baboon
large terrestrial monkeys having doglike muzzles

bacchanalian
drunken; relating to reveling and drunkenness

badinage
teasing conversation; good-humored, playful conversation

baffle
frustrate as by confusing or perplexing; impede force or movement of

balanced
hold or carry in equilibrium

bald
hairless; lacking a natural or usual covering

baleful
portending evil; harmful in intent or effect.

balk
stop short and refuse to go on; refuse obstinately or abruptly

ballast
heavy substance used to add stability or weight

balloon
large non-rigid bag filled with gas or heated air

banal
obvious and dull; commonplace; lacking originality

bandanna
large and brightly colored handkerchief; often used as a neckerchief

bandleader
leader of a dance band; musician who leads a band of musicians

bandy
discuss lightly or glibly; exchange words heatedly

banner
flag; sign; a newspaper headline that runs across the full page

**banquet**
feast; entertainment of eating and drinking

**bantering**
good-natured ridiculing; cleverly amusing in tone

**barber**
haircutter; one whose business is to cut hair and to shave or trim beards

**bard**
poet, especially lyric poet

**barely**
just; only; hardly; scarcely

**barge**
flatboat; long, large boat for transporting freight that is unpowered and towed or pushed by other craft

**baroque**
complex or bizarre, especially in ornamentation; irregular in shape

**barrage**
artificial obstruction; heavy curtain of artillery fire; rapid, concentrated discharge of missiles

**barricade**
hastily put together defensive barrier; obstacle

**barterer**
trader; one who trades goods for other goods without involving money

**bask**
luxuriate; take pleasure in warmth

**bastion**
fortress; projecting part of fortification; well-fortified position

**bate**
let down; restrain; lessen force or intensity of; moderate

**bauble**
small, showy ornament of little value; child's plaything or toy

**bawdy**
indecent; obscene; humorously coarse
**beard**
hairsty growth on or near the face of certain mammals

**beatific**
completely happy and contented; showing or producing exalted joy

**beatitude**
blessedness; state of extreme happiness

**becalm**
keep from motion, or stop progress of; make calm or still

**beckon**
signal or summon, as by nodding or waving; attract because of inviting or enticing appearance

**becloud**
make less visible; obscure or blur; darken with or as if with clouds

**bedizen**
ornament something in showy, tasteless, or gaudy finery

**bedraggle**
wet thoroughly; stain with mud; soil or wet by dragging in dirt, mud, moist places

**bedrock**
foundation; basis; solid rock that underlies loose material, such as soil, sand, clay, or gravel

**beeline**
direct, quick route; direct, straight course

**befuddle**
confuse thoroughly; becloud and confuse, as with liquor; make stupid with alcohol

**beget**
produce; give rise to

**beguile**
mislead; delude; deceive by guile

**behemoth**
huge creature; something enormous in size or power

**belabor**
discuss repeatedly; attack verbally; work hard upon

**belated**
having been delayed; done or sent too late
beleaguer
besiege or attack; harass; surround with troops

believe
contradict; give a false impression

bellicose
warlike or hostile in manner or temperament; showing or having impulse to be combative

belligerent
inclined or eager to fight; aggressive

bemoan
regret strongly; express disapproval of

bemused
confused; lost in thought; preoccupied

benediction
blessing; invocation of divine blessing; expression of good wishes

beneficial
helpful; tending to promote physical well-being

benign
kindly; favorable; not malignant

bequeath
leave to someone by a will; hand down

bequest
inheritance; legacy; act of giving, leaving by will, or passing on to another

berate
rebuke or scold angrily and at length

bereavement
grievous loss; particularly, the loss of a relative or friend by death

bereft
deprived of; lacking; desolate because of loss

beset
attack from all sides; trouble persistently; hem in

besiege
surround with armed forces; harass with requests
besmirch
soil, smear so as to make dirty or stained

bestial
beastlike; brutal; lacking in intelligence or reason

bestow
give as gift; present

betoken
signify; indicate; be a visible sign of; give evidence of

betroth
become engaged to marry; promise to marry

bevy
large group; a group of animals or birds, especially larks or quail

bewilder
lead into perplexity or confusion; perplex with mazes

bicameral
composed of or based on two legislative chambers or branches

bicker
engage in a petty, bad-tempered quarrel

biennial
every two years; lasting or living for two years

bigotry
stubborn intolerance; excessive zeal or warmth in favor of a party, sect, or opinion

bilious
suffering from indigestion; appearing as if affected by disorder; sickly

bilk
defraud or cheat; frustrate or disappoint; evade or escape from

bill
invoice; act; proposal; statement or list of particulars, such as a theater program or menu

bellowing
swelling out in waves; surging; stormy; affected by storms

bitter
harsh or corrosive in tone; painful; acrid; acrimonious
**bivouac**
temporary encampment; a site where people on holiday can pitch tent

**bizarre**
fantastic; violently contrasting; strangely unconventional in style or appearance

**blanch**
cause to turn white or become pale; take color from; bleach

**bland**
lacking stimulating or mild; agreeable

**blandishment**
flattery; speech or action expressive of affection or kindness, and tending to win the heart

**blanket**
heavy, loosely woven fabric, usually of wool, and having a nap, used in bed clothing

**blare**
 loud, harsh roar or screech; dazzling blaze of light

**blast**
explode; burst; gale; very strong gust of wind or air

**blench**
draw back, from lack of courage or resolution; turn pale, as if in fear

**blighted**
suffering from a disease; destroyed, ruined, or spoiled

**blithe**
gay; joyous; carefree and lighthearted

**block**
hinder; obstruct; indicate broadly without great detail; sketch

**bloom**
flower; blossom; best time of youth; period of greatest prosperity or productivity

**bludgeon**
short heavy club, usually of wood; heavy-headed weapon

**blues**
gloom; depressed spirits

**blunder**
serious mistake typically caused by ignorance or confusion
**blunt**
Having a dull edge or end; not sharp; lacking in feeling; insensitive

**bluster**
Blow in heavy gusts; speak in a loudly arrogant or bullying manner

**boastful**
Exhibiting self-importance

**bohemian**
Unconventional in an artistic way

**boisterous**
rough and stormy; loud, noisy, and lacking in restraint or discipline

**bolster**
Support or prop up with or as if with a long narrow pillow or cushion

**bombardment**
Attack with missiles; continuous attack with shot and shell upon a town, fort, or other position

**bombastic**
Pompous; using inflated language; high-sounding but with little meaning

**boon**
Blessing; benefit bestowed, especially in response to a request

**boorish**
rude and clumsy in behavior; ungentlemanly; awkward in manners

**bore**
Drill; make a hole in or through, with or as if with a drill

**bounce**
Jolt; rebound after having struck an object or a surface

**boundary**
Dividing line; border; frontier

**boundless**
Being without boundaries or limits; infinite; vast

**bountiful**
Abundant; graciously generous; giving freely and generously

**bovine**
Dull, slow-moving, and stolid, like an ox; placid and dull
bow  inclination of head, or bending of body for reverence, respect, civility, or submission; bending or rounded part of ship forward

bowdlerize  edit by omitting or modifying parts considered offensive, vulgar, or otherwise unseemly

bowlegged  have legs that curve outward at the knees

braggart  boaster; one given to loud, empty boasting; very talkative person

brandish  move or wave, as a weapon; raise and move in various directions

brawl  fight; noisy quarrel or fight; loud party

brawling  noisy; act of quarreling or fighting; making the noise of rushing water

brawn  solid and well-developed muscles, especially of the arms and legs

breadth  measure or dimension from side to side; width; extent

breakup  divorce; separation; loss of control or composure

brevity  quality or state of being brief in duration; concise expression

brindled  of brownish, tawny colour, with streaks, spots, or patterns

brisk  marked by speed, liveliness, and vigor; energetic; swift; keen or sharp in speech or manner

bristling  rising like bristles; showing irritation

bristly  having or covered with protective barbs or others; very irritable

brittle  easily broken; having little elasticity
broach
introduce; bring up for discussion or debate; announce

broil
cook by direct exposure to heat over fire; subject to great heat; be subjected to the action of heat; be greatly heated

browbeat
bully; intimidate; discourage or frighten with threats

brunt
main impact or shock; main burden

brusque
abrupt and curt in manner or speech; rudely abrupt, unfriendly

bubble
foam; dome-shaped covering made of transparent glass or plastic; fantastic or impracticable idea or belief

buccaneer
pirate; robber upon the sea

buckle
fold or collapse; bend out of shape, as under pressure or from heat

bucolic
rustic; pastoral; agricultural; relating to country affairs, or to shepherd's life and occupation

buddy
good friend; comrade; partner, especially one of a pair or team

budget
estimate; a sum of money allocated for a particular purpose

buffoonery
clowning; arts and practices of buffoon, as low jests, ridiculous pranks, vulgar tricks and postures

bullion
gold and silver in the form of bars

bulwark
earthwork or other strong defense; person who defends

bump
impact as from a collision; lump on the body caused by a blow

bumptious
offensively self-assertive; liable to give or take offense; forward; pushing

**bungalow**
small house or cottage usually having a single story and attic

**bungle**
mismanage; blunder; work or act in clumsy, awkward, or blundering manner

**buoyant**
able to float; cheerful and optimistic

**burgeon**
grow forth; send out buds; grow or develop rapidly

**burlesque**
give an imitation that ridicules; imitate mockingly or humorously

**burning**
marked by flames or intense heat; of immediate import; urgent

**burnish**
make shiny by rubbing; polish

**bursar**
treasurer or keeper of funds; purser or treasurer of college or other community

**bustle**
move or cause to move energetically and busily; teem

**butterfly**
insect typically having a slender body with broad colorful wings

**buttress**
support physically; prop up; support something or someone by supplying evidence

**buxom**
healthily plump and ample of figure; full-bosomed; vigorous; jolly