

Nota Bene: B

B

Babbitt: a person who clings to narrow-minded, materialistic ideals of the middle class
baccalaureate: the degree awarded upon completion of an undergraduate course of study
bacchanalian: from Bacchus, Roman god of wine
balderdash: nonsense, ridiculous
bandy: to pass back and forth, to exchange
baneful: extremely harmful, ruinous, or destructive
barbarous: uncivilized or primitive
barrage: concentrated outpouring or volley
beatitude: highest possible blessedness or contentment
bedraggled: harried or in a condition of disarray
befuddle: to confuse or perplex
begging the question: in logic, an informal fallacy in which the conclusion of an argument is stated or assumed in one of the premises; also call *petitio principii* (circular argument)
behaviorism: determinism applied to every detail of man's behavior
belated: late or tardy
beleaguered: embattled, constantly confronted with obstacles
belie: to disprove or demonstrate to be false
belief: a mental state affirmative of a proposition
bellicose: from Bellona, Roman goddess of war
belligerent: quarrelsome, combative
benevolent: doing good
benediction: a formal blessing, an expression of good wishes
benighted: ignorant or unenlightened
berate: to scold or criticize harshly
bequeath: bestow by means of a will
bereaved: in a state of mourning, in deep sorrow or grief at the death of a loved one
beseech: to entreat, implore, or request earnestly
bestial: of, pertaining to, or reminiscent of beasts, savagery or brutality
bestow: to confer or to give
bete noire: something one does not like or finds extremely fearful
bibliotheca: library (abbreviated bibl.)
bigamy: the crime of taking marriage vows while still legally married to someone else
bilateral: involving or pertaining to both sides of something
bilk: to swindle or cheat
binary: pertaining to two
biogenesis: the process of life arising from other living things
bipolar: possessing two sides or poles, marked by diametrically opposed extremes
blasé: unimpressed, bored
blather: to gabble or talk ridiculously
blithe: cheerful or merry in disposition
bludgeon: to beat
bluster: to threaten swaggeringly or issue extravagant threats
bogus: phony, a sham
bohemian: unconventional, reminiscent of a lifestyle free of the restraints and concerns of mainstream society
bombast: to inflate or pompous in style

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bona fide: in good faith, genuine

boor: crude, insensitive and overbearing

botanical: or or pertaining to plant life

bovine: of or pertaining to cows; dull, unresponsive, or slow

braggadocio: bragging or meaningless boasting

brandish: to flourish or shake menacingly

brassy: brazen, cheap, or showy

bravado: an open show of bravery

brazen: disrespectful boldness

brevity: shortness

broach: to propose, to bring up an issue for discussion

brunt: the primary impact of a blow

brusque: short, abrupt

bugaboo: an object of fear

bureaucracy: the concentration of power and authority in administrative bodies

burgeon: to bloom, literally or figuratively

burnish: to shine by polishing, literally or figuratively

buttress: to support or strengthen

bygone: something gone by