

bell

68 languages

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See also: [Bell](#), [bèll](#) and [bell'](#)

English [[edit](#)]

Pronunciation [[edit](#)]

- enPR: bĕl, IPA^(key): /bɛl/
- Audio (US): 0:01
- Rhymes: -ɛl
- Homophone: [belle](#)

Etymology 1 [[edit](#)]

Etymology tree

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From [Middle English](#) *belle* (“bell”), from [Old English](#) *belle* (“bell”), from [Proto-West Germanic](#) **bellā* (“bell”), [Proto-Germanic](#) **bellō* (“bell”), from [Proto-Indo-European](#) **bʰel-* (“to sound”). Cognate with [West Frisian](#) *belle*, *bel* (“bell”), [Dutch](#) *bel* (“bell”), [Low German](#) *Belle*, *Bel* (“bell”), [Danish](#) *bjælde* (“bell”), [Faroese](#) *bjølla* (“bell”), [Icelandic](#) *bjalla* (“bell”), [Norwegian](#) *bjelle* (“bell”), [Swedish](#) *bjällra* (“bell”).

Noun [[edit](#)]

bell (plural **bells**)

- (*music*) A percussive instrument made of metal or other hard material, typically but not always in the shape of an inverted cup with a flared rim, which [resonates](#) when struck.

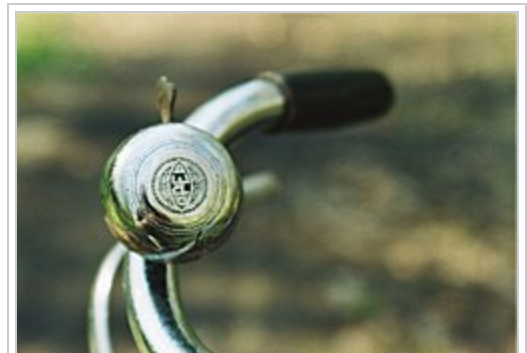
[quotations ▼]

- An instrument that emits a ringing sound, situated on a [bicycle's handlebar](#) and used by the [cyclist](#) to warn of their presence.
- The sounding of a bell as a signal. [quotations ▼]
- (*chiefly British, informal*) A [telephone call](#).

*I'll give you a **bell** later.*



A large **bell**



A bicycle **bell**



English [Wikipedia](#) has an article on:

bell



English [Wikipedia](#) has an article on:

5. A signal at a [school](#) that tells the students when a class is starting or ending.
6. (*music*) The [flared end](#) of a [brass](#) or [woodwind](#) instrument.
7. (*nautical*) Any of a series of [strokes](#) on a bell (or similar), struck every half hour to indicate the [time](#) (within a four hour watch)
8. The flared end of a [pipe](#), designed to mate with a narrow [spigot](#).
9. (*computing*) The [bell character](#). [synonyms ▲]

Synonyms: [alert](#), [beep](#), [\a](#)

10. Anything shaped like a bell, such as the cup or corolla of a flower. [quotations ▼]
11. (*architecture*) The part of the [capital](#) of a [column](#) included between the [abacus](#) and neck molding; also used for the naked core of nearly cylindrical shape, assumed to exist within the [leafage](#) of a capital.
12. The rounded upper part of a [jellyfish](#).
13. (*Scotland, archaic*) A [bubble](#). [quotations ▼]
14. (*British, vulgar, slang*) *Clipping of* [bell-end](#) (“stupid or contemptible person”).

Synonyms [edit]

- (*in heraldry*): [campane](#)
- (*rare*): [tintinnabule](#)

Hyponyms [edit]

Kinds of *bell* (noun)

- [bicycle bell](#)
- [bridle-bell](#)
- [campane](#)
- [curfew](#), [curfew-bell](#)
- [dinner-bell](#)
- [doorbell](#)
- [signum](#), [signum bell](#)
- [squilla](#)
- [table bell](#)

[show more ▼]

Meronyms [edit]

- (*internally suspended tool for striking*): [clapper](#), [tongue](#)
- (*flaring open end*): [mouth](#)

Holonyms [edit]

- (*structure housing bells*): [bell tower](#), [campanile](#)
- (*sets of bells*): [carillon](#), [peal](#)

Coordinate terms [edit]

Terms coordinate with *bell* (noun)

- [alarm](#)
- [ding-dong](#)
- [siren](#)
- [buzz](#)
- [dinger](#)
- [tocsin](#)
- [buzzer](#)
- [gong](#)
- [toll](#)

[show more ▼]

Derived terms [[edit](#)]

- [agogo bell](#)
- [alarm-bell](#)
- [alarm bell](#)
- [bellmaker](#)
- [bellmaking](#)
- [bellman](#)
- [heather-bell](#)
- [hell's bells](#)
- [horse-bell](#)

[show more ▼]

Descendants [[edit](#)]

- → Fiji Hindi: [belo](#)
- → Japanese: [ベル](#) ([beru](#))
- → Korean: [벨](#) ([bel](#))

Translations [[edit](#)]

± percussive instrument	[show ▼]
± sounding of a bell as a signal	[show ▼]
± informal: telephone call	[show ▼]
± signal at a school	[show ▼]
± the flared end of a brass or woodwind instrument	[show ▼]
± nautical: any of a series of strokes struck to indicate time	[show ▼]
± an instrument situated on a bicycle's handlebar	[show ▼]

The translations below need to be checked and inserted above into the appropriate translation tables. See instructions at [Wiktionary:Entry layout § Translations](#).

Translations to be checked	[show ▼]
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See also [[edit](#)]

- *(study of bells)*: [campanology](#)
- *(expert in bells)*: [campanist](#), [campanologist](#)
- *(player of bells)*: [bell-ringer](#), [carilloner](#), [carillonneur](#), [carillonist](#), [ringer](#), [tintinnabulary](#), [tintinnabulist](#)
- *(playing of bells)*: [bell-ringing](#), [tintinnabulation](#), [tintinnabulism](#), [tintinnation](#)
- *(bell-related)*: [campanistic](#), [campanologic](#), [campanarian](#), [tintinnabular](#), [tintinnabular](#), [tintinnabulary](#), [tintinnabulatory](#), [tintinnabulous](#)
- *(related to a peal of bells or bell tower)*: [campanilian](#)
- *(bell-shaped)*: [bell-shaped](#), [campanal](#), [campaniform](#), [campaniliform](#), [campanular](#), [campanulate](#), [campanulated](#), [campanulous](#), [tintinnabulate](#)
- *(containing bells)*: [campaned](#)
- *(sounding like a small bell)*: [jingling](#), [tinkling](#), [tintinnabulant](#), [tintinnabulating](#), [tintinnating](#)

Verb [[edit](#)]

bell (*third-person singular simple present* **bells**, *present participle* **belling**, *simple past and past participle* **belled**)

1. (*transitive*) To attach a bell to.

*Who will **bell** the cat?*

2. (*transitive*) To **shape** so that it **flares** out like a bell.

*to **bell** a tube*

3. (*slang, transitive*) To **telephone**. [quotations ▼]

4. (*intransitive*) To develop bells or **corollas**; to take the form of a bell; to **blossom**.

*Hops **bell**.*

5. To ring a bell. [quotations ▼]

Translations [[edit](#)]

± to attach a bell to	[show ▼]
± to shape as a bell	[show ▼]
± slang: to telephone	[show ▼]

See also [[edit](#)]

- [bell out](#)

Etymology 2 [[edit](#)]

From [Middle English](#) *bellen*, from [Old English](#) *bellan* (“to bellow; make a hollow noise; roar; bark; grunt”), from [Proto-Germanic](#) **bellaną* (“to sound; roar; bark”), from [Proto-Indo-European](#) **bʰel-* (“to sound; roar; bark”). Cognate with [Scots](#) *bell* (“to shout; speak loudly”), [Dutch](#) *bellen* (“to ring”), [German Low German](#) *bellen* (“to ring”), [German](#) *bellen* (“to bark”), [Swedish](#) *böla* (“to low; bellow; roar”).

Verb [[edit](#)]

bell (*third-person singular simple present* **bells**, *present participle* **belling**, *simple past and past participle* **belled**)

1. (*intransitive*) To **bellow** or **roar**. [quotations ▼]
2. (*transitive*) To **utter** in a **loud** manner; to **thunder** forth. [quotations ▼]

Derived terms [[edit](#)]

- [belling](#)

Translations [[edit](#)]

± to bellow	[show ▼]
--------------------------	-----------------------

Noun [[edit](#)]

bell (*plural* **bells**)

- The **bellow** or **bay** of certain animals, such as a **hound** on the hunt or a **stag** in rut.

Translations [[edit](#)]

± **bellow of certain animals**

[[show](#) ▼]

Catalan [[edit](#)]

Etymology [[edit](#)]

Inherited from **Latin** *bellus*. Compare **Occitan** *bèll*, *bèu*, **French** *beau*, **Spanish** *bello*.

Pronunciation [[edit](#)]

- IPA^(key): (*Central, Balearic, Valencia*) [ˈbeɫ]
- Audio (*Catalonia*): 0:01
- Rhymes: -eɫ
- Homophone: vell

Adjective [[edit](#)]

bell (*feminine* **bella**, *masculine plural* **bells**, *feminine plural* **belles**)

- (*literary or dialectal*) **beautiful** [[synonyms](#) ▲]

Synonyms: ben plantat, bonic, bufó, formós, maco, preciós

Usage notes [[edit](#)]

- Disused in most dialects because of its homophony with **vell** (“old”), but still frequently found in literary texts.

Derived terms [[edit](#)]

- bellament**
- bellesa**
- belles arts**
- embellir**

Further reading [[edit](#)]

- “**bell**”, in *Diccionari de la llengua catalana* [*Dictionary of the Catalan Language*] (in Catalan), second edition, **Institute of Catalan Studies** [Catalan: Institut d'Estudis Catalans], April 2007
- “**bell**”, in *Gran Diccionari de la Llengua Catalana*, **Grup Enciclopèdia Catalana**, 2026
- “**bell**” in *Diccionari normatiu valencià*, **Acadèmia Valenciana de la Llengua**.
- Alcover, Antoni Maria; Moll, Francesc de Borja** (1963), “**bell**”, in *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* (in Catalan)

Chinese [[edit](#)]

Etymology [[edit](#)]

(This [etymology](#) is missing or incomplete. Please add to it, or discuss it at the [Etymology scriptorium](#).)

Pronunciation [[edit](#)]

- Cantonese (*Jyutping*): beu⁶ [[more ▼](#)]

Verb [[edit](#)]

bell

- (Cantonese) to **nudge**; to **shove** [[quotations ▼](#)]

Derived terms [[edit](#)]

- bell**開 / **bell**开 (*Cantonese*)
- 鬆bell bell** / **松bell bell** (*Cantonese*)

References [[edit](#)]

- Bolton, Kingsley; Hutton, Christopher (2005), *A Dictionary of Cantonese Slang: The Language of Hong Kong Movies, Street Gangs and City Life*, Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, → [ISBN](#), page 19
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Cornish [[edit](#)]

Etymology 1 [[edit](#)]

From [Latin](#) *bellum* (“war”). Cognate with [Welsh](#) *bêl*, *bel*.

Noun [[edit](#)]

bell *m*. (*uncountable*)

- war** [[synonyms ▲](#)]

Synonyms: [bresel](#), [kas](#)

Derived terms [[edit](#)]

- gostla bell** (“wage war”, verb)

Mutation [[edit](#)]

Mutation of *bell*

radical

soft

aspirate

hard

mixed

bell	vell	<i>unchanged</i>	pell	fell, vell*
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* after *th*

Note: Certain mutated forms of some words can never occur in standard Cornish. All possible mutated forms are displayed for convenience.

Etymology 2 [[edit](#)]

See the etymology of the corresponding [lemma](#) form.

Adjective [[edit](#)]

bell

- soft mutation of* **pell**

German [[edit](#)]

Pronunciation [[edit](#)]

- Audio (*Germany (Berlin)*): 0:02

Verb [[edit](#)]

bell

- singular imperative of* **bellen**
- (colloquial) first-person singular present of* **bellen**

Maltese [[edit](#)]

Etymology [[edit](#)]

From [Arabic](#) بَلَّ (*balla*).

Root
b-l-l
1 term

Pronunciation [[edit](#)]

- IPA^(key): /bɛll/
- Rhymes: -ɛll

Verb [[edit](#)]

bell (*imperfect* **jbell**, *past participle* **miblul**)

- to **dip** (immerse something shortly or partly into a liquid)

Conjugation [[edit](#)]

Old English [\[edit\]](#)

Noun [\[edit\]](#)

bell *f*

1. *alternative form of* **belle**
-

Welsh [\[edit\]](#)

Pronunciation [\[edit\]](#)

- (*North Wales*) IPA^(key): /bɛɨ̯/
- (*South Wales*) IPA^(key): /be:ɨ̯/, /bɛɨ̯/

Adjective [\[edit\]](#)

bell

1. *soft mutation of* **pell**

Mutation [\[edit\]](#)

Mutated forms of *pell*

radical	soft	nasal	aspirate
pell	bell	mhell	phell

Note: Certain mutated forms of some words can never occur in standard Welsh. All possible mutated forms are displayed for convenience.

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