behavior

Kerry **is** not a **bleeding heart liberal** and Bush is not a compassionate conservative.

My heart bleeds for you.

I feel badly. I am sorry for you.

Lest he should bleede to death

Shakespeare (Merchant of Venice)

Cesar must bleed for it

Shakespeare (Julius Cesar)

By Jove, sir, you've bled that poor woman enough

Thackeray

**She found them indeed
But it made her heart bleed**

Little Bo-Peep

Appendix 1

Religious-based words which entered into the English language from the Church as a result of Christianization:

abbot, alms, altar, angel, anthem, ark, candle, canon, chalice, cleric, deacon, disciple, epistle, hymn, litany, manna, martyr, mass, minister, noon, nun, offer, organ, palm, pope, priest, psalm, relic, rule, shrine, stole, synod, temple, tunic, Antichrist, apostle, cantor, cell, cloister, collect, creed, demon, font, idol, nocturne, prime, prophet, Sabbath, synagogue

Non-religious Latin based words which came into English through the Church:

cap, sock, silk, purple, chest, mat, sack, beet, lentil, pear, radish, doe, oyster, lobster, mussel, to cook, box, pine, lily, marshmallow, myrrh, rue, savory, master, school, Latin, grammatical, verse, meter, gloss, notary, anchor, fan, fever, place, sponge, elephant, phoenix, circle, legion, giant, consul, talent, accent, to brief, decline, history, paper, term, title, cucumber, ginger, winkle

Appendix 2

Most Frequently Used Words In English

Agricultural terms

sheep, shepherd, ox, earth, plough, swine, dog, wood, field, corn

Days of the week

Monandæg (day of the moon), Tiwesdæg (day of the god, Tig), Wodnesdæg (day of the god, Woden), Ðunresdæg (day of the god, Thunor), Frigedæg (the day of the goddess, Friga), Sæternesdæg (the day of the Roman god, Saturn), Sunnandæg (the day of the sun)

Other words

the, is, you, man, and, for, for, of, in, on, to, under, æfter, beforan, behindan, bi (by), hwæt (what), hwy (why), ofer (over), æt (at), socc (sock), scoh (shoe), mete (meat), butere (butter), milc (milk), egg, hunig (honey), ceses (cheese), summer, winter, the, is, you, man, house, God, heaven, hell, Holy Ghost, Doomsday, god-spell, Gospel, Easter (from the Anglo-Saxon goddess, Eostre), Yule (from the midwinter god, Geol (pronounced 'Yule')) call, shirt, hat, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, brother, time, corn, night, wood, blood, gold, burg, home, wine, word, book, life, king, sea, water, old

Old English

mann
wif
cild
hūs
benc
mete
gærs
leaf
fugol
god
heah

Modern English

man
wife
child
house
bench
meat, food
grass
leaf
fowl, bird
good
high

strang	strong
etan	eat
drincan	drink
slæpan	sleep
libban	live

Appendix 3

Terms and words from the Old Norse Period

closed class words

Old Norse

Anglo-Saxon

they	hie
their	hiera
them	him
are	aron

other closed class words

both, same, through, till, are

Old Norse word which replace Anglo-Saxons

Old Norse

Anglo-Saxon

egg	ey
sister (syster)	sweostor
loan	læn
weak (wac)	veikr
take	niman
anger	torn, grama, irre

bark
wing
sky
window

rind
feþra
uprodor/wolcen
eagþyrel

Words brought into English from Old Norse which had no equivalent in Old English

call, die, rugged, flat, tight, kid, steak, anger, awe, bait, boon, crooked, saw, wand, wrong, freckle

Old Norse supplied English with useful pair of synonyms

English

shatter

sick

carve

wish

craft

hide

no

whole

rear

from

Norse

scatter

ill

cut

want

skill

skin

nay

hale

raise

fro

Words which entered into English from Old Norse after 1000

nouns

band, booth, bull, dirt, down (feathers), egg, fellow, freckle, kneel, kid, leg, link, reindeer, reef, scab, scales, scrap, seat, sister, skin, skirt, sky, snare, steak, swain, window, birch, boon, gait, gap, guess, loan, race, rift, score, skill, slaughter, snare, stack, swain, thrift, tidings, trust, want, window

verbs

call, crawl, die, get, give, lift, raise, rid, scare, take, cast, clip, crave, droop, gape, kindle, nag, scowl, snub, sprint, thrust

adjectives

flat, loose, low, odd, tight, weak, awkward, ill, meek, sly, rotten, tattered, muggy

pronouns

they, their, them, both, same, though, till

Words which begin with "sk" normally came from Danes

scalp, scrape, scrub, scare, scathe, score, skate, skew, ski, skid, skill, skin, skip, skirt, skull, sky

Appendix 4

Germanic and English Cognates of some of the most common words

English	Frisian	Dutch	German	Swedish	Danish
cheese	tsiis	kaas	Käse	ost	ost
day	dei	dag	Tag	dag	dag
goose	goes	gans	Gans	gås	gås
through	troch	door	durch	igennem	igennem
yesterday	juster	gisteren	gestern	i går	i går
sun	sinne	zon	Sonne	sol	sol
fox	foks	vos	Fuchs	räv	ræv
sit	sitte	zitten	Sitzen	sitta	sidde
book	boek	boek	Buch	bok	bog, bestille
red	read	rood	Rot	röd	rød
sleep	sliepe	slapen	Schlafen	sova	sove søvn
night	natt	nacht	nacht	nat	
snow	snie	sneeuw	schnee	snö	sne
seven	sân	zeven	sieben	sju	syv
foot	foet	voet	fuss	fot	fod, pote
fish	fisk	vis	fisch	fisk	fiske, fisk
heart	hert	hart	herz	hjärta	hjerte
ten		tien	zehn	tio	ti
tooth	tosk	tand	zahn	tand	tand
eat	eat, ite	eten	essen	äta, fört	ära æde

sword	swurd	zwaard	Schwert	svärd, värja	
path	paad	pad	Pfad	stig, bana	sti
hand	han	hand	Hand	hand	hånd
help	helpe	helpen	helfen	hjälp,	hjalpa
three	trije	drie	drei	tre	þrír
heart	hert	hart	Herz	hjärta	hjarta
oak	iik	eik	Eiche	ek	eik

English

cheese

day

goose

yesterday

sun

fox

sit

book

red

sleep

night

snow

seven

Norwegian

ost

dag

gås

i går

sol

rev

sitte

bok

rød

sove, søvn

natt

sne

sju

foot	fot
fish	fisk, fiske
heart	hjerte
ten	ti
tooth	tann
eat	fortære
path	sti
hand	hand
help	hjelp
three	tre
heart	hjerte
oak	eik

Appendix 5

Old English

eam
 anda
 andig
 andian
 æþele
 æþeling
 dryhten/ frea
 leod
 dema

French (replacement)

uncle
 envy
 envious
 to envy
 noble
 nobleman
 prince
 people
 judge

dom	judgment
cyphere	witness
firen	crime
scyldig	guilty
here	army
cempa	warrior
sibb	peace
blæd	flower
bleo	color
adl	disease
ieldu	age
lof	praise
lyft	air
hold	gracious
earn	poor
sltpe	cruel
gecynde	natural
wuldor	glory
wlite	beauty
wlitig	beautiful
andettan	confess
beorgan	preserve, defend
bieldan/ elnian	encourage

dihtan	compose
flitan	contend
healsian	implore
herian	praise
leanian	reward
miltsian	pity

Appendix 6

French words which came into English

1066-1250

abbot, canon, cardinal, clergy, countess, empress, duke, court, rent, cell,
 justice, miracle, Baptist, dame, prince, chapel, image, lion, reason,
 pilgrim, saint, virgin, obedience, religion, sermon, prophet, patriarch,
 archangel, circumcision, sacrament, fruit, sepulcher, custom, admiral,
 crown, astronomy, council, journey, rob, large, silence, dangerous,
 jealous, glutton, joy, tempt, witness, chapter, lesson, story, medicine,
 confessor, constable, heir, chair, butler, peace, justice, uncle, aunt,
 cousin, lamp, rose, catch, change, mercy, poor, rich, wait, ,prove, war,
 arrive, pay

1250-1350

action, cost, deceit, dozen, ease, fault, force, grief, labor, number, opinion, pair, piece, season, sound, square, substance, task, use, bucket, calendar, face, gum, , metal, mountain, ocean, people, actual, brief, certain, clear, common, contrary, eager, easy, final, honest, real, second, single, solid, strange, sudden, usual, allow, apply, approach, arrange, carry, close, continue, count, cover, defeat, destroy, excuse, force, form, increase, inform, join, move, please, proceed, push, remember, travel

By 1300 the following French words were already used in English

nouns

action, adventure, affection, age, air, bucket, bushel, calendar, carpenter, cheer, city, coast, comfort, cost, country, courage, courtesy, coward, crocodile, cruelty, damage, debt, deceit, dozen, ease, envy, error, face, faggot, fame, fault, flower, folly, force, hour, joy, malice, manner, marriage, metal, mountain, number ocean, odor, order, pair, person, piece, point, poverty, powder, power, quality, quart, rage, reason, river, scandal, seal, season, sign, sound, sum, tailor, tavern, unity, use, vision, waste

adjectives

able, abundant, active, actual, amiable, amorous, barren, blank, brief, calm, certain, chaste, chief, clear, common, contrary, courteous, cruel, double, eager, easy, faint, feeble, fierce, final, firm, foreign, frail, frank, gay, gentle, gracious, hasty, honest, horrible, innocent, jolly, liberal, malicious, mean, moist, natural, nice, obedient, original, perfect, pliant, poor, principal

verbs

advance, advise, aim, allow, apply, approach, arrange, arrive, betray, butt, carry, change, chase, close, comfort, commence, complain, conceal, consider, continue, count, cry, cull, deceive, declare, defeat, defer, defy, delay, desire, destroy, embrace, enclose, endure, enjoy, enter, err, excuse, flatter, flourish, force, forge, form, furnish, grant, increase, inform, inquire, join, languish, launch, mount, move, murmur, muse, nourish, obey, oblige, observe, pass, pay, pierce, pinch, please, practice, praise, prefer, proceed, propose, prove, purify, pursue, push, quit, receive, refuse, rejoice, relieve, remember, reply, rinse, rob, satisfy, save, scald, serve, spoil, strangle, strive, shun, succeed, summon, suppose, surprise, tax, tempt, trace, travel, tremble, wait, waive, waste, wince

Law

plea, suit, plaintiff, defendant, judge, advocate, attorney, bill, petition, complaint, inquest, summons, hue and cry, indictment, jury, juror, panel, felon, evidence, proof, bail, ransom, judgment, verdict, sentence, decree, award, punishment, prison

Fashion and Social Life

apparel, habit, gown, robe, garment, attire, cape, coat, frock, collar, veil, train, chemise, petticoat, lace, embroidery, buckle, button, to embellish, to adorn

colors

blue, brown, vermilion, scarlet, saffron, russet, tawny

fruit, food, herbs, and etc.

raisin, fig, date, grape, orange, lemon, cherry, peach, confection, pasty, tart, jelly, spice, clove, thyme, herb, mustard, vinegar, cinnamon, nutmeg, to roast, to boil, to stew, to fry, to broach, to blanch, to grate, to mince

Art, Learning, and Medicine

art, painting, sculpture, music, beauty, color, figure, image, tone, title, volume, chapter, parchment, paper, pen

Post 1350

adolescence, appellation, tort, combustion, distribution, immensity,
pacification, representation, sumptuous

Other words from French adopted into English:

fashion, gown, robe, lace, button, boot, satin, fur, ruby, pearl, blue
dinner, supper, taste, feast, tension, beef, veal, mutton, pork, toast,
cream, sugar, salad, lettuce, fruit, cherry, peach, herb, roast, boil, stew,
fry, grate, mince, goblet, saucer, plate, platter, table, palace, mansion,
ceiling, chimney, tower, porch, curtain, lamp, medicine, physician,
surgeon, pain, stomach, place, part, use, city, line, state, sure, change,
close, course, pay, please, face, quit, coat, brown, air, country, flower,
hour, manner, noise, number, people, river, able, large, nice, poor, real,
safe, second, carry, move, pass, wait, to preach, to pray, to change, to
repent, to confess, to adore, to sacrifice, to convert, to anoint, to ordain,
to usurp, to oppress, to repeal

Appendix 7
The etymology of irregular verbs in English

List one

Those verbs which entered into English prior to 900:

to arise

to be

to bear

to beat

to become

to break

to burn

can

to cling

to come

to creep

to deal

to do

to draw

to drink

to drive

to drop

to eat

to fall

to feel

to fly

forbear

to forego

to forget

to forgive

to give

to go

to grow

to hang

to have

to hear

to hide

to hold

to know

to lead

to lean

to leap

to learn

to leave

lend

to let

to lie

to light

to lose

to make

may

to mean

to meet

to read

to ride

to ring

to say

to see

to seek

to sell

to send

to set

to sew

to shake

to shear

to shine

to shoot

to show

shrink

to sing

to sit

to slay

to sleep

to sow

to speak

to spin

to spring

to stand

to steal

to string

to swear

to swell

to swim

to swing

to teach

to tear

to tell

to think

to tread

to understand

to wake

to wear

to weave

to weep

to win

to wind

to wring

to write

List two

Those verbs which entered into English prior to 1150:

to awake

to back

to backbite

to begin

to bend

to bind

to bite

to bleed

to blow

to breed

to bring

to build

to burst

to buy

to choose

to feed

to feel

to fight

to forbid

to grind

to hit

to keep

to kneel

to prove

to put

to rise

to run

to shed

to sink

to slide

to slink

to smell

to spend

to spill

to stick

to sting

to stink

to stride

to strike

to take

to throw

List three

Those verbs which entered into English after 1175:

to backslide (entered into English between 1575 to 1585)

to bet (1585-95)

to browbeat (1575-85/ brow (before 1000))

to catch (from Latin and Norman French/ 1175-1275)

to cost (entered English between 1200 to 1275/ Anglo-French)

to cut (entered English between 1175 to 1225 from Old English 'cyttan'
akin to Old Swedish 'kotta' and Old Norse 'kuti')

to dig (entered English between 1275 to 1375/ derived from Old English
'dic' (ditch) which entered into the language before 900)

to fling (entered English between 1275-1300)

to foretell (entered English between 1250-1300)

to get (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old Norse 'geta'
(to obtain, to beget)

to hurt (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old French
'heuter' and Old Norse 'hrutr')

to lay (entered English between 1300-1350 derived from Middle French)

to pay (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Middle French 'payen' which had been derived from Old French paier)

to quit (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from Old French 'quite')

to rid (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old English 'ryddan' (to trash) which was derived for ryhja (to clear)

to sling (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from Old Norse 'slyngva' (to sling) Old English slingan (to wind or twist)

to slit (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from the Germanic 'schlitzten (to split or slit) Old English 'slite' (a slit), Anglo-Saxon 'slitan' (to tear or break through) Danish 'slide'

to sneak (entered English between 1590-1600 derived from Middle English 'sniken' Old English 'snican'

to spell (entered English between 1250-1300 derived from Old French 'espeller' Old English 'spellian' (to announce) Old High German - spellon Old Norse spjalla

to split (entered English between 1570-1580 derived from Middle English 'splitten' Dutch 'splitten' which is akin to Middle High German 'splizen' German 'spleissen'

to spoil (entered English between 1300-1350 derived from Middle English spoilen Old French espoillier Latin spoliare)

to spread (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old English sprædan Middle English spreden)

to strive (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from Middle English 'striven' (to quarrel, to strive) Old French 'estriver' Dutch strijven German 'streben' (to strive)

to sweep (entered English between 1125-1275 derived from Middle English 'swepen' Old English 'gesepa' German 'schweifen')

to thrive (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Middle English thriven Old Norse 'thrifast' (to thrive)

to thrust (entered English between 1125-1275 derived from Middle English 'thrusten' Old Norse 'thrysta' (to force or press)

to try (entered English between 1250-1300 derived from Middle English 'trien' (to try a legal case) Anglo-French and Old French 'trier' Late Latin tritare (to separate the corn from the stalk) Latin 'trilus' (to thresh corn)