

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

**CARRALA FICKLIN-MCCLAIN**

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

**Part One:**

**The Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*to be an abattoir*

*to be an abatvoix*

*to be an abbey-lubber*

*to be an Abd (in Arabic)*

*to be an abecedarian*

*to be an abbozzo*

*to be an abecedism*

*to be an abishag*

*to be an accidence*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

**Spanish**

**barrio**

**tortilla**

**chili con carne**

**Anglo**

**Italian**

**andiamo**

**maestoso**

**maestro**

**maestri**

**Mafioso**

**mezzo**

**mezzo relieve**

**German**

**Aufklärung**

**auf Wiedersehen**

**wunderkind**

**Gesamtkunstwer**

**gesellschaft**

**gesundheit**

**schadenfreude**

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

**à bas**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*(to be an) Adam and ants*

*(to be an) Adam and ants*

*to be an after eight*

*to be an (Sir) Anthony Blunt*

*to be a baa lamb*

*to be a babbling brook*

*to be a baby giraffe*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Walls have **ears**.

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

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

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

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

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

Stop trying to **skirt** the issue.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Do you understand the meaning of the following words?

**anger boils**

**time flies**

**the enemy caved**

**the color screams**

**white with fright**

**green with envy**

**wall has ears**

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

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

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

**to be an abrupt answer**

**to be an act**

**to be an actor**

**to be an addict**

**to be an advertisement**

**to be an alcoholic**

**to be an alien**

**to be an ally**

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Are you a **baby-boomer**?

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

Have you ever **dogged** anyone?

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

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

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

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

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

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

***to be an action man (British English)***

***to be an adventure playground (British English)***

***to be an aegrotat (British English)***

***to be an ait (Scottish English)***

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

***to be a baap (Hindi in English)***

*to be a baas (South African English)*

*to be a bad lot (Australian English)*

**to be a bairn (Scottish English)**

**to be a Boer (South African English)**

*to be a Boer (South African English)*

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

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

### **Common standard English words**

idiomatic synonyms

slang synonyms

standard synonyms

**French words and Expressions in English**

**Latin words and Expressions in English**

**Informal Idiomatic Expressions**

**Slang Expressions**

**Standard Idiomatic Expressions**

**Vulgar Expressions**

## **Part Two**

### **Expressions in**

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

# TO BE AN A...

## **to be A-1**

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

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

*to be an abattoir*

to be a slaughter house

*to be an abatvoix*

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

*to be an abbé*

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

*to be an abbey-lubber*

originally and formerly a lazy monk or abbey pensioner

## **to be an abbey-lubber**

to be any loafer or lazy-bone

## **to be an Abd (in Arabic)**

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

*to be an abecedarian*

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

4. to be a beginner or novice

*to be an abbozzo*

to be a rough draft or sketch

*to be an abecedism*

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

*to be an abishag*

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

**to be an abode**

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

**to be an abode**

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

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

(to be an) abundance of goods does no harm

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

to be a wealth of ideas

**to be an à bonne marché (French in English)**

to be a good bargain, to be cheap or reasonable

***to be an abortion mill***

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

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

**to be an about-face**

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

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

**to be an about-face**

to be a retraction, renunciation, withdrawal or abjuration

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

**to be an about-face**

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

**to be an about turn (British English)**

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

*to be an abra*

to be a narrow mountain pass

**to be an abrupt answer**

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

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

**to be an abrupt end**

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

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

**to be an absence de gout (French in English)**

to be a lack of taste



**to be an absence de mémoire (French in English)**

to be a mental blank

**to be an absentee landlord**

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

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

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

to be an abuse of authority

**to be an abus de confiance (French in English)**

to be a breach of trust

**to be an abus de langage (French in English)**

to be a misuse of language

**to be an abus de pouvoir (French in English)**

to be an abuse of power

*to be an accidence*

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

*to be an accolent*

to be a neighbor

**to be an ace**

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

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

**to be an ace**

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

**to be an ace boon coon (African-American)**

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

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

**(to be) an ace in the hole**

a hidden advantage, something held in reserve until needed

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

**to be an ace of spades**

vulgar term for a Black person

**to be an acompte (French in English)**

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

*to be anceldama*

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

*to be an Achilles heel*

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

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

**to be an aching void**

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

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

to describe.

***to be an acid freak***

heavy users of LSD

***to be an acid head***

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

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

***(to be an) acid test***

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

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

***to be an à côte (French in English)***

to be a side issue

***to be an acquired taste***

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

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

*to be an acre*

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

*to be an acre-fight*

to be a duel in open field

***to be an act***

to be a judgement, decision or ruling

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

**to be an act**

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

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

**to be an act**

to be a performance, routine or appearance

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

**to be an act**

to be pretense, feigning, dissimulation, pretending

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

**(to be an) act**

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

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

**to be an act**

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

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

*to be an act of faith*

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

**to be an act of God**

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

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

**to be an act of war**

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

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

**to be an acting head**

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

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

**to be an acting head**

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

**(to be an) action figure**

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

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

**to be an action man (British English)**

to be a macho or aggressive male

**to be an active member**

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

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

**to be an actor**

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

**to be an actor**

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

**to be an actor**

to be *a matinee idol* or *star*

**to be an actor**

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

**to be an actor ecclesiae (Latin)**

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

*to be an acutiator*

(medieval period) to be a sharpener of weapons

*to be an Adam*

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

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

(to be a pair of ) pants

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

(to be a) plant

*to be an Adam's ale*

to be water as a drink or beverage

**to be an Adam's apple**

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

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

*to be an Adam's needle*

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

*to be an Adam's profession*

to be gardening or agriculture

**to be an adda (Hindi in English)**

to be a place where people gather for conversation

**to be an adda (Hindi in English)**

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

**to be an adda (Hindi in English)**

a junction place for public transportation

**to be an addict**

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

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

**to be an addle brain**

to be stubborn, obstinate, unable or unwilling to understand

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

**to be an addle egg (British English)**

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

**to be an addle egg (British English)**

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

***to be an addle head***

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

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

*to be an adelentado*

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

*to be an adespoton*

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

*to be an adit*

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

**to be an advance man**

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

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

*to be an admiral of the blue*

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

*to be an Adonis*

to be a beautiful or extremely handsome boy or young male

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



*to be an Adonis flower*  
to be a rose

*to be an Adonis Garden*

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

*to be an advena*

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

**to be an adventure playground (British English)**

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

**to be an adversaria**

a miscellaneous collection of remarks or notes

**to be an advert (British English)**

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

**to be an advertisement**

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

**to be an advertisement**

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

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

**to be an advice column**

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

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

**to be an advocatus diaboli (Medieval Latin in English)**  
literal meaning: **devil's advocate**

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

**to be an advocatus diaboli (Medieval Latin in English)**  
literal meaning: **devil's advocate**

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

**to be an aegrotat (British English)**  
to be a student's written medical excuse

**to be an aegrotat (British English)**  
to be the degree awarded to a student who had been prevented, as a result of illness, from taking final exams

*to be an aelurophile*  
to be a lover of cats

*to be an aelurophile*  
to be a cat hater

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

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

**to be an affair d'amour (French in English)**  
literal meaning: **love affair**

**to be an affair de coeur (French in English)**  
literal meaning: **affair of the heart**

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

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

*to be an afterages*

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

*to be an after-clap*

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

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

date

**to be an after-dinner speech (British English)**

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

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

**(to be an) afterglow**

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

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

**to be an after life**

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

**(to be an) aftermath**

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

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

**to be an aftermath**

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

**(to be an) afterthought**

to be a second or later thought, reconsideration or review

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

**to be an afterthought**

to be a reflection, reexamination or retrospection

**to be an afterthought**

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

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

**to be an ag-fay**

insulting term for a gay male

*to be an Agnes*

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

*to be an agnomen*

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

*to be an agnomen*

to be a nickname

**to be an agony aunt (British English)**

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

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

**(to be an) agony column (British English)**

to be a column written to answer readers' personal questions

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

**to be an agrément (French in English)**

(music) to be an ornament or principal melodic tone

**to be an agricultural show (British English)**

to be a state or country fair

*to be an agrostographer*

to be a person who writes about grasses

*to be an agrostologist*

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

*to be an agunah*

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

**to be an A.H.**

to be an asshole

**to be an A.H.**

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

**to be an A-hole**

to be an asshole

**to be an A-hole**

to be an imbecile, moron, nincompoop or fool

**to be an aide-mémoire (French in English)**

to be a memorandum summarizing a discussion or agreement

***to be an air guitar***

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

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

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

to be a stunner

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

**to be an air kiss**

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

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

**to be an airhead**

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

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

*to be an ait*

to be a small island in a river or lake

**to be an ait (Scottish English)**

to be an oat

**to be an a.k. (British English)**

abbreviation for **ass kisser**

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

to be a dish prepared with shallots, tomatoes and herbs

*to be an Aladdin's cave*

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

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

*to be an Aladdin's Lamp*

to be the source of wealth and good fortune

*to be an alb*

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

*to be an Albert*

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

***to be an Al Capone (British English)***

to be a telephone

**to be an albatross**

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

**to be an albatross**

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

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

*to be an albatross*

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

**to be an albatross around one's neck**

to be a millstone, burden an unwanted charge or duty

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

***to be an alchy (British English)***

alcoholic

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

**to be an alcoholic**

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

**to be an alcoholic**

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

**to be an alcopop (British English)**

an alcoholic sweet mixed-fruit drink

*to be an Alcoranist*

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

*to be an alderman*

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

*to be an alderman (British English)*

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

**to be an alderman (British English)**

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

**to be an alderman**

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



*to be an alderman (British English)*

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

*to be an alderman in chain (British English)*

to be a turkey hung with sausages

*to be an ale-dagger (British English)*

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

*to be an ale-draper (British English)*

to be a bartender or (British English) tapster

*to be an ale-knight (British English)*

to be a drunk or (British English) sot

*to be an ale-silver (British English)*

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

*to be an ale-stake (British English)*

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

*to be an ale-wife (British English)*

to be a landlady of an ale-house or stand

*to be an alforja*

to be a leather or canvas saddlebag used by cowboys

*to be an alforja*

(chipmunk) to be a cheek pouch

**to be an A-level (British English)**

abbreviation for Advanced Level

**to be an alias**

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

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

**to be an alias**

*nickname, summer name, moniker, handler*

**to be an alibi**

to be a reason, explanation, vindication or defense

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

**to be an alibi**

to be a pretext, subterfuge, evasion or semblance

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

**to be an alien**

to be an emigrant, newcomer or immigrant

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

**to be an alien**

to be a foreigner, stranger, outsider or outlander

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

**to be an alien**

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

**to be an alkie (British English)**

to be an alcoholic

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

**to be an alky (British English)**

to be an alcoholic

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

**(to be) an all-nighter**

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

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

**(to be) an all-nighter**

to be a party which last until the following morning

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

*to be an all nighter*

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

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

*to be an all night tick*

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

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

**to be an allée (French in English)**

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

*to be an alley cat*

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

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

*to be an alley cat*

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

That guy *is an alley cat*.

**to be an ally**

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

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

**to be an ally**

to be a puppet regime, satellite or puppet government

**to be an ally**

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

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

*to be an almoner*

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

*to be an alouatte*

to be a South American howling monkey

**to be an alpha male**

superior, first-rate, very remarkable or exceptional male

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

**to be an alpha male**

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

**to be an also-ran**

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

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

**to be an altar boy**

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

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

**to be an alter ego (Latin in English)**

literal translation: other self

English translation: one's alternative or secondary personality

**to be an alter ego (Latin in English)**

literal translation: other self

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

**to be an alternate**

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

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

**to be an alternate**

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

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

**to be an alternative**

to be a recourse, selection or substitute

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

**to be an alternative**

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

**to be an alternative**

*to be plan B or a backup*

**to be an alternative**

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

*to be an altiloquence*

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

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

*to be an ama*

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

**to be amber nectar (Australian and British English)**

to be a Lager

*to be an ambry*

to be a storage place, chest, cupboard or pantry

*to be an ambry*

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

**to be an ambulance chaser**

to be a lawyer

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

**to be an ambush**

to skulk, to waylay, to ensnare, to lure

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

**to be an ambush**

to be a hiding place, concealment or cover

**to be an ambush**

to be a snare, lure or lying in wait

**to be an âme damnée (French in English)**

literal meaning: **damned soul**

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

**to be an âme damnée (French in English)**

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

**to be an amener (British English)**

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

**to be an amicus curiae (Latin English)**

literal translation: a friend of the court

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

**to be an American**

to be a person born in North or South America

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

**(to be an) American (British English)**

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

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

**to be an American**

a person who has citizenship of the United States of America

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

**to be a American**

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

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

**to be an American Beauty**

type of hybrid perennial red rose

**to be an ami (French from English)**

literal meaning: **male friend**

to be a friend or a boyfriend

**to be an amica curiae (Latin in English)**

literary meaning: **friend of the court**

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

**to be an amicus humani generis (Latin in English)**

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

to be a philanthropist

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

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

*to be an amnicolist*

to be someone living near a river



*to be an amphitryon*  
to be a host or hostess

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

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

*to be an anacalypsis*  
to be an unveiling or revelation

*to be an anacrisis*  
to be a preliminary hearing

*to be an anacrisis*  
to be interrogation accompanied by torture

*to be an analect*  
to be a literary fragment or extract

*to be an analect*  
to be a short saying

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

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

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

*to be an ananym*  
to be a name written backwards

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

*to be an androcracy*  
to be a society ruled by males

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**to be an Anglicism**

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

**to be an Anglicism**

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

**to be an Anglicism**

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

**to be an Anglicist**

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

**to be an Anglicist**

to be someone who favors the use of English

**to be an Anglo**

(U.S.) to be a White American

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

**to be an Anglo**

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

**to be an Anglo**

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

**to be an Anglo**

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

**to be an Anglo**

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

**to be an Anglo-American**

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

**to be an Anglo-American**

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

**to be an Anglo-Canadian**

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

**to be an Anglo-Celtic**

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

**to be an Anglo-Indian**

to be an English citizen living in India

**to be an Anglo-Indian**

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

**to be an Anglo-Indian school**

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

**to be an angry white male**

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

*to be an animadversion*

to be an unfavorable remark, adverse criticism or reproof

***to be an animal***

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

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

*to be an animalcule*

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

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

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

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

*to be an anlage*

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

*to be an anlage*

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

**to be an annihilation**

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

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

**to be an annihilation**

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

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

**to be an annihilation**

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

**to be an annihilation**

(Germany WWII) *The Final Solution*

**annihilation**

(of persons) *holocaust, pogrom, genocide*

*to be annotinous*

(botany) to be a year old

**to be an annoyance**

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

He has always **been an annoyance**.

**to be an annoyance**

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

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

**to an annus horribilis (Latin in English)**

literal meaning: **horrible year**

to be a year full of pain and misfortune

**to an annus terribilis (Latin in English)**

literal meaning: **dreadful year**

to be a dreadful or horrible year

**annus mirabilis (Latin in English)**

literal meaning:

*to be anonymuncle*

to an insignificant anonymous writer

**to be an Anschluss (German in English)**

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

**to be an Anschauung (German in English)**

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

**to be an answer**

to be a solution, justification or explanation

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

**to be an answer**

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

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

**to be an answer**

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

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

**to be an answering off the top of my head**

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

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

**to be an antagonist**

enemy, foe, contender, opponent, competitor

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

**antagonist**

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

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

to be *cunt*

*to be an antaphroditic*

to be a remedy for venereal disease

*to be an anthropometrist*

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

**to be an anticlimax**

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

*to be an antigram*

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

*to be an antinomy*

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

*to be an antinomy*

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

*to be an antiphrasis*

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



**to be an apartment**

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

**to be an ape**

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

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

**to be an aperçu (French in English)**

to be a quick or hasty glance or glimpse

**to be an aperçu (French in English)**

to be an immediate estimate or judgement

**to be an aperçu (French in English)**

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

**to be an aperçu (French in English)**

to be a summary or synopsis

**to be an apéritif (French in English)**

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

**(to be) an aphrodisiac**

to be a stimulant or sexual stimulant

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

**to be an aphrodisiac**

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

*to be an apocatastasis*

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

*to be an apocope*

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

*to be an apodosis*

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

*to be an apodysoiphilia*

to be a feverish or overwhelming desire to undress

*to be an apodyterium*

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

*to be an apologia*

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

*to be an apologue*

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

*to be an apomecometry*

to be an instrument for measuring heights of distant objects

*to be an apophasis*

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

*to be an apostrophe*

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

*to be an apostrophe*

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

*to be an apostrophe*

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

*to be an apostrophe*

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

*to be an apostasy*

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

*to be an apostate*

to be one who forsakes or leaves his/her religion

*to be an appanage*

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

*to be an appanage*

to be a rightful extra gain, tip or gratuity

*to be an appanage*

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

**to be an apparatus**

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

**to be an appeal (British English)**

to be a fund-raising campaign

**to be an appellation**

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

**to be an appellation**

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

**to be an appellation**

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

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

**to be an appellation**

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

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

**to be an appetizer**

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

**to be an appetizer**

to be a cocktail

**to be an appetizer**

to be an enticement, allurement, temptation or attraction

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

**to be an appetizer**

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

**to be an appetizer**

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

**(to be an) applause line**

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

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

**to be an apple**

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

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

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

*to be a shitter*

**to be an apple knocker (British English)**

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

**to be an apple-pie bed (British English)**

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

**to be an apple polisher**

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

**to be an appliqué (French in English)**

to be an embellishment applied to material

**to be an apprentice**

to be a novice, student, pupil or learner

**to be an apprentice**

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

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

**to be an approbation**

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

**(to be) an approval**

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

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

**to be an approval**

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

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

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

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

to be a flower

*to be an aptronym*

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

*to be an archimage*

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

*to be an archimage*

to be a great magician or wizard

*to be an archon*

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

*to be an archon*

to be a ruler or high official

**to be Argie (British English)**

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

**to be an argument**

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

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

**to be an argy-bargy (British English)**

to be a noisy quarrel or argument

**to be an aristocrat**

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

**to be an armchair general**

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

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

**to be an armpit**

to be a dirty, smelly, untidy or disgusting place

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

*to be an arras*

to be a richly woven tapestry

**to be an arrière-pensée (French in English)**

to be a mental reservation

**to be an arrière-pensée (French in English)**

to be a hidden or underhanded motive

**to be an arrivé (French in English)**

to be a social climber or status seeker

**to be arriviste (British English)**

a ruthless, amoral person who will do anything to get ahead

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

***(to be) an arse-hole (British English)***

to be stupid or dumb, to be a featherbrain or blockhead

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

**to be an arse-licker (British English)**

to be a brown-noser, flunky, backscratcher or fawner

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

**to be an arse load (British English)**

to be a lot, a great deal of or large quantity

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

**to be an arse monger (British English)**

to be contemptible, mean, disgusting or revolting



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

**to be an Artful Dodger**

to be a circumventor, pretender, fraud or perjurer

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

**to be an artic (British English)**

an articulated truck or lorry

**to be an article (British English)**

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

**to be an artist**

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

*to be an ascetic*

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

*to be an ascetic*

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

*to be an ascham*

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

*to be an ascian*

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

*to be an asteism*

(rhetoric) to be genteel irony

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

**to be (an) A-side**

to be the pop single that is being pushed

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

**to be an ass**

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

**to be an ass**

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

**to be an ass**

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

**(to be an) ass**

to be a vulgar term for a person's buttocks

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

**(to be an) ass**

woman used for sexual gratification

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

**to be an ass**

to be stupid, dumb, backwards or silly

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

**to be an ass hole**

to be stupid, irritating, or disgusting person

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

***to be an ass hole***

to be a fool, nincompoop, meathead or pinhead

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

***to be an asshole buddy***

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

***(to be an) ass in a crack***

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

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

***(to be an) ass in a sling***

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

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

***(to be) an ass in lion's skin***

to betray, deceive, trick or lie

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

***to be an ass kicker***

to be something that operate and functions extraordinarily well

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

***to be an ass kisser***

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

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

***to be an ass-licker (British English)***

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

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

***to be an ass man***

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

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

***(to be an) ass on the line***

to be in a situation where one is risking everything

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

***to be an ass peddler***

to be a prostitute or hooker

***to be an ass wiper***

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

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

***to be an ass wiping***

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

**to be an assassin**

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

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

**to be an assassin**

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

**to be an assault to one's ears**

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

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

**to be an assumed head**

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

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

*to be an asteism*

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

*to be an asthenia*

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

*to be an asyndeton*

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

*to be an atony*

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

*to be an atony*

(phonetics) to be a lack of accents or stress

**to be an attaché (French in English)**

literal translation: **attached**

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

**to be an attaché (French in English)**

literal translation: **attached**

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

**(to be an) attitude**

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

His **attitude** has always been positive.

**(to be an) attitude**

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

**to be an attorney**

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

**to be an attorney**

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

**to be an attraction**

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

**to be an Aunt Edna (British English)**

to be an invented prototypically provincial nice old lady

**(to be an) auntie**

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

**to be an Auntie (British English)**

to be an affectionate nickname for the BBC

**(to be an) Auntie Times (British English)**

to be the newspaper, The Times (of London)

***to be an Aunt Jemima***

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

***to be an Aunt Jemima***

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

**to be an Aunt Sally (British English)**

to be a figure who is an easy target for criticism

**to be Aunt Sally (British English)**

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

**to be an au pair (French in English)**

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

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

*to be an aurochs*

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

*to be an aurochs*

(Europe) to be an European bison

**to be an Aussie (British English)**

to be an Australian

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

***to be an Aussie kiss (British English)***

to be oral sex

***to be an Aussie steak (British English)***

to be mutton

**to be an author**

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

**to be an author**

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

**to be an author**

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

**to be an author**

to be a creator, producer, parent or originator

**to be an authority figure**

to represent authority or power

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

**to be an Authorized Version**

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

**to be an autocrat**

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



**to be an autocrat**

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

**to be an auto de fé (Spanish in English)**

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

*to be an autodidact*

to be a person who is self-taught

*to be an autologophagist*

to be one who eats his or her own words

**to be an autograph**

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

**to be an automobile**

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

**to be an automobile**

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

**to be an automobile**

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

**to be an automobile accident**

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

**to be an average joe**

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

**to be an average working joe**

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

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

**to be an average working stiff**

to be an average working joe, worker or laborer

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

*to be an averruncator*

to be a pole for pruning trees

**to be an aviation blonde (British English)**

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

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

**to be an awlarse (British English)**

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

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

**to be an axe**

to be a guitar or saxophone

**to be an axe wound (British English)**

to be a vagina

# TO BE A B...

**to be a B and S (Australian English)**

to be a dance held in the rural area of Australia

***to be a b-boy***

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

**to be a B-list actor**

to be a working actor who never became famous or recognized

**to be a B-movie**

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

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

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

to be a tram (American English: trolley car)

**to be a baap (Hindi in English)**

to be a father

***to be a baas (South African English)***

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

***to be a baasie (South African English)***

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

***to be a baba (Hindi in English)***

to be a father

**to be a baba (Hindi in English)**

to be a respectful term for an older man

**to be a baba (French in English)**

to be a type of fruit cake

**to be a babalaas (South African English)**

to be a hangover

***to be a bab***

to be a term of affection equivalent to 'dear'

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

to be a crook

***to be a babe***

to be an attractive young woman

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

**to be a babe in the woods**

to be an innocent, be wet behind the ears

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

***to be a babe magnet***

to be a sexually desirable male who attracts female

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

**to be a babe magnet**

to be a sleek sexy car which attracts women

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

**to be a babu (Hindi in English)**

to be an office worker

**to be a babu**

to be a respectful term for an educated older man

***to be a baby***

to be one's lover or spouse

**to be a baby boomer**

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

Bill Clinton **is a baby boomer.**

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

half pint of beer

**to be a baby grand**

to be the smallest of the grand pianos

***to be a baby mother (street slang)***

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

***to be a baby father (street slang)***

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

**to be a baby's dummy (British English)**

to be a rubber or plastic pacifier

**to be a baby watcher (British English)**

to be a baby-sitter or child minder

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

to be a freezer

***to be a baccy (British English)***

to be tobacco

***to be a bach (Australian and New Zealand English)***

to be a small holiday house

***to be a bachcha (Hindi in English)***

to be a young person

***to be a bachelor's party***

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

***(to be) a backbone***

1. to be fortitude, courage or guts

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

2. to be principles or character

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

3. to be stamina, resolve or firmness

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

***to be a back-breaker***

to be a very difficult job or chore

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

***to be a back door***

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

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

***to be a backhander***

to be a sudden surprise slap with an open hand

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

**to be a back seat driver**

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

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

**to be a backer**

to be a supporter, proponent, or advocate

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

**to be a backhanded compliment**

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

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

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

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

**to be a backhander (British English)**

kickback, hush money, pay off, money given illegal

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

**to be a backie (British English)**

to be a backseat passenger on a motorcycle

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

**to be a backlash**

to be a recoil, rebound, reflex, or response

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

**(to be) a backroom**

to be the place where secret deals are made or brokered

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

**to be a backroom deal**

to be an illegal or underhanded business or political transaction

His nomination **was a backroom deal**.

**to be a back slang (British English)**

to be a slang which is created by spelling words backwards

**to be a backscratcher**

to be a person who exchanges a favor for a favor

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

**to be a backslapper**

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

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

**to be a backsword**

to be a sword with only one cutting edge

**to be a backwater**

to be the marginal area of geographical area

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

**to be a backwoodsman**

to be someone who is considered uncouth, unsophisticated,



uncultured or unrefined

**to be a backwoodsman (British English)**

to be a peer who rarely attends the House of Lords

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

**Pakistani**

*to be a baculus*

to be a staff or power symbol

***to be a bad apple***

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

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

***to be a bad apple***

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

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

***to be a badass***

to be an aggressive, dominant or fearless male

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

**to be a bad break**

to be bad luck, to be luckless or unfortunate

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

**to be a bad egg**

to be born bad, be innately bad

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

**(to be) a bad headache**

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

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

**(to be) a bad feeling**

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

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

***to be a bad hair day***

to be a day which nothing goes right

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

***to be a bad hat (British English)***

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

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

***to be a bad lot (Australian English)***

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

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

***to be a badmash (Hindi in English)***

to be a dishonest, immoral, bad or unprincipled person

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

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

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

***to be a bad patch (British English)***

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

**to be a bad penny**

to be born bad, innately bad

He **is a bad penny**.

**to be a bad seed**

to be born bad, be innately bad

He's **a bad seed**.

**to be a baddie**

to be the villain, heavy or fiend in a film

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

**to be a badly packed kebab**

to be the female genitals

*to be a baetylus*

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

**to be a bag**

to be a woman's handbag

Have you seen my **bag**?

**to be a bag**

to be baggage or luggage

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

***to be a bag***

to be a derogatory and insulting term for an ugly

or unattractive woman

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

***to be a bag***

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

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

***to be a bag***

a small portion of drugs sold by a drug deal

How much **is a bag**?

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

to be a wife

***to be a bag job***

to be theft or robbery of computer files

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

***to be a bag lady***

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

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

***to be a bag man***

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

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

***to be a bagman***

(synonymous to commercial traveler) to be a traveling salesman

**to be a bag of bones**

1. derogatory term for a very thin or skinny person

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

2. to be gaunt, emaciated or wasted

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

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

to be a suit

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

to be a grand (a thousand)

**to be a bag of nerves**

to be a very nervous, timid or tense person

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

**(to be) a bag of tricks**

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

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

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

to be a priest

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

to be a beast

**to be a bag of wank (British English)**

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

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

**to be a bag of worms**

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

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

**to be a bag of wind**

to be a person who brags or boasts a lot

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

**to be a bag puncher**

a fighter

**to be a baggage**

to be a prostitute, harlot, street walker or whore

**to be a baggage**

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

**to be a bagging (British English)**

to be a snack, to be food eaten between meals

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

to be a queen

**to be a baker's dozen**

to be a dozen plus one, thirteen

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

to be gay

**to be a bailiff (British English)**

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

**to be a bailiwick (British English)**

to be a district within which a bailiff has jurisdiction

**to be a bailiwick**

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

**to be a bain-marie (French in English)**

a large double-boiler

**to be a bairn (Scottish English)**

to be a child, to be a son or daughter

**to be a bakehouse (British English)**

to be a bakery

**to be baksheesh**

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

**to be a Balaclava (British English)**

to be a woolen helmet

*to be a balayeuse*

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

*to be a balbriggan*

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

*to be a baldachin*

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

*to be a baldachin*

1. to be a canopy carried in church processions

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

*to be a baldachin*

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

***to be a bald-headed hermit***

to be the penis

***to be a bald-headed mouse***

to be the penis

***to be a baldhead (Jamaican English)***

to be a person who is not a Rastafarian

***to be a baldmoney***

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

***to be a baldy***

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

***to be a ball***

to be a testicle

***to be a ball***

to be a good or enjoyable time

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

***(to be a) ball***

to a baseball, football or soccer ball

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



***to be a ball-ache (British English)***

to be problematic or troublesome, to be a pain

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

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

***to be a ball breaker***

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

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

***to be a ball breaker***

to be a very difficult job, task or chore

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

***to be a ball buster***

to be an extremely difficult problem

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

***to be a ball buster***

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

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

**(to be) a ball game**

to be a baseball game

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

***to be a ball and chain***

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

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

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

to be a walk

**to be a ball of fire**

to be an exceptionally motivated and positive person

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

**to be a ball park**

to be the place where baseball is played

***to be a ball tearer***

to be excellent, outstanding, very good or none better

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

***to be ball wracker (British English)***

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

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

***to be a ball wracker (British English)***

to be a very difficult job, task or chore

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

***to be a ballock (British English)***

to be a testicle

**to be a balloon**

used to show speech in a comic strip

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

to be a bar or saloon bar

***to be a balls up (British English)***

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

***to a ballsy person***

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

***to be a ballsy person***

to be aggressive, assertive or belligerent

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

***to be a Balmain kiss (Australian English)***

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

***to be a bam (Scottish English)***

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

**to be a bamboozler**

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

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

***to be a bampot (Scottish English)***

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

***to be a bamstick (Scottish English)***

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

***to be a banana (British English)***

a penis

***to be a banana***

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

***to be a banana bender (Australian English)***

to be someone from Queensland

***to be a banana republic***

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

***to be a band-aid***

a temporary remedy or solution

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

***to be a bandh (Hindi in English)***

to be a general strike

*to be a bandog*

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

*to be a bandog*

to be a bloodhound

*to be a bandoline*

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

***to be a bandy-bandy (Australian English)***

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

***to be a bandwagon***

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

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

**to be a bang**

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

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

**(to be) a bang**

to be energy, vitality, pep, zip or vim

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

**to be a bang**

to be a thrill, excitement, boost or charge

**to be a bang**

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

*to be a bang board*

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

**to be a bangle ear**

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

**(to be) a bang-up job**

to be an excellent or fantastic job

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

***to be a banger (British English)***

to be a sausage

***to be a banger (British English)***

to be an old car which barely works

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

***to be a bank cheque (Australian English)***

to be a cashier's check

***to be a bank holiday (British English)***

to be a legal holiday

***to be a banker (British English)***

to be a fisherman from Newfoundland

***to be a banker (British English)***

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

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

***to be a banker (Australian and New Zealand English)***

to be a river that has flooded its banks

***to be a bankroll***

to be a large roll of money

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

***to be a banker's order (British English)***

to be a money transfer order

***to be a banlieue (French in English)***

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

of a town or city

2. to be a suburb

*to be a bantling*

to be a young child

*to be a bantling*

to be a brat

*to be a bantling*

to be an immature product such as an author or artist

**to be a bap (British English)**

to be a hamburger roll or bun

*to be a baptism of fire*

(early Christian Church) to be martyrdom

**to be a baptism of fire**

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

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

**to be a baptism of fire**

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

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

*to be a barathrum*

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

*to be a barathrum*

to be a pit, hole or abyss

*to be a barathrum*

to be the fathomless or bottomless pit of hell

*to be a barathrum*

to be a relentless devotee or fan

*to be a barathrum*

to be an extortionist, blackmailer or leech

*to be a barathrum*

to be a glutton

**to be a barman (British English)**

to be a bartender

**to be a bar-mitzvah**

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

**to be a barge-pole (British English)**

to be a ten-foot pole

**to be a bar tender**

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

***to be a barbie (Australian English)***

a barbeque

***to be a Barbie Doll***

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

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



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

*to be a bard*

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

*to be a bard*

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

**(to be a) bare-branch**

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

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

***to be a barefaced lie***

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

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

***to be a barf bag***

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

***to be a barfola***

to be an unattractive college woman

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

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

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

**to be a bargirl**

to be a woman who works in a bar

***to be a barhopper***

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

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

**to be a barmcake (British English)**

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

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

**to be a barmpot (British English)**

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

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

**to be a barmaid (British English)**

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

**to be a barmaid (North American English)**

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

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

to be a judge

**to a barman (British English)**

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

**to be a barney (British English)**

to be a fight, argument or squabble

**to be a barroom**

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

**to be a barnburner**

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

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

**to be a barney (British English)**

to be a nosey quarrel, loud argument

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

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

to be a row ( argument or quarrel)

**to be a barrel of laughs**

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

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

**to be a barrio (Spanish in English)**

to be a neighborhood or district of the city

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

**to be a barrister (British English)**

to be a trial lawyer

**to be a barrow (British English)**

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

**to be a barry (Austalian English)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

to be a shocker

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

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

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

to be an act of defecation

**to be a bar crawl (British English)**

to go to several bar

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

**to be a bar steward (British English)**

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

**to be a bash**

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

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

**to be a bash**

to be a get-together or party

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

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

to be an effort, undertaking, try or attempt

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

**to be a bash (Australian English)**

to be a drinking spree or binge

**to be a bash (Australian English)**

to be an act of making loving or having sexual intercourse

*to be a bashi-bazouk*

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

**to be a basin (British English)**

to be a sink

**to be a basin cut (Australian English)**

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

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

to be one's baby

**to be a basket (British English)**

euphemism for bastard

He **is a basket!**

**to be a basket case**

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

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

**to be a bastard**

to be a creep, rat or dog

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

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

to be a ticket

*to be a bat-fowler*

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

**to be a bat-mitzvah**

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

**to be a batch**

to be a bunch, group or grouping

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

**to be a bath (British English)**

to be a bathtub

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

to be one's son

**to be a bath chair (British English)**

to be a wheel chair

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

to be a pub (bar)

**to be a bathe (British English)**

to swim, in the sense of having a dip

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

*to be a Jap*

**to be a batman (British English)**

to be a military's officer's servant

**to be a baton (British English)**

to be a nightstick

**to be a batsman (British English)**

to be a batter

**to be a battleaxe (British English)**

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

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

to be a *boozer* (pub or bar)

**to be a batterie de cuisine (French in English)**

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

**to be a battering**

to be a flogging, whipping, pounding or thrashing

***to be a battery operated boyfriend (British English)***

to be a sex toy, to be a vibrator

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

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

**to be a battle of wits**

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

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

**to be a battler (Australian English)**

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

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

*to be a battue*

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

*to be a battue*

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

***to be a batty boy (British English)***

to be a gay male

***to be a batty bwoy (British English)***

to be a gay male

***to be a batty man (British English)***

to be a gay male

**to be a batwoman**

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

**to be a bawbee (Scottish English)**

to be a coin of low value

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

to be a bar

***to be a bazillion***

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

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

***to be a beach bum***

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



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

**(to be) a beachhead**

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

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

**to be a beak (British English)**

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

**to be a beaker (British English)**

to be a cup or mug

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

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

**to be a bean (British English)**

to be an ecstasy pill

**to be a bean (British English)**

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

**to be a bean counter**

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

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

**to be a bean eater**

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

**to be a beaner**

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

**to be a bean feast (British English)**

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

**to be a bean-flicker (British English)**

to be a lesbian

**to be a beano (British English)**

to be a party

**to be a bean pole**

to be a very skinny person

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

**to be a bear**

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

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

**to be a bear**

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

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

**to be a bear**

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

**to be a bear garden (British English)**

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

**to be a bear pit (British English)**

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

**to be a bear pit (Australian English)**

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

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

**to be a béarnaise sauce (French in English)**

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

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

to be a saw

**to be a bearded clam (British English)**

vulgar term for a woman's sexual organs

**to be a beast (British English)**

to be an unattractive, plain or ugly woman

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

**to be a beast (Australian English)**

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

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

**to be a beast (Australian English)**

to be an ugly, homely or unattractive person

***(to be) a beat down***

to be a beating by a street gang

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

**to be a beater**

to be an old junker or old broken-down car

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

**to be a beating**

to be a defeat, trouncing or trampling

That was a beating that he won't forget.

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

to be a tart (to be a prostitute)

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

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

**to be a beau geste (French in English)**

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

**to be a beaut**

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

**to be a beaut**

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

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

***to be a beaver (British English)***

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

***to be a beaver***

to be a woman as only a receptacle for the penis

***to be a beaver-flick***

to be a film showing naked women

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

***to be a beaver-retriever***

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

**to be a beck (British English)**

to be a brook

**to be a bed and breakfast**

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

**to be a bed bath (British English)**

to be a sponge bath

**to be a bed bunny**

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

*to be a bedlamite*

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

**to be a bedsit (British English)**

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

**to be a bed-sitting room (British English)**

to be a combination bedroom-living room

**to be a beef**

to be lament, quibble, criticism or grievance

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

***to be a beef bayonet (British English)***

playful but somewhat vulgar term for the penis

***to be a beefcake***

to be a handsome muscular male who is not very intelligent

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

to be a bill (invoice or statement)

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

to be a still (photograph or photo)

**to be a befeater (British English)**

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

***to be a beer-belly***

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

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

**(to be a) beer garden**

to be a bar or tavern

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

***to be a beer-gut***

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

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

**to be a beetle-crusher (British English)**

to be a large boot

**to be a beggar (British English)**

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

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

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

**to be a Belisha beacon (British English)**

to be a street crossing light

***(to be) a bell (British English)***

to be a call, telephone call

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

**to be a bellboy**

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

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

*to be a belle*

to be a very attractive or beautiful female

*(to be a) belle*

to be the most attractive or most popular woman or girl of a certain place or on a given occasion, i.e. **to be the belle** of the ball

**to be a bellyful**

to be all that a person can tolerate, or take

No, no more. It's **a bellyful**.

**to be a belt (British)**

to be a woman's girdle

**to be a Belt Buckle (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a chuckle (to have a laugh)

**to a belt-tightening**

to reduce or cut cost, to save money

This **is a belt-tightening** that is going to hurt a lot of people.

**to be a beltway insider**

to be someone who is part of the political class or elite of Washington, DC

He **is a beltway insider** so I would listen to what he has to say.

*to be a belvedere*

to be the uppermost story of a building open to the air for the purpose of giving a view of the country

*to be a belvedere*

to be a cigar which is shorter and thinner than a corona

*to be a belvedere*

to be a summerhouse on an eminence in a park or garden

**to be a Ben Dover (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a hangover

**to be a benchwarmer**

to be a member of the team but who does not play



It is easy to **be a benchwarmer**. You don't do anything but watch.

**to be a bend (British English)**

(road) to be a curve

**to be a bender (British English)**

to be a trailer truck

**(to be) a bender**

to be a drinking binge or spree, to drink continuously for a long period of time (usually a couple of days or a weekend)

Because I went on **a bender** this weekend, I didn't do any of my work.

***to be a bender (British English)***

a derogatory and insulting term for a gay male (short for a gender bender)

*to be a benedick*

(from Shakespeare/ **Much Ado About Nothing**) to be a bachelor who finally falls in love

*to be a benedick*

to be a recent bridegroom previously a confirmed bachelor

**to be a Benedict Arnold**

to be a Brutus, Castilianian or backstabber, to betray

To **be a Benedict Arnold** is to be a traitor.

**to be a Benedict Arnold**

to be a traitor, Brutus or backstabber, to betray, to play Judas

To **be a Benedict Arnold** is to be a traitor.

*to be a benison*

to be a blessing or benediction

***to be a benny (British English)***

to be a fit of angry or a tantrum

***to be a berk (British English)***

to be an unpleasant person who is a fool, meatball, dolt or *ass*

***to be a berk (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

a woman's sexual organs

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

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

***to be a berm (British English)***

(road) to be a shoulder of

***to be a Bernard Matthew (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a queue (to be a line)

*to be a besom*

to be a broom consisting of twigs tied to a handle

*to be a besom*

(figuratively) to be any utensil which cleanses

***to be a bête (French in English)***

to be a beast or beast like person

***to be a bête noire (French in English)***

to be a person is particularly disliked, fear and/ or avoided

***to be a bethel (British English)***

to be a chapel

***to be a Betty Grable (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a table

***to be a bevy***

to be group of young men and women

There **was a bevy** of youngsters screaming, hollering and causing havoc.

***to be a bibi (Indian English)***

to be a man's wife

***to be a Bex (Australian English)***

to be a cup of tea

***to be a big dipper (British English)***

to be a roller coast

***to be a Bible-banger***

to be a fundamental Christian preacher or person who always quotes the bible, to be evangelistic

***to be a Bible-basher (Australian English)***

a fundamental Christian preacher or person who always quotes the bible, to be evangelistic

*to be a bibliognost*

to be a well-read lover of books

*to be a bibliographer*

to be a writer of books

*to be a bibliolater*

to be a worshipper of the Bible and a devout believer in its literal translation

*to be a bibliolater*  
to be a person who loves books exceedingly

*to be a bibliolite*  
to be a laminated schistose rock also called a book stone

*to be a bibliomane*  
to be a person who has a mania for acquiring books

*to be a bibliopegist*  
to be one who binds books

*to be a bibliophile*  
to be a book lover

*to be a biblioplist*  
to be a bookseller

*to be a bibliotaph*  
to be one who stows away or hides books

*to be a bibliothec*  
to be a librarian or one who has charge of a collection of book

*to be a bibliotheca*  
to be a collection of books or library

*to be a bibliotheca*  
to be a book seller's catalogue

**(to be) a bicky (British English)**  
to be (British English) a biscuit or (American English) a cookie

**to be a bien pensant (French in British English)**

to be a person who is strict, conventional, conservative, stiff-neck, orthodox or fixed

**to be a biffa (British English)**

to be an insulting and derogatory term for a woman who appears male-like

**to be a biffa (Australian English)**

to be a squabble, altercation, dispute, blow-up or fight

That **was a biffa** like I haven't seen before.

**to be a bigass**

to be a person who has very large buttocks

You can't miss her. She's **a bigass**.

**to be a bigass**

to be a self-important, pompous, overbearing, arrogant or conceited person

He's **a bigass** who thinks that the world revolves him.

**to be a big boy**

to be usually said to a male child to tell him that he is no longer a baby or a little child

You **are a big boy** now. If there is a problem, you can not start crying. You have to tell me what the problem is.

**to be a big boy**

to be said to a man by a woman, referring to the male's genitals

Yes, you're right. You **are a big boy**.

**to be a big cat**

to be a lion, tiger, cheetah or other animals who belong to the family Felidae

***to be a big cheese***

to be a very important person, to be someone who can not be ignored

He's **a big cheese** in the company so be careful.

***to be a big dick***

the big guy, the big or biggest fish in the pond,  
the kingpin, the big cheese or the boss

You might think that you **are a big dick** but you're not.  
You are just like we are, no more or no less.

**to be a big fish in a small pond**

to be the most important person in a small  
organization, place or town

Anybody can **be a big fish** in a small pond.

**to be a big frog in a small pond**

to be the most important person in a small  
organization, place or town

Anybody can **be a big frog in a small pond**.

***to be a big girl's blouse (British English)***

to be an insulting way to refer to a person who is good  
for nothing, to be a useless or ineffectual person

***to be a big gun***

to be a powerful, formidable or influential person

I would not go up against him; he **is a big gun** in  
the field of music.

***(to be) a big head***

to be self-worshipping, puffed up or conceited

He has such **a big head** that I can not stand to be around him.

**(to be) a big-head**

to be conceited, snobbish or proud, to be with one's nose in the air, to be stuck up, swell-headed, smug or cocky

He has such a **big head** that I doubt he even knows that you exist.

***to be a big hitter***

to be a person who is very important, of great consequence or import

He **is a big hitter** in the Republican Party. I would treat him with great respect.

***to be a big mouth***

to be a braggart, blowhard, peacock or boaster

He **is a big mouth**. He loves to go around tooting his own horn.

**to be a big mouth**

to speak or talk too loudly

She **is a big mouth** who must be embarrassing.

**to be a big name**

to be someone who is famous in a particular field

In the world of sci-fi literature, she **is a big name**.

***(to be) a big nose (North American English)***

to concern oneself with the affairs or business of another

Be careful, she has a **big nose**, always sniffing around looking for info.

***to be a big nose (British English)***

to be someone who is famous in a particular field

In the world of sci-fi literature, she **is a big nose**.

**to be a big note (Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be a boastful person, to be a braggart, windbag or gasbag

**to be a big note (Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be a person who exaggerates, inflates, blows out of proportion or overstates his importance and the wealth that he has

**to be a big shit**

to be a obnoxious, disgusting, abhorrent or detestable person

He's nothing but **a big shit**. Everyone hates him.

**to be a big shit**

to be important, of high station, high ranking or top level, to be the big fish or the boss

He **is** quite **a big shit** in the company.

**to be a big shot**

to be an influential or important person, being a person who carries a lot of power

He might think he **is a big shot** but he's not.

**to be a big tent**

(political) to be a political party that is tolerant of divergent views

Both Democrats and Republicans claim that their party **is a big tent**.

**to be a big tent**

to be a party, community or association which accepts diversity

There are those who believe that the Republican party **is a big tent** party. I do not.

**to be a big ticket item**

an expensive or costly article such as a car, a washing machine or boat



This is a **big ticket item**; therefore, it is going to cost you a lot.

***to be a big wheel (British English)***

to be a Ferris wheel

***to be a big wig***

to be an important person, to be a big fish, to be someone who gets his or her phone call returned

He ***is a big wig*** not only here but also in Washington.

***to be a bike***

to be the abbreviation and informal term for a bicycle

This ***is a bike*** that will last you for years. That's why it is so expensive.

***to be a bight***

to be a bend or small bay between two points of land

***to be a bight***

to be a loop in a rope

***to be a bight***

to be a curve or bend in a river or coast line, to be a coastal curve

***to be a bight***

to be a bend, fork or hollow in the human or animal body

***to be a biker***

to be a member of a bike or motorcycle club

***to be a bikie***

to be a member of a bike or motorcycle club

***to be a bikkie (British English)***

to be a cookie

**to be a bill**

1. to be a poster or handbill where information is printed  
There **is a bill** pasted on the fence. I'm going to tear it off.
2. to be an invoice, statement, list of expenditures  
There **is** still **a bill** that you haven't paid.
3. to be a treasury note, money, paper money, tender, legal tender or greenback
4. to be a list, inventory or enumeration

**to be a bill (British English)**

to be an itemized slip of payment for a restaurant, bar or pub,  
(American English) to be a check

***to be a Bill and Ben (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a pen

***to be a Bill Oddie (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a voddie (to be a vodka)

***to be a billabong (Australian English)***

to be a waterhole

**to be a billiard-saloon (British English)**

to be a pool room or billiard parlor

***to be Billie Piper (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a windscreen wiper

***to be a Billie Piper (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a sniper

**to be a billion**

to be a thousand millions

**to be a billion (British English)**

1. a million millions
2. a very large or enormous amount

**to be a billionaire**

1. to be a person who possesses a billion dollars or pounds
2. to be a very rich person

**to be a bill of quantity**

to be a cost estimate

***to be a Billy (Australian English)***

to be a makeshift container made for boiling water

***to be a Billy Bunter (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a punter

***to be a Billy Goat (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a coat

***to be a Billy Goat (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be one's throat

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

***to be a silly cunt*** (to a person who is contemptible, stupid or ridiculous)

***to be a Billy no mates (British English)***

to be an insulting way to refer to a person who appears to be without

friends, who is an introvert or who is a loner

**to be a Billy Ray Cyrus (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a virus

**to be a bimbo**

an sexually attractive woman who's not very intelligent

She's **a bimbo**.

**to be a bimmer**

to be a BMW.

**to be a Bin Laden (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a garden

**to be a bin lid (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a kid (to be an adolescent)

**to be a bind (British English)**

to be a nuisance, bother or pain

Frankly, her phone call **was a bind**.

**to be a bind (North American English)**

to be an impasse or fork in the road, to be a dilemma or predicament

This **is a bind**. No matter what I do, I'm wrong.

**to be a bindi (Hindi in English)**

to be the dot worn in the center of forehead by a Hindi woman

**to be a binge**

to be a spree or bout

Something must have happened to trigger **a binge** of this magnitude.

***to be a binnie (British English)***

to be a trash man, to be a garbage collector

Because he's ***a binnie***, he works for the city. He gets paid pretty well.

***to be a binman (British English)***

to be a trash man, to be a garbage collector

Because he's ***a binman***, he works for the city. He gets paid pretty well.

***to be a binno (British English)***

to be a trash man, to be a garbage collector

Because he's ***a binno***, he works for the city. He gets paid pretty well.

***to be a bint (British English)***

to be a girlfriend

***to be a bint (British English/ Arabic in English)***

to be an insulting term for a woman

***to be a bird (British English)***

to be a woman

She's ***a bird*** that I would love to know.

***to be a bird***

an eccentric, strange or eccentric person

She has always ***been an odd bird***.

***to be a bird bath (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a laugh

**to be a birdbrain**

1. to be a fool, stupid or not the brightest person

She **is** such a **birdbrain**.

2. to be a person who is flighty or frivolous

He **is a birdbrain** who changes her mind on a dime.

3. to be a person who is backward, simple, dull or empty-headed

Don't even doubt that he **is a birdbrain**.

**(to be) a bird's eye view**

a broad, quick, general or superficial perspective or understanding

I can't really give you an opinion; up until now I have had only a **bird's eye's view** of the property.

***to be a bird-strike (British English)***

to be the collision of a bird with an airplane

If it **is a bird strike**, the bird will lose.

***to be a Birmingham screwdriver (British English)***

to be a hammer

**to be a biscuit (British English)**

to be a cookie, to be an unleavened bread which is sweet, flat, round and crispy treat

***to be a biscuit and cookie (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a bookie (to be a bookmaker or someone who takes bets)

***to be a biscuit and cookie (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a rookie (to be a new person on the job)

**to be a bish (British English)**

to be a mistake, error, slip or slip-up

***to be a Bish Bash Bosh (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a water (to take a shower or bath)

**to be a bistro**

to be a small, cheap restaurant

**to be a bit**

to be a little, to be somewhat or rather, to be to a certain extent

Yes. She **was a bit** angry. I guess that she didn't think the joke was funny.

***to be a bit (adjective)***

to be used to understate or to say without hurting or causing a lot of reaction

Yes. I saw her. And you're right, she's **a bit fat**.  
(she's **a bit fat** means that she **is really fat**)

**to be a bit (British English)**

to be an insulting term for woman or female

**to a bit missing (British English)**

to be feeble-minded or not all there, to be feather-brained

**to be a bit of a knock (British English)**

to be a tough or hard break

**to be a bit of a**

to be somewhat, to not be in extreme

Yes, I have to admit that he's **a bit of a** scoundrel.

**to be a bit of a nasty cut (British English)**

(said when a person has either been injured or has injured his or herself and the cut, wound or laceration is deep, bleeding and probably needs stitches)

That's **a bit of a nasty cut**, you're going to need a couple of stitches.

***to be a bit of all right (British English)***

(usually refer to women) to be sexually attractive or pretty

Yes, I've seen her and she's ***a bit of all right***.

***to be a bit of fluff (British English)***

to be a woman as a sexual object, to be a sexual partner, *to be a piece of ass*

***to be a bit of goods (British English)***

to be an attractive or good-looking woman, to be quite a dish

**to be a bit of rough**

to be a sexual partner who is poorer, less educated and less sophisticated

***to be a bit of skirt (British English)***

to be a woman as a sexual object, to be a sexual partner

***to be a bit of spare (British English)***

to be a person who is always available, sexually speaking

***to be a bit of stuff (British English)***

to be a woman as a sexual object, to be a sexual partner

***to be a Bit o' Luck (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

*to be a fuck* (to have sexual intercourse)

***(to be) a bit on the side***

to be an outside sexual relationship, to have another person



on the side, to have an extramarital affair

I have always had **a bit on the side**.

**to be a bit part**

to be a small acting role in a movie, a television program or in a play

It's only **a bit part** but it's the most that I have ever had.

**to be a bit peeved**

to be an understated way to say that one is very angry

I do understand why she **is a bit peeved**. I would be too.  
(find other expressions about 'angry')

**to be a BJ**

(abbreviate for a **blow job**) to participate in oral sex

**to be a bitch**

to be an annoyance, a pain in the neck, hassle or bother

This job **is a** real **bitch**. I don't know if I can do it.

**to be a bitch**

to be a woman who complains, protests or is not accepting

She **is a bitch** from hell. Nothing is good enough for her.

**to be a bitch**

to be a woman who is in a bad mood or angry

What **a bitch!**

**to be a bitch**

to be weak, feeble, not strong, cowardly or yellow

He **is a bitch**; therefore, he can not be counted on.

**to be a bitch**

to be a very difficult job or chore

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

**to be a bitch-box**

to be a public-address system

Get off the **bitch-box** and deal with this emergency.

**to be a bitch kitty**

disagreeable, argumentative or malicious woman

Nice?! She **is a bitch kitty**.

**to be a bitch session**

to be a meeting where people get together to complain, squawk or gripe

I didn't know that this was going to **be a bitch session**.

**to be a bitch slap**

to smack or slap someone in the face in order to humiliate that person (especially a male)

What you need **is a bitch slap**.

**to be a bite**

to be a morsel, a tiny piece or mouthful

It had only **been** only **a bite**. I didn't take such a big piece.

**to be a bite**

to be a wound or cut from an insect

I didn't fall. It's **a bite**. I think it's a spider bite.

**to be a bite (Australian English)**

to be a person from whom one anticipates borrowing money

***to be a bite (Australian English)***

to be a consequence or reaction, to be blow back

***to be a bite short of a bikkie***

to be not the most intelligent person, to not be the sharpest tool in

the shed, to not be the smart person in the world

By the way that he act, I do believe that he ***is a bite short of a bikkie.***

**to be a biting remark**

to be a comment or commentary which is sarcastic, hurting, derisive or scathing

That **was a biting remark.** What is the matter with you?

**to be a bitsa (Australian English)**

to be a mongrel or a dog of no particular breed

**to be a bitter (British English)**

to be a strongly flavored beer which has a bitter taste

**to be a bitter ender (British English)**

to be person who does not give up or surrender, to be a person who holds out to the very end

I think that she **is a bitter ender.** We'll going to have to tranquilize her.

**to be a bitter enemy**

to be a hostile, acrimonious or total and complete enemy

After what happened, she has **been a bitter enemy.**

**to be a bitter pill to swallow**

to be a great disappointment, setback or disillusionment

Her betrayal **was a bitter pill to swallow**.

**to be a bitter relationship**

to be a corroding, abusive, torturous or agonizing relationship

Without any doubt, that **was a bitter relationship**.

**to be a bitter-sweet ending**

to be an ending that is happy tinged with something sad

It **was a bitter-sweet ending**. Yes she fell in love and got married but her mother died just before the wedding.

**to be a blabbermouth**

to have a big mouth, to talk too much, to have diarrhea of the mouth

She **is a blabbermouth** who can not keep a secret.

**to be a black and white**

to be a police car

**to be a blackboy (Australian English)**

to be a type of Australian tree

**to be a blackbutt (Australian English)**

to be a type of Australian tree

**to be a Black and Decker (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

*to be a pecker* (to be a vulgar term for the penis)

**to be a black and tan (British English)**

to be a mix drink of beer and stout

**(to be) a black eye**

to be a discoloration of the skin around the eye as

a result of a blow or slap in the face

I should not have hit him because now he has **a black eye**.

**to be a black eye**

to be a mark of shame or dishonor

The slums in the U.S. **is a black eye** to the country.

**(to be) a blackhead**

to be a small spot of dirt deep in the skin, usually found along the lips or on the face

Of course, it figures that on my prom night that I would get **a blackhead**.

**to be a blackleg (British English)**

to be a person who crosses a picket line to work while his colleagues are on strike

**to be a blacklist**

to be a list of names of persons who are not to be hired or who are to be fired, to be a list of unacceptable or suspect persons

**to be a Black Maria**

to be police van used to transport prisoners

**to be a blackout**

to be the loss of all electrical power as a result of power failure

Of course I paid the electricity. Because of the storm there's **a blackout**.

**to be a Blackpool tower (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a shower

**to be a blackspot (British English)**

to be a section of a road or of a country which is considered very problematic, i.e. accidents, pollution or high employment

This part of London **is a blackspot**. The unemployment and poverty rate is very high.

**to be a bladder of lard (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a card

**to be a blade of grass (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

**to be an ass**

**to be a blag**

to be a violent robbery, heist or burglary

**to be a blag**

the act to smooth talk one's way of getting something or to use one's silver tongue to get what one wants

**to be a blag artist (British English)**

to be possessed of the gift of gab, to be a smooth-talker

Because he **is a blag artist**, you can not believe a word that he says.

**to be a blagger (British English)**

to have a silver tongue, to be a smooth-talker or fast-talker

Because he **is a blag artist**, you can not believe a word that he says.

**to be a blamestorming (British English)**

to be a meeting whose sole purpose is to assign blame on a mistake which has been made

I thought that we were here to talk. I didn't know that this **was a blamestorming**.

**to be a blank check**

to be a signed check in which no dollar amount is written

This **is a blank check**. Who would be so dumb to give you a blank check?

**to be a blank check**

to be total and complete freedom to do what one wishes

This permission **is not a blank check**. There are limits.

**to be a blank cheque (British English)**

to be a signed check in which no dollar amount is written

This **is a blank cheque**. Who would be so dumb to give you a blank check?

**to be a blank cheque (British English)**

to be total and complete freedom to do what one wishes

This permission **is not a blank cheque**. There are limits.

**to be a blanket bath (British English)**

to be a sponge bath or (British) bed bath

**to be a blanket finish (British English)**

to be a very close finish, to be a photo finish, to win by the nose

My God, I first thought that I had lost. It **was a blanket finish**.

**to be a blast**

to be a strong gust of the wind, to be strong blowing of the wind

That **was a blast** that almost knocked me off my feet.

**to be a blast (British English)**

to be a puff or inhalation of one's cigarette

Can I have a blast? I'm dying for a smoke.

**to be a blast from the past**

to be something which is very nostalgic

Whenever I hear this music, I can't stop crying. The song **is a blast from the past.**

**to be a blatant lie**

to be lie which is evident, overt, obvious or apparent

It **was** such a **blatant lie** that I was flabbergasted.

**to be a bleak piece of real estate**

to be a desolate, bare and cold piece of land

It **is a bleak piece of real estate.**

***to be a bleeder (British English)***

to be a contemptible, disgusting or revolting person

He's **a bleeder**. He won't stop until he gets everything.

***to be a bleeder (British English)***

to be a pathetic, pitiful, miserable or wretched person

He's **a bleeder** who can't seem to get a break from life.

***to be a bleeder (North American English)***

to be a user or exhorter, to be a person who squeezes or milk someone

**He's a bleeder.** Don't give him anything or he'll take everything that you have.

**to be a bleeding heart**

to be someone who use pity or emotion to make one's judgment

You can't trust his judgment. He's **a bleeding heart.**



**to be a blemish**

to be defect, mark, stain or flaw

This crime will **be a blemish** on my record.

**to be a blessing**

to be a benefit, advantage or good fortune

This business has **been a blessing**.

**to be a blighter (British English)**

to be a rogue, creep, ne'er-do-well or a lazy bum

**to be a blimp**

to be a fat, obese or grossly overweight

Have you seen Mary? She's **a blimp**.

**to be a blimp (British English)**

to be a stuff shirt or pompous elderly man, to be a great bore

**to be a blind alley**

to be an alley that is open only a one end, to be a dead end

Don't go in there. It **is a blind alley**.

**to be a blind alley**

to be a course of action which leads to nothing, to be a situation which offers no hope of improvement

You should've known that this **was a blind alley**. You had been warned that it would lead to nowhere.

**to be a blind date**

to have a date with someone not previously met, to go on an arranged date

I hadn't known her before. It **was a blind date**.

***to be a blind Freddie (Australian English)***

to be a person who has little or no perception

***to be a blind pig (British English)***

to be an illegal bar

***to be a blind tiger***

to be an illegal bar

***to be a blinder (Australian English)***

to be something which is astounding, flooring, fascinating or amazing

That **was a blinder** of a party. I had a very good time.

***to a blink of the eye***

to be quick, fast or faster than the eye could see

***to be a blitzkrieg***

to be a quick and deadly assault or onslaught

Can't you tell that this destruction **was a blitzkrieg**?

***to be a blizzard***

to be a snow storm

***to be a bloater***

to be a fat, overweight or bloated person who is unattractive

I wouldn't be caught with her dead. She's **a bloater**.

***to be a blob***

to be a thick and irregularly shape drop, to be a globule, to be a glob

**to be a bloc**

to be an alliance or coalition

The Western Europe **is a bloc** to be reckoned with.

**to be a block (British English)**

to be a large building

**to be a block (Australian English)**

to be one's temper (as in to 'do your block'/to blow one's top)

**to be a blockade**

to be a barrier, impediment, stumbling block or obstacle

**to be a blockbuster**

to be a movie which is a commercial success

Although the movie *Crash* **was** not **a blockbuster**, it won an Oscar for best picture.

**to be a block of flats (British English)**

to be an apartment house

**to be a blog**

to be a web log

**to be a blockhead**

1. to be a dunce, lightweight or fool

He **is a blockhead** who really does not understand.

2. to be a person who is a chump, sap or schmuck

He **is a blockhead** who does not think before acting.

**(to be a) bloke (British English)**

to be a general term for a male (especially a stranger)

Who's that **bloke**?

**(to be a) bloke (British English)**

to be a guy, man, fellow or dude

I don't know that **bloke**.

**to be a blond**

to be a male or female who has blond, fair or light-colored hair

**to be a blonde**

to be a female who has blond, fair or light-colored hair

**to be a blonde moment (British English)**

(humor) to be an instance of being silly, foolish, light headed or feather-brained

I don't know what I was saying. It must have **been a blonde moment**.

**to be a Blood**

a member of the street gang, The Bloods (initially only in California)

He's **a Blood**; therefore, he's cool.

**to be a blood-bath**

1. to be a mass slaughter of human beings.

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

2. **to be a period of great loss or reversal**

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

3. to be a non-violent but widespread purge or

dismissal of employees or party members

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

**to be a blood brother**

to be a man that another man has sworn loyalty to (usually in a ceremonial mingling of blood)

No, he is not my biological brother but he **is a blood brother**. I see him as part of my family.

**to be a blood curdler**

to be that which causes great fright or horror

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

**to be a blood donor**

to be one who donates one's blood in a blood bank

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

**to be a blood feud**

to be a prolong violent struggle of persons of the same family, origin, ancestry, or descent

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

**to be a blood hound**

1. to be a large dog with an extraordinary sense of smell, excellent hunting dog
2. to be a person who is a steadfast pursuer  
You're not going to get away from him; he **is a bloodhound**.

**to be a blood horse**

to be a thoroughbred horse

**to be a bloodletting**

to be a violent killing or wounding of people during a conflict

Ever so often, Europe seems to need **a bloodletting**.

**to be a blood relative**

to be a connected to someone by blood, i.e. parents, cousins or grandparents

**to be a blood sport**

to be the type of sport which involves the maiming and/or killing of an animal

Hunting **is a blood sport**.

**to be a blood sucker**

to be a parasite, bleeder, sponger, moocher, freeloader

He **is** nothing but **a bloodsucker**.

***to be a bloody idiot (vulgar/British)***

to be a damn imbecile, stupid or dumb

He **is** such **a bloody idiot!**

**to be a bloody Mary**

an alcoholic drink made with tomato juice and vodka

***to be a bloomer (British English)***

to be a blunder, mistake or faux pas

That **is a bloomer** that you will not forget.

**to be a blot**

to be a mark, stain, blemish, imperfection or flaw

This will **be a blot** on her reputation.

**to be a blow**

to be a shock, stroke of bad luck or ill fortune

The news **was a blow**.

**to be a blow to one's hopes**

to be a severe disappointment, disillusionment or disenchantment

My inability to convince him **was a blow to all my hopes**.

**to be a blowback**

to be future consequence of one's actions

This **is a blowback** of the wars which we instigated in the 1980s.

**to be a blower (British English)**

to be a telephone

**to be a blowflame (British English)**

to be a blowtorch

**to be a blowhard**

to be a boastful person, to be a person who brags or boasts a lot

He **is** nothing but **a blowhard**.

**to be a blowhard**

to be a windbag or braggart, to be a person who talks big or lays it on thick

I can't stand being around him. He **is a blowhard**.

**to be a blow-in (Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be someone recent to a situation, to be someone who has just arrived or who has not been in situation since the beginning

What does he know. He's nothing but **a blow-in**.

**to be a blow job**

to be oral sex

**to be a blowlamp (British English)**

to be a blowtorch

**to be a blow-out**

to be an occasion when the tire of a vehicle explodes or bursts

It **was a blow out**. That's why the driver lost control of his car.

**to be a blow out**

to be an outburst or explosion of one's anger

They had **a blow out** this morning that almost got out of hand.

**to be a blow out**

(sports) to be a big and easy win

That **was a blow out**. The opposing team didn't even come near to winning.

**to be a blow out**

(politics) to be a big win or a landslide

This election will not be a squeaker; it will **be a blow out**.

**to be a blow out**

to be a lavish social gathering, to be a very good party

Saturday, there **was a blow out** at our apartment building. I had a fantastic time.

**to be a blow out (British English)**

to be a spree or binge

**to be a blow to one's pride**



to be humiliating or humbling

When my child lie to me in front of his teacher,  
it **was a blow to my pride**.

**to be a blow-up**

to be an outburst or outpouring of bottled up anger

That was **a blow-up** that I never want to see again.

**to be a blow-up**

(photograph) to be an enlarged or amplified picture

This **is a blow-up** of my parents. I'm going to put  
it in the living room.

**to be a BLT**

to be a bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich

It's **a BLT**. Do you want me to make you one?

**to be a blubber head**

to not be very intelligent, be stupid, foolish, unthinking, imbecile, dull-witted, stupid, unintelligent, fool, dolt or lout

He **is a blubber head** who does not know what he is doing.

**to be a bludger (Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be a slothful, indolent, foot dragging or good for nothing person

**to be a bludge (Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be an easy, a snap or simple task or chore

**to be a blue**

(historical) to be a person in the Union Army during  
the American Civil War

My father **was a blue**.

***(to be) a blue***

a policeman

When **a blue** arrives, I'm on my way.

**to be a Blue (British English)**

supporter of the Conservative Party

You're wasting your time with her. She's **a Blue**.

***(to be) a blue (Australian/ New Zealand English)***

to be an argument, disagreement, clash, fall out

We had **a big blue** last night.

***to be a blue (Australian/ New Zealand English)***

to be a mistake, blunder or error

That **was a big blue**.

***to be a blue (British English)***

to be a fan or supporter of Oxford (dark blue) or Cambridge (light blue) at the different sport games

***to be a blue and white***

to be police car in New York

There **is a blue and white** on the corner. Has something happened?

**to be a blue baby**

(Pathology) **cyanosis**: a bluish coloration from the skin caused by lack of oxygen in the blood

A baby born with cyanosis **is a blue baby**.

**to be a blue-blood**

to be a person who is of very high social position

You may think that the you **are a blue-blood** but the joke is on you.

**to be a blue book (British English)**

to be a blue bound report issued by Parliament or by the Privy Council

**to be a blue chipper**

to be the best, excellent, outstanding or first rate (especially in the area of sports)

He **is a blue chipper**. No one can out run him.

**to be a blue coat**

to be a policeman

**to be a blue collar ballet**

to be professional wrestling

**to be a blue collar neighborhood**

(U.S.) to be a lower to middle-middle class neighborhood predominated by persons who work in industry

Many **blue collar neighborhoods** are very conservative.

**to be a blue collar worker**

1. to be a worker who is paid by the hour rather than a salary

She **is a blue collar worker** who must work around the clock.

2. to be a worker who wears a uniform and who does physically difficult i.e. machinist or construction worker

To **be a blue collar worker** is not to necessarily earn a minimum salary.

**(to be a) blue-dog Democrat**

to be a conservative Democrat. Such persons usually vote with the

Republicans. (U.S. politics)

Many **blue-dog Democrats** have changed to the Republican party.

**(to be a) blue-eyed boy (British English)**

to be one's fair-haired boy, favorite, preference or the apple of one's eye

He **is** the boss' **blue-eyed boy**. He can do no wrong.

**to be a blue flag (British English)**

to be a European award for clean, tidy and safe beaches

**(to be) a blue-hair**

to be an elderly woman

I felt that I was being invaded by a bunch of **blue-hairs**.

**to be a blue hell (British English)**

to be a trying, difficult, tough or demanding situation

My marriage **was a blue hell**, pure and simple.

**to be a bluejacket**

to be an informal term for a sailor in the navy

**to be a blue joke**

to be an indecent, off-color or risqué joke

You should be careful in what jokes you tell. That **was a blue joke**.

**(to be a) blue law**

to be one of the laws in the U.S. which forbids department stores and liquor shop being opened on Sunday

Because of the **blue laws**, it is dead downtown on Sunday. All the stores are close.

**to be a blue-light special**

to be a bargain, special or good deal

I bought the purse here. There **was a blue-light special**.

**(to be a) blue Monday**

to be any Monday because it is the first day of the week after the weekend (blue in this context means depressing)

This is an especially **blue Monday** because it is also cold and rainy.

**to be a blue movie**

to be a movie which risqué, indecent, obscene, dirty or vulgar

This **is a blue movie**; therefore, I would not take a minor to see it.

**to be a blue murder (British English)**

(in sports) to be a total, utter, complete or absolute defeat

It **was a blue murder**. The score was five to zero.

**to be a blue nose**

to be queasy, overnice or overdiligent

She **is a blue nose** who gets upset quickly and easily.

**to be a blue nose**

to be a person who is puritanical, strait-laced or prudish or austere

She **is a blue nose** who is always looking down on everyone.

**to be a blue nose**

(informal) goody-goody, too nice for words, stuffy, Victorian, goody two-shoes or Miss Prim and Proper

***to be a Bluenose (Canadian English)***

a person from Nova Scotia

***to be a blue rinser (British English)***

to be an elderly or old lady

**to be a blue state**

(U.S. politics) to be a state where the Democratic party dominates

California **is a blue state**.

**to be a blue-stocking (British English)**

to be a woman who is more interested in books or studies than in romance

She **is** nothing but **a blue-stocking**.

**(to be a) bluesman**

to be a musician who plays the blues

Most of the great **bluesmen** had hard and difficult lives.

**to be a blunder**

to be a mistake, fault, error or stupidity

This **is a blunder** that I will never forget.

***to be a blunt (British English)***

to be a marijuana cigarette

**to be a blur**

to be that which is seen indistinctly, not to be well-focused, to be indistinct

The ship **was** just **a blur** on the horizon.

**to be a blushing bride**

to be a virgin who is about to get married, to be a virgin bride

She **is a blushing bride** who has no idea what marriage is.

**to be a BMW (Black North American)**

to be a **Black Man Working**

Girl, don't complain. At least, he's **a BMW**.

**to be a blur**

to be that which is seen indistinctly, not to be well-focused,  
to be indistinct

The ship **was** just **a blur** on the horizon.

**to be a blushing bride**

to be a virgin who is about to get married, to be a virgin bride

She **is a blushing bride** who has no idea what marriage is.

**to be a bo-peep (Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be a quick look

**to be a board (British English)**

to be a sign or placard

**to be a boarder (British English)**

to be a resident as opposed to a day student, to be a student  
who lives on campus

**(to be) a boat race (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be one's face

She has **a boat** that only a mother could love.

**to be a bob (British English)**

to be a shilling

**to be a bob**

to be a quick, short, up and down movement

***to be a Bob Cryer (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a liar

***to be a bobble hat and scarf (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a laugh

***to be a Bobby (British English)***

to be a policeman

He ***is a Bobby.***

***to be a bobby-dazzler (British English)***

to be an incredible, fantastic or astounding person

***to be a Bobby Dylan (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a villain

***to be a bobèche (French in English)***

to be the cupped-ring of a candle-holder used to capture the drippings of the candle

***to be a bobfoc (British English)***

to be an ugly woman with a sexually desirable body

She's ***a bobfoc.*** Just put a bag over her head.

***to be a bod (British English)***

to be a person or character

***to be a bodge judge (British English)***

to be a job done badly or poorly, to be a botch-up job

***to be a bodega (Spanish in English)***

to be a small grocery store



**to be a bodega (Spanish in English)**

to be a wine cellar

**to be a bodega (Spanish in English)**

to be a place where wine is sold or to be a liquor store

**(to be) a body bag**

to be a large bag made to contain human remains

Before a body is placed in a casket, it is kept in a **body bag**.

**to be a body blow**

1. to be a hard hit, during a fight, in the areas from the neck to the waist

It **was a body blow** that knocked him out.

2. to be serious loss, total loss, dead loss, complete loss, disappointment, trouncing or defeat

His betrayal **was a body blow** which took him years to get over.

3. to be a let down, bitter pill, comedown, drubbing or rebuff

**to be a body builder**

one who exercises to put one's body in optimum shape, usually for a competition

She looks so good because she **is a bodybuilder**.

**to be a body corporation**

(legal) a person, association, or group of persons legally incorporated, a company or partnership which is a single entity

**(to be) a body double**

to be a person used in movies to substitute an actor, usually in nude scenes

Some actors do not like doing nude scenes; therefore, they use **a body double**.

**to be a bodyguard**

to be a person employed to protect someone (usually a celebrity, government official or leading business person)

To do his job well, **a body guard** must be well trained.

**to be a body of water**

to be a large area water i.e. a lake

It's **a body of water** which is being destroyed little by little.

**to be a body rub**

to be a massage

**to be a body search**

to be a thorough search of one's body for drugs, weapons or other type of counter band

**to be a body shell**

to be the hard outer core, structure or framework of a vehicle

**(to be) a body shop**

to be a factory in which the body of a car is either manufactured or repaired

**(to be) a body shop**

to be an employee agency which specializes in providing workers for ground-level jobs

**(to be) a body shop**

to be a gym or health club

**(to be a) body slam**

to be a term used in wrestling in which an opponent is lifted, hurled

and thrown on the mat

The **body slam** that he gave his opponent must have been painful.

**to be a body snatcher**

to be a person who steals corpses once they have been buried

Because persons used to fear **body snatchers**, they would bury their loved-one in unmarked graves.

**to be a body snatcher**

to be an agency which recruits an already employed executive to fill the top management position of another company, many time for a rival company

**to be a body type**

to be a type of print used in the main text of printed material

**(to be) a body type**

to be the shape of the body

She has a **body type** that is hard to dress.

**to be a Boer (South African English)**

to be a white South African of Dutch descent, to be an Afrikaner

**to be a Boer (South African English)**

to be an Afrikaner farmer

***to be a Boer (South African English)***

(during apartheid) to be a white policeman or any one in the prison system

***to be a bof (British English)***

to be a boring old fart (old man)

Don't listen to him. He's **a bof**.

**to be a boff (British English)**

to be sex or sexual intercourse

***to be a boff (British English)***

to be a blow, hit or punch

***to be a boffin (British English)***

to be a derogatory and insulting term for a scientist or any person involved in technical research

***to be a boffo (British English)***

to be a success or hit

***to be a boffolo (British English)***

to a joke or a punch line

**to be a bog**

to be a swamp or marsh

***to be a bogan (Australian and New Zealand English)***

to be a boring, dull, flat or unexciting conventional person

***to be a bogan (Australian and New Zealand English)***

to be an ill-bred, uncouth, unmannerly or crude person

**to be a bogey (British English)**

to be a cop

**to be a bogie (British English)**

(railroad) to be an open freight car

**to be a bogeyman**

(used by parents to so that children behave) to be an imaginary bad or evil spirit who scare children

***to be a bohemian***

to be an unconventional or unorthodox person, term usually refer to persons involved in the arts

He will never settle down. He ***is a bohemian.***

***to be a boho***

to be an abbreviation of bohemian

***to be a bohunk***

to be insulting and disparaging term for a unskilled person from eastern Europe

***to be a boil***

to be an abscess or ulcer

That's ***a boil*** that you have on your leg. Leave it alone.

***to be a boiler***

to be a derogatory and insulting term for a plain or unattractive woman

***to be a boiler house (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a spouse

***to be a boiler room***

to be a room or place where brokers conduct intensive telephone campaigns to sell stocks and bonds of either dubious value or which are highly speculative

***to be a boilover (Australia and New Zealand English)***

to an astounding, flooring, surprising or totally unexpected defeat of one's favorite sports team

***to be a boîte (French in English)***

to be a night club or cabaret

**to be a boîte (French in English)**

to be a restaurant

**to be a bolillo**

to be a derogatory or insulting manner to refer to a Mexican who is perceived 'to act or behave white'  
(to be brown on the outside but white on the inside)

**to be a bollard (British English)**

to be a traffic sign or post

**to be a bollocking (British English)**

to be a harsh or severe admonishment, castigation or reprimand

**to be a bollix (Irish English)**

to be a silly, ridiculous or foolish person

**to be a bollix (Irish English)**

to be a disgusting, revolting or obnoxious person

**to be a bollock**

to be a testicle

**to be a bolt from the blue**

to happen suddenly and without any warning, to be a sudden and entirely unforeseen event

His resignation **was a bolt from the blue**.

**to be a bolt-hole (British English)**

to be a haven, hideaway or getaway

**to be a bomb**

(a movie or book) to be bad, below standard, second rate or no good, to be a flop

This movie **is a bomb**. How could he have

made it.

***to be a bomb (British English)***

to be a smash hit or dazzling success

***to be a bomb (British English)***

to be a fortune (as in 'to make a fortune' or 'to cost a fortune')

**a bombshell**

to be a great surprise or shocker

What she said was **a bombshell**.

***to be a bombshell***

to be an extremely attractive and sexy woman

She's **a** real **bombshell**.

**to be a bon vivant (French in English)**

to be a person who lives well, to be a person who surrounds him or herself with luxury

**to be a bonbon (French in English)**

to be candy

**to be a bona vacantia (Latin in English)**

literal meaning: to be ownerless goods

(Law) to be a person who dies without an heir

***to be a bonce (British English)***

to be a person's head

**to be a bone**

1. to be one of the structures used to compose the skeleton
2. (Anatomy/Zoology) to be an os

3. to be a structure from an edible animal, used as food i.e. ham bone
4. to be ivory, whalebone or tusk
5. to be a small concession intended to pacify or calm, to be graft, a lure or gift

The elected official threw us **a bone** hoping to keep our mouth shut.

6. (slang) to be a kickback, payola, hush money or protection money
7. to be a color
8. (slang) to be a student who studies diligently
9. *to be a vulgar term for penis*

***to be a bone addict***

to be a woman who is obsessed with sex (with a male)

***to be a bone head***

1. to be a person who is stupid, dumb, not very intelligent or dull

He's such **a bonehead**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be someone who is torpid, obtuse, bovine, undiscerning or slow-witted
3. *(vulgar) to be an asshole, ass or dumb ass*

**to be a bonehead from the neck up**



to be dull-witted, stupid, unintelligent, stupid, foolish or unthinking

He is handsome and can play a mean game of basketball but he **is a bonehead from the neck up.**

**(to be) a bone-on**

to be an erection (of the penis)

**to be a bone of contention**

center or subject of dispute or problem, controversy, conflict, debate

Tell me what's is your **bone of contention**. I would like to nip this bud now.

**to be a bone receptacle**

to be receptacle for the ashes or bone of the dead, to be an ossuary

**to be a bone scraper**

to be a surgical instrument for scraping bones

**to be a bone setter**

one who sets or treats dislocated, fractured or broken bones

He is a **bone setter** and not a doctor. A bone setter is usually allowed to practice only in non-industrialized countries (traditional healer).

**to be a bone shaker (British English)**

to be a vehicle which poor or bad suspension

This car **is a bone shaker.**

**to be a bone shaker**

to shoot craps, to gamble, bet or wager on dices

I wouldn't trust him with my money. He's nothing but **a bone shaker.**

***a bone shaker (British English)***

a old car which shakes because of its poor suspension

I don't like riding in his car; it's ***a bone shaker***.

**(to be) a bone to pick**

1. to be a disagreement, difference of opinion, misunderstanding, or dispute

I need to talk to you now. I have **a bone to pick** with you.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be disaccord, dissidence, altercation, lack of agreement, dissension or contention

3. (less formal to informal) to be a quarrel, bickering or squabbling

**to be a bone yard**

to be a cemetery

This **is** the **bone yard** where all my family is buried.

**to be a boner**

to be the erection of the penis as the result of being sexually stimulated

**to be a boner**

to be a slip, goof-up, flaw or dumb mistake

All I can say is that **was a boner**. You must be super embarrassed.

**to be a bonne bouche (French in English)**

literal meaning: a good taste in the mouth

meaning in English: (cooking) an appetizing and sweet item of food at the end of the meal

**to be a bonne femme (French in English)**

literal meaning: in the manner of a good housewife

meaning in English: (cooking) prepared or cooked in a simple manner

to be a bonnet (British English)

to be a car hood

***to be a Bonnie and Clyde (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a snide (to be a fake, not genuine or authentic)

**to be a bonny baby**

to be a healthy, not sickly looking or not too thin baby

**to be a bonny sum**

to be a large or more than sufficient amount

That's **a bonny sum**. I do believe that I'm satisfied.

**to be a bonsella (South African English)**

to be a tip or gratuity

**to be a bonsella (South African English)**

to be little extra or a bonus

**bonzer (Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be excellent, first-rate, swell, crackerjack

***to be a boo-boo***

to be a blunder, mistake, slip-up or error

That ***was a boo-boo***. I did not mean to say that.

***to be a boob***

to be not very intelligent, be a chump or sap

I can't believe that you did that. All I can say

is that you **are a boob**.

**to be a boob**

breast of a woman

This **boob** is bigger than that one.

**to be a boob tube (British English)**

a strapless, elastic tight-fitting top for a woman

**to be a booby prize**

to be the prize given to the loser

This **is a booby prize**. It's nothing to be proud of.

**to be a booby trap**

to be a bomb below an apparently innocent object, i.e.  
a bomb placed below a body or in a bag

Don't touch anything. There could **be a booby trap** here.

**to be a booby trap**

to be a practical joke in which an object is placed  
on top of a door ready to fall when someone passes through

**to be a boofhead (Australian English)**

to be a scatterbrain, fool, ninny, idiot or simpleton

**to be a bookie**

(the problem here is the word, **bookie**. Except in legal gamble organizations, such as casinos, a bookie is a criminal. His job is to place bets or to take the bets of others on the outcome of a sporting event (especially but not exclusively horse races). **'Bookie'** is slang for **'bookmaker'** )

I'm not here to hear your life story. **I'm a bookie**, not a priest!

**to be a bookmaker**

to be a person who takes and places bets

If you want to make a bet, call John. He's a **bookmaker**.

**to be a book of words (British English)**

to be a libretto

**to be a book seller (British English)**

to be a bookstore or book shop

**to be a bookstall (British English)**

to be a newsstand, kiosk or (British English) newsagent

**to be a bookworm**

to always be reading or have one's nose in a book

Because he **is a bookworm**, he never goes out and socializes.

**to be a boom and mizzen (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a prison

**to be a boom box**

to be a large portable radio, to be a ghetto box

That **is a** nice **boom box**. Where did you get it?

**to be a boomer (North American English)**

(short for a baby boomer) to be a person born in the U.S. between 1946 to 1964

Bill Clinton **is a boomer**.

**to be a boomer (Australian English)**

to be a large male kangaroo

**to be a boomer (Australian English)**

to be a large wave

***to be a boomerang***

to be blow-back, to be an action which has consequences or which backfires

There's no other way to put it but what happened ***was a boomerang***.

***to be a boon companion (British English)***

to be a good pal or friend with whom one enjoys spending time

**to be a boondoggle**

to be an extravagant, excessive, overindulgent or squandering project

**to be a boong (Australian English)**

to be an insulting and offensive term for an Aborigine

**to be a boot (British English)**

to be a trunk of a car

***to be a boot (British English)***

to be a homely or plain, to not be the nicest looking or the most attractive person

**to be a bootblack**

to be a person who cleans and/or shines one's shoes

***to be a boot boy***

to be a close-cropped rowdy and violent young male who wears heavy boots

**to be a bootlegger**

to be an illegal seller and distributor of CDs

He's quite a **bootlegger**. He even has music that is hard to find.

**to be a bootlicker**

to be a fawner, backslapper or backscratcher

Because he **is a bootlicker**, he can not be trusted.

**to be boots (British English)**

to be a hotel bootblack

**to be a boot sale**

to be the sale of those articles that no longer needs

**to be a booty**

(usually refers to a woman's) to be one's behind, bottom, derrière or (British slang) bum

**to be a booty call**

to be sexual rendezvous, to have sexual intercourse

**to be a booze bus (Australian English)**

to be a police inspection bus park at the side of road to give a breathalyzer test

**to be a booze cruise (British English)**

to be a boat trip from Britain to mainland Europe to purchase alcohol and cigarette at a cheaper price

**to be a boozehound**

to be a person who drinks too much, to be an alcoholic

You know where he's at. He's **a boozehound**; he's in the bar.

**to be a boozer**

to be an alcoholic

He **is a boozer** who is going nowhere.

**to be a boozier**

to be a frequent, heavy or hard drinker, to be one who enjoys drinking a little too much

**to be a boozier**

to be a pub or bar

**to be a bore**

1. to be a pest, annoyance, nuisance or *pain in the ass*
2. to be a drip, wet blanket, pill or loser
3. to be dullsville or nowhere, to be someone who bores one to sleep or death

**to be a bore (British English)**

to be a gauge, to be the internal diameter of a gun barrel

**to be a Boris Becker (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

**to be a pecker** (to be one's penis)

**to be a born and bred (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a bed

**to be a borough (British English)**

to be a basic unit of local government

**to be a boss**

(in a job) to be the person in charge

He's a **boss** in a start up.

**to be a boss**

to be the person in charge of a situation or group



Although he **is the boss** of the group, it does not mean that he's my boss.

**to be a boss**

to be a cow

**to be a boss-cocky (Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be a farmer who employs field hands

**to be a boss-cocky (Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be a person in authority

***to be a boss hogg (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a bog (to be the toilet)

**to be a bossy**

to be a cow or calf

***to be a bossy boots (British English)***

to be very domineering, overbearing or over-aggressively

She **is a bossy boots** who thinks she can tell everyone what to do.

***to be a bot (Australian English)***

to be a perpetual borrower who never has anything to lend

She smokes but never has a cigarette. She **is** such **a bot**.

**to be a bother**

to be a pest, nuisance or annoyance

She **is a bother** that I can no longer tolerate.

**to be a bother**

to be an effort, pain or hassle

Please, having you in our home **is not a bother**.

**to be a bother**

to be a puzzlement, confusion, bewilderment or perplexity

**to be a bother**

to be a nag, bore, a pain in the neck or gadfly

**to be a bothy (British English)**

1. to be a hut, shack, shed, shanty or (Scot) but-and-ben
2. to be a one-room cottage

***to be a bottle and glass (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be one's *arse* (to be one's bottom or derrière)

***to be a bottle and stopper (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a copper (to be a policeman or cop)

**to be a bottle blond**

to be a person who has dyed his or her hair blond

She is not a natural blonde. She **is a bottle blonde**.

***to be a bottle boy (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be an offensive/insulting term for a gay male

***to be a bottle of coke (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a bowler

***to be a bottle of pop (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a shop

***to be a bottle of porter (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a daughter

***to be a bottle of sauce (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a horse

***to be a bottle of Scotch (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a watch

***to be a bottle party (British English)***

to be a party where each guest bring a bottle of alcohol

***to be a bottle shop***

to be a liquor shop, state store or (British English) off-licence or offie

***to be a bottler (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be someone who has lost his nerves

***to be a bottlo (Australian English)***

to be a liquor shop, to be a store where one's buys alcohol

***(to be a) bottom feeder***

to be of very low social status and who survives by any means possible

Many people consider lawyers and used car salesmen as ***bottom feeders***.

***to be a bottomless pit***

to be a persons who eats a lot, to be someone who can eat one out of house and home

He ***is a bottomless pit***. Two sandwiches is nowhere near enough.

***to be a boulder holder (British English)***

to be a bra

***to be a boulder holder (British English)***

to be a jockey strap

**to be a bouncer**

to be a person who is employed by a bar or club  
to keep order

He is so big and masculine because he **is a bouncer**.

***to be a bounder (British English)***

to be a rogue, scoundrel, incorrigible, creep

**to be a bouquet of assholes**

to be an annoying, obnoxious or disgusting person

**to be a bounty hunter**

to be a person who pursues criminals for money

He **is a bounty hunter** who will stop at nothing to bring someone in. He loves money.

**to be a Bourke (Australian English)**

to be an unsettled and a remote, isolated, far or distant area

**to be a boutade (French in English)**

to be an escapade, practical joke, trick or prank

**to be a bovine**

to be a cow, buffalo or bison

***to be a bowl of fruit (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a suit

**to be a bowler (British English)**

to be a derby hat

**to be a bowler (British English)**

(cricket) to be equal to the pitcher in baseball

**to be a bowler hat (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a *twat* (to be a stupid, dumb, disgusting or revolting person)

**to be a bowl of chalk (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a walk

**to be a bowler hat**

to be a *twat* (to be a stupid, dumb, disgusting or revolting person)

**to be a box**

to be one's vagina

**to be a box (gay expression)**

to be the male genitals as contained within a garment, such as in one's underwear

**to be a box lunch**

(oral sex) to be the genitals of a male

This morning I had **a box lunch**.

**to be a box of birds (Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be happy, contented, like a pea in a pod or satisfied

**to be a box-room (British English)**

to be a very small room used for storage

**to be a box-room (British English)**

1. to be a tiny bedroom
2. to be a storage room

**to be a box-shifter (British English)**

to be a company which sacrifice customer service in order

to maximize sales

One of the largest retail company in the U.S. **is a box-shifter.**

**to be a box-up**

to be a mix-up, blunder or mistake

**to be a boycott**

to be an organized call to not buy or handle a particular product, to refrain or abstain from buying or dealing with something as a form of protest

You can't buy those. Don't you know that there **is a boycott** on grapes?

**to be a boy band**

to be a singing group of young males to attract pre-teen and younger teen girls

**to be a boy racer (British English)**

to be a young male who loves to drive aggressively and fast in a fancy sports car

**to be a boy toy**

to be a young male with a older, well-to-do female

He's at her beck and call. He's **a boy toy.**

**to be a boy wonder**

to be an exceptionally intelligent or bright male child

**to be a bra-buster**

to be a woman with extraordinarily large breast

**to be a bracer**

to be a strong or stiff alcoholic drink to help brace a person to do something difficult or to hear bad news

**to be a bracero (Spanish in English)**

to be a seasonal laborer in the agricultural sector of the U.S.

**to be a brack (Irish English)**

to be a cake or pastry filled with fruit

**to be a bracket (British English)**

1. to be a large fern
2. to be an area of land covered with both ferns and undergrowth

**to be a Bradbury (British English)**

to be a one pound note

**to be a braggart**

to be a boaster, loud or big mouth, windbag or swagger

He has always **been a braggart**.

**to be a Brahman (Hindi in English)**

to be the highest of the Hindu cast

**to be a brain**

to be a very intelligent or smart person

No wonder he got into Harvard; he **is a brain**.

**to be a brain box (British English)**

to be a person who is astute, clever, no one's fool or on the ball

He's **a brain box** so I would be careful in going up against him.

**to be a brain-drain**

to be the leaving of the educated class to another city or country

There's **a brain-drain** beginning to happen in the U.S. .

**to be a brainiac**

to be a very smart or intelligent, to be an Einstein

**to be a brainstorm**

to be a meeting or gathering where ideas are produced spontaneously

**to be a brainstorm**

to be a sudden or out of the blue clever idea

**to be a brainstorm (British English)**

to be a moment when one is not lucid, rational or mentally capable

**to be a brain teaser**

to be a puzzle or cross word puzzle

**to be a brain trust**

to be a group of intellectuals who advises persons in government and politicians

**to be a brain trust (British English)**

to be a group of experts who spontaneously answer questions in front of an audience or on the radio

**to be a brand leader**

to be a major or principle company in a particular area

Apple **is a brand leader** in personal computers.

**to be a brand name**

to be the name, mark or trademark of a product, i.e. GM or Sony

If it **is a brand name**, it will cost a lot.

**to be a brass (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a prostitute



**to be a brass band** (*British English/ cockney rhyming slang*)  
to be one's hand

**to be a brass door** (*British English/ cockney rhyming slang*)  
to be a *whore*

**to be a brass flute** (*British English/ cockney rhyming slang*)  
to be a prostitute

**(to be a) brass plate** (*British English*)  
to be a shingle (as in to put out one's shingle)

I have already put up my **brass plate**.

**to be a brat**  
to be a badly behaved child, to be a child who does not listen  
to their parents or elders

She **is a brat** who needs a good spanking.

**to be a brat pack**  
to be a group of young, brass, popular, handsome rowdy and rich  
film stars who are very good friends and who hang together

There has **been a brat pack** every generation.

**(to be) a brave face**  
to look composed, sound, sturdy, unshrinking or dauntless during an  
especially trying time  
I know that she is upset although she is putting on **a brave face**.

**to be a brazen face**  
to be insolent, shameless, forward or brash

What **a brazen-face** girl; nothing shames her.

**to be a brow day** (*Scottish English*)

to be a lovely, nice or fine day

**to be a brawl**

to be a fight, scuffle, ruckus or altercation

That **was a brawl** that destroyed the bar.

**to be a breadhead (British English)**

to a person who is fixated, crazed or obsessed with making money

**to be a bread and butter issue**

to be a basic issues that are fundamental to one's existence

This **is a bread and butter issue** that everyone should be interested in.

**to be a bread and butter issue (political term)**

to be a term used to define issues which are considered basic and fundamental

The problem of unemployment **is a bread and butter issue**.

**to be a breath of fresh air**

to be something new and refreshing, be a new face

All the students love her; she's **a breath of fresh air**.

**to be a breath of life to someone**

to invigorate, liven up, animate, stimulate, inspire, motivate, or arouse

His presence in her life **was a breath of life to her**.

**to be a bread bin (British English)**

to be a bread box

***to be a bread knife (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be one's wife

**(to be) a bread line**

to be a line of persons waiting in line for free food from a governmental or private agency

I was so embarrassed when my sister saw me standing in **a bread line**.

**to be a bread roll (British English)**

to be a bun or roll

**to be a bread-winner**

to be the person in the family who earns the majority of the money for that the family can live

Just because you **are the bread-winner**, it does not mean that you call the shots. We are equal.

**to be a break**

to be a rest, to be a pause or a temporary stoppage of work or school

Let's take **a break** for ten minutes. When we come back we'll be more refreshed.

**to be a break**

to be a fracture of one's bone

It **was a** bad **break**. I had to put my arm in a cast.

**to be a break (British English)**

to be an interval, interruption or pause, i.e. to use the restroom (not used as in English to refer to the daily pause at school)

**to be a break**

to be an escape or breakout from an institution, i.e. prison or jail

It **was a (jail) break** that no one was expecting.

**to be a break**

to be an opportunity, opening, chance or stroke of luck

His mentioning our web site on his radio **was a break** that really helped our business.

**(to be) a breakdown**

(mechanical) to no longer function or operate

I had **a breakdown** on the way here. That car always gives me problem.

**to be a breakdown**

to be a collapse, coming apart, falling apart or failure

There **was a breakdown** in the talks. No other talks have been scheduled.

**to be a breakdown**

(emotional) to be a nervous or emotional collapse, to be a nervous breakdown, to be coming apart at the seams

**to be breakdown gang (British English)**

to be a wrecking crew

**to be a breakdown lorry (British English)**

to be a tow truck

**(to be a) break up**

to be a separation, divorce or a parting of the ways

The **break up** was especially nasty.

**to be a break with the past**

to be a discontinuation, rupture or separation with what had been

What I need **is a break with the past.**

**to be a breakaway from**

to be a sudden and radical departure from what had been long-established or time-honored

Allowing women into the club **was a breakaway from** a tradition that went back hundreds of years.

**to be a break-in**

to be an illegal or forced entry in a place, i.e. into one's home or place of work

There **was a break-in** last night. That makes three this month.

**to be a breakout**

to be an escape from an institution, i.e. from prison or jail

It **was a breakout** that no one had thought possible.

**to be a breakthrough**

to be an important discovery that one has been working toward

The finding of these diaries **is a breakthrough** that no one was expecting.

**to be a breath of fresh air**

to be something new and refreshing, to be a new face

All the students love her; she's **a breath of fresh air**.

**to be a breath of life to someone**

to invigorate, to liven up, to animate, to stimulate,

His presence in her life **was a breath of life to her**.

**(to be) a breather**

to be a pause, a break, or the stopping for a minute or two to rest

If I don't take a **breather**, I'm going to start making mistakes.

**to be a breeze**

to be easy or not at all difficult

The exam **was a breeze**.

**to be a brew** (*British English/ cockney rhyming slang*)

to be a cup of tea

**to be a brew** (*British English/ cockney rhyming slang*)

to be a pint of beer

**to be a brew of**

to be a mixture or group of people who could be volatile or dangerous

There **was a brew of** people which really scared the authorities.

**to be a brewery**

to be an establishment where beer is produced for commercial consumption

**to be a Brian Clough** (*British English/ cockney rhyming slang*)

to be a puff (to be a cigarette)

**to be a bribe**

to be a kickback or pay-off, to be hush-money or graft

It **was a bribe** of quite a bit of money. Of course, I didn't take it.

*to be a bric-à-brac* (*French in English*)

to be a junk dealer or (British English) seller of rubbish

**to be a brick**

to be a kilogram of tightly compact marijuana in the

form of a brick

**to be a brick-and-mortar business**

to be a real business which exists in an actual city on an actual street versus a virtual business which exists only in cyberspace

Because it **is a brick-and-mortar business**, I have to pay rent and upkeep.

**to be a brick short of a load (British English)**

to not be the most intelligent person, stupid, dumb or backward

He's nice but frankly he **is a brick short of a load**.

**to be a brick short of a load (British English)**

to be crazy, mentally unbalanced, not all there, not totally sane

Stay away from him. He **is a brick short of a load**.

**to be a brickie (Australian English)**

to be a bricklayer

**to be a bride**

1. to be a woman who is about to get married
2. to be a woman who has just married

**to be a bridegroom**

1. to be a man who is about to marry
2. to be a man who has just gotten married

**to be a bridge**

to be a connection to link two incompatible parties

This can **be a bridge** between you and your husband if you let it.

**to be a brig (Scottish English)**

to be a bridge

**to be a bridgehead**

(military term) to be a base, foundation, hold, support, place on which to stand or position oneself

**to be a bright spark (British English)**

(ironic) to be a person who is witty, astute, smart as a fox or smart as a tact

Yeah, I heard you. Right. She **is a bright spark**.

**to be a bright student**

to be an intelligent or very smart student

Don't worry about her. She's **a bright student**.

**to be a bright young thing**

to be a pretty, perky, smart and alert young person

Haven't you seen his latest conquest. She's **a bright young thing**.

**to be a brilliant student**

to be a very smart, intelligent, quick or gifted student

He **is a brilliant student** who will go far.

**(to be a) Brit (British English)**

to be a resident of the United Kingdom

The **Brits** sometimes speak an English incomprehensible to Americans.

**to be a Briticism**

to be an expression in English used only in British, rather than other versions of, English



That **was a Briticism** if I've ever heard one.

**to be a Briton (British English)**

to be an inhabitant of The United Kingdom

***to be a bro'***

(short for brother) to be a black man

He's **a bro'** that you can trust.

**to be a broad**

to be an insulting term for a woman

Who's **that broad**?

**to be a broad bean (British English)**

to be similar to a lima bean

**to be a broad brush**

to be a sweeping, wide or wide-spreading comprehensiveness which lacks fineness and detail

That **is a broad brush** with which you are painting everyone. Do you think that's fair?

**to be a broad-minded person**

to be a person who is open, inclusive, unbiased or liberal

Because she **is a broad-minded person**, she will listen to you.

**to be a broad sheet (British English)**

to be a newspaper which is considered more serious and much less sensationalist than a tabloid

**to be a brock (British English)**

to be a badger

**to be a Brock's benefit (British English)**

to be a fireworks display

**to be a brogue (British English)**

to be an Irish or Scottish accent in English (as distinct from an American or English accent)

**to be a broken bones**

to be fractured, shatter or splinter bone (usually as a result of an injury or accident)

As a result of the bombing, she has a number of **broken bones**.

**to be a broken home**

to be a home in which the parents have divorced, to be a single-headed household

**to be a broker**

to be a dealer, intermediary or middle-man

He **is a broker**. Why do you need to go through a middle man.

**to be a broolly (British English)**

to be an umbrella

**to be a broomrape (British English)**

to be a parasitic plant

**to be a broom stick (British English)**

to be a brush with a twig and a long handle

**(to be) a Bronx cheer**

to be a loud boo or any other expression of derision

They gave her performance **a Bronx cheer**.

**to be a broth of a boy (Irish English)**

to be a lively or energetic young male, to be a young male who is full of life

**to be a brothel**

to be a place where one can find a prostitute, a house where prostitutes work

**to be a brother**

to be a black male

He's a **brother** who you can trust.

**to be a brother-german (British English)**

to be an archaic outdated term to describe one's full-brother, as opposed to one's half-brother

**to be a brouhaha**

to be a commotion, tumult, ruckus or uproar

It **was a brouhaha** for nothing. Nothing happened.

**to be a brown bag lunch**

to have bought one's own lunch to work rather than buy it at a restaurant

**to be a Brown Betty (British English)**

to be a large earthenware teapot

**to be a Brown Betty**

to be a baked desert or pudding made with apples or other type of fruit

**to be browneye (Australian English)**

to a person who bends over to show his or her buttocks,  
to be a person who moons someone (American English)

**to be a brown-noser**

to be simpering, fawning, compliant, submissive, menial, groveling or crawling

He **is a brown-noser** who will do anything.

**to be a brown noser**

to be sycophant, apple polisher, brown-nose or bootlicker

**to be a brown out**

to be a partial or not a total black out (only some electrical power is turn off or down)

**(to be) a brownie point**

a point of approval that one gets from one's boss as a result of trying to please or accommodate him

Good, for all that you got **a brownie point**.

**to be a browse**

to be a magazine made to be casually looked at

**to be a bruiser**

to be an aggressive and problematic person who always are looking for an argument or fight

He's **a bruiser**. He is always looking for someone to fight.

**to be a bruiser**

to be a professional boxer

**to be a brunette**

to be a brown-hair person

**to be a brush-up (British English)**

to clean or tidy oneself up

**to be a bubba**

to be a white Southern male, depending on context this word can be used affectionately or insultingly

He's **a bubba** and he's proud.

**to be a Bubble Bath (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a laugh

**to be a bubble brain**

to be stupid or dumb, to not be the smartest person

She's pretty but also **a bubble brain**.

**(to be) a bubble butt**

to have a large backside, to have a derrière shaped like a large bubble

She's pretty and has a beautiful body. She has **a bubble butt**.

**to be a bubble head**

to be stupid, dumb or not the smartest person

She's pretty but also **a bubble head**.

**to be a buck (North American, Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be a dollar bill

Do you have **a buck**?

**to be a buck (British English)**

to be a basket used to trap eels or eel trap

**(to be) a buck**

to be a sexually attractive, independent, young male

I have never seen such **a buck** like him before.

**to be a bucket shop (British English)**

to be a travel agency which specializes in selling cheap ticket

It's **a bucket shop** where you can get a ticket to anywhere.

**to be a buckling (British English)**

to be a smoked herring

**to be a buckshee (British English)**

to be a gift, present, gratuity or something free of charge

**to be a bud**

to be a friend, sidekick or pal

He's **a bud** so I don't want to hear anything about him.

**(to be) a buddy**

friend, pal, sidekick, (British English) marrow

Since we've **been buddies**, we haven't had problems.

**to be a budget**

(North America/government) to be an estimate, costs, financial statement, operating expenses or (British) tax bill

**to be a budgie (British English)**

to be a small parakeet

**to be a buff**

to be a devotee, fan or aficionado

He's **a movie buff**. He goes at least three times a day.

**to be a buffer (British English)**

1. to be a shock absorbing piston projecting from a cross-beam at the end of a railway track

2. to be a shock absorbing piston on the front and rear of a railway vehicle

**to be a buffer (British English)**

to be a silly or foolish older person, to be a featherbrain or pin head

**to be a buffet (British English)**

(railroad station) to be a lunch counter or snack bar

**to be a buffoon**

to be a jester, clown, or jokester

Stop **being** such a **buffoon** and take this class seriously.

**to be a bug**

to be a secret microphone planted in one's home or phone  
to eavesdrop on one's conversation

I think that there **is a bug** in my house.

**to be a bug**

to be a generic term for an insect

**(to be) a bug**

to be a microorganism which causes flu

I got a **bug** so I can't come in. I'll infect everyone.

**to be a bug (British English)**

to be a bedbug

**(to be) a bug in one's ear**

a subtle suggestion or hint

He put a **bug in my ear** that she was not really my friend.

***to be a bug-fucker***

1. to be a male with a small penis
2. to be a small penis

***to be a bugger (British English)***

to be a male who engages in anal sex

***to be a bugger (British English and North American English)***

to be cheeky, impudent, insolent or sassy

***to be a bugger (British English and North American English)***

to be a rogue, bum, good-for-naught, louse or stinker

***to be a builder's merchant (British English)***

to be a building supply firm

***to be building society (British English)***

to be a savings and loan association

***to be a bull***

to be a male bovine

***to be a bull***

to be a large male animal, i.e. male elephant

***to be a bull***

(stock market) to be a person who buys low to sell high

***to be a bull***

(Roman Catholic Church) to be a papal edict

***to be a bull and cow (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)***

to be a row ( argument or quarrel)



***to be a bull artist***

to be someone who is able to convince others of a lie, to be someone who is astute in deceiving or tricking others

Don't believe anything that he says. He's ***a bull artist***.

***to be a bull bitch***

to be a derogatory term for a female who appears more male than female

***to be a bull dagger***

to be a derogatory term for a lesbian who appears more male than female

***to be a bull diker***

to be a derogatory term for a lesbian who appears more male than female

***to be a bull dyker***

to be a derogatory term for a lesbian who appears more male than female

***to be a bull-dog***

to be a persistent, stubborn, resolute or determinate person

He's ***a bull-dog***. He will keep scratching until he finds something.

***to be a bulldog (British English)***

to be a monitor or proctor's assistant at Oxford or Cambridge

***to be a bull dyke***

to be a derogatory term for a lesbian who appears more male than female

***to be a buller (British English)***

(short for bulldog) to be a monitor or proctor's assistant at Oxford or Cambridge

**to be a bullet-head**

to be a person who is not easily hurt, offended or insulted, hard, unpitiful, untouched, unmerciful, insensitive, callous, unfeeling, shrewd, frigid or uncaring

He **is a bullet head**. He doesn't give a damn about anyone but himself.

**to be a bull in a china chest**

to be clumsy or awkward person

I don't like to take him with me; he **is a bull in a china chest**.

***to be a bull session***

to be a meeting where persons complain and express their feeling

I did not know that this was going to ***be a bull session***.

***to be a bull shit artist***

to be someone who is able to talk anyone into anything

I don't believe anything that he says. He's ***a bull shit artist***.

***to be a bull shitter***

to be a braggart or peacock

You ***are*** nothing but ***a bull shitter***. I don't believe anything that you say.

***to be a bull shooter***

to be a person who boasts and brags

**to be a bullock**

to be a castrated bovine who has been raised for beef

**to be a bull's eye**

1. to be an easy target or mark to hit

He was an easy target; he **was a bull's eye**.

2. to be a victim, laughingstock or fool

He has always **been a bull's eye**.

**to be a bully**

to be a person who uses force and violence to cow,  
to cower or to intimidate

He's a **bully**.

***to be a bully boy (British English)***

to be a male who intimidates, bullies or brow beats

***to be a bum***

to be a person who does not work and who lives off of others

He's nothing but **a bum**.

***to be a bum fuck***

to be or have anal sex

***to be a bumble (British English)***

to be a bureaucrat, lowly clerk in love with red tap, puffed up  
minor official or pompous bureaucrat

***to be a bumboy (British English)***

to be a young homosexual male prostitute

***to be a bum-freezer (British English)***

to be an especially short jacket or an *ass freezer*

***to be a bumhole engineer (British English)***

to be an offensive and vulgar term for a gay male

**to be a bum rap**

to be a fake charge, to be set up for a crime that one has not committed

He spent years in prison on **a bum rap**.

**(to be) a bum steer**

to erroneous advice or instruction

I trusted him but he gave me **a bum steer**.

**to be a bum's rush**

ejection of a person from a public place

Make no mistake. That **was a bum's rush**.

**(to be) a bummer**

a disappointment

What **a bummer!** I thought that he was my friend.

**to be a bummer**

to be bad, not to be something which is good

It **was a bummer** that I couldn't watch the movie in Memphis.

**to be a bumpkin**

to be rustic, to be a hillbilly, hick, (Scot) cuddy or (British) joskin

He **is a bumpkin** so what do you expect?

**to be a bunch**

to be a lot of, group, cluster, heap or mass

There's **a bunch** of reasons why I don't agree.

**to be a bunch punch**

to be an act of serial copulation with one female and a group of males

**to be a bundle**

to be a lot or a great deal of money

That's **a bundle**. Where did you get so much money?

**to be a bundle of nerves**

to be extremely nervous or anxious

I must calm down; I'm **a bundle of nerves**.

**to be a bungalow**

to be cottage

**to be a bungalow (British English)**

to be a one-story house

**to be a bunk-up (British up)**

to be an extra help up, to be a leg-up, to be a push up

**to be a bunny**

to a child name for a rabbit

**to be a bunny (Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be a easy mark, victim, soft touch or dupe

He is and will always **be a bunny**.

**to be a bunny boiler**

to be a vengeful woman who has been wronged in love

**to be a bunny fuck**

to be very quick sex

**to be a bunny hugger**

to be an insulting term for an animal lover

**to be a buppie**

to be a black yuppie (young urban professional)

**to be a 'burb**

to be a suburb

I live in one of the **'burbs** near New York.

**to be a bureau**

to be a chest of drawers

**to be a bureau (British English)**

to be a writing desk with drawers

**to be burfi (Hindi in English)**

to be an Indian sweet

**to be a burglar**

to be a thief or robber who breaks into one's home

He's a **burglar** but he is not a killer.

**to be a burka (Persian in English)**

to be loose fitting garment which covers a woman from head to toe so that she can not be seen

**to be a burn (British English)**

to be a cigarette

**to be a Burnt Cinder (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a window

**to be a bursar (British English)**

1. to be a treasurer
2. to be a scholarship student or (British English) exhibitioner

**to be a bushwhacker (Australian English)**

to be a person who lives in the bush (in an isolated rural area)

**to be a Bushey park (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a lark

**to be a bushman's breakfast (Australian English)**

to be no breakfast

**to be a bush lawyer (Australian and New Zealand English)**

to be an unqualified lawyer, to be a lawyer who is not up to par

**to be a business day**

to be Monday through Friday, to be a working day

Monday **is a business day** but Saturday is not.

**to be a busker (British English)**

to be a street entertainer

**to be a Buster Keaton (British English/ cockney rhyming slang)**

to be a meeting

**to be a busy bee**

to be very busy and organized, to be occupied

Forget calling her. She's quite **a busy bee** now.

**to be a busy-body**

to be someone who minds other people's business

Be careful what you say; she's **a busybody** from way back.

**to be a busy-Lizzie (British English)**

(common house plant) to be an East African plant which blossoms white, red or pink flowers

**to be a bust-up (British English)**

to be a serious argument, dispute or quarrel

**to be a busybody**

to be a snoop, meddler or eavesdropper

She **is a busybody** so please don't tell her anything.

**to be a but and ben (Scottish English)**

to be a two room cabin or hut

***to be a butch***

to be a woman who has masculine traits or characteristic

She may ***be a butch*** but to call her so is very insulting.

**to be a butcher**

to be a meat-merchant, cutter, vendor or seller

My father **was a butcher**. My grandfather and great-grandfather had also been one.

**to be a butcher**

mass-murderer, killer, annihilator or murderer

I no longer know if he had **been a butcher** or not.

**to be a butt of joke**

to be a victim or on the receiving end of a joke, to be a laughingstock

He walked away because he does not like to be **a butt of a joke**.



***to be a butterball***

to be a heavy, chubby or fat person

She has ***been a butterball*** for quite a long time.

***to be a butthead***

1. to be an obnoxious, disgusting or sickening person
2. to be a dumb or stupid person

**to be a butthole**

to be the anus

**to be a buttinsky**

to be a snoop, busybody or meddler

Stop being such a buttinsky. Mind your own business.

**to be a buttons (British English)**

to be a bellhop

**to be a butt-peddler**

to be a prostitute, whore, hooker or call girl

***to be a butty (British English)***

to be a buddy

**to be a buy**

to be a product that one can purchase at a good price,  
to be a bargain or a steal

I was wrong to believe that my house **was a buy**.

**to be a buy-out**

to purchase the controlling share of a company in order  
to gain control over the company

It **was a buy-out** which I could not resist. It was a steal.

**to be a buy-out**

to pay an employee to retire early from his/her position in a company

**to be a buzz-cut**

to cut one's hair very short with clipper

***to be a by-blow (British English)***

to be an outdated expression for a male's illegitimate child, to be a bastard

**to be a by-election (British English)**

to be a special election of a member to fill a vacancy in the House of Commons

***BYO (British and Australian English)***

to be a '**bring your own**' (own means bottle of alcohol) party

***to be a BYO joint (British and Australian English)***

to be a '**bring your own**' (own means bottle of alcohol) club

***BYOG (British, New Zealand and Australian English)***

to be '**bring your own grog**' (grog means bottle of alcohol)

***to be a BYOG joint (British, New Zealand and Australian English)***

to be '**bring your own grog**' (grog means bottle of alcohol)

**to be a bystander**

to be a person a witness, a spectator, onlooker

He's not involved. He's only **a bystander**.

