battle | 88

**battle** AS A NOUN = fight, war, attack, action, struggle, conflict, clash, set-to (informal), encounter, combat, scrap (informal), biff (Austral. slang), engagement, warfare, fray, duel, skirmish, head-to-head, tussle, scuffle, fracas, scrimmage, sparring match, bagarre (French), melee or mêlée, boilover (Austral.) • a gun battle between police and drug traffickers

OPPOSITES: accord, peace, agreement

2 = conflict, campaign, struggle, debate, clash, dispute, contest, controversy, disagreement, crusade, strife, head-to-head, agitation • a renewed political battle over their attitude to Europe

3 = campaign, war, drive, movement, push, struggle • the battle against crime

> AS A VERB = wrestle, war, fight, argue, struggle, dispute, contest, combat, contend, feud, grapple, agitate, clamour, scuffle, lock horns • Many people battled with police.

2 = struggle, work, fight, labour, strain, strive, go for it (informal), toil, make every effort, go all out (informal), bend over backwards (informal), go for broke (slang), bust a gut (informal), give it your best shot (informal), break your neck (informal), exert yourself, make an all-out effort (informal), work like a Trojan, knock yourself out (informal), do your damndest (informal), give it your all (informal), rupture yourself (informal) • Doctors battled throughout the night to save her life.

> See panel Famous battles

**battle-axe** = harridan, witch, fury, nag, scold, virago, shrew, tartar, disciplinarian, vixen, termagant, ballbreaker (slang) • an old battle-axe who hasn’t smiled in decades

**battle-cry or slogan** = motto, watchword, catch phrase, tag-line, catchword, catchcry (Austral.) • the ideological battle cry of Hong Kong

2 = war cry, rallying cry, war whoop • He screamed out a battle cry and charged.

**battlefield** = battleground, front, field, war zone, combat zone, field of battle • the battlefields of the Somme

**battlement** = rampart, wall, defence, fence, fort, barricade, stronghold, barbican, bastion, embankment, parapet, fortification, bulwark, earthwork, breastwork, bartizan, crenellation, fortified pa (N.Z.) • Guns could also be seen behind the battlements of the fort itself.

**battleship** = warship, gunboat, man-of-war, ship of the line, capital ship • the rumble of a great battleship going down the slipway

**batty** = crazy, odd, mad, eccentric, bats (slang), out there (slang), nuts (slang), barking (slang), peculiar, daft (informal), crackers (Brit. slang), queer (informal), insane, lunatic, loony (slang), barmy (slang), off the wall (slang), touched, nutty (slang), potty (Brit. informal), oddball (informal), off the rails, cracked (slang), bonkers (slang, chiefly Brit.), cranky (U.S., Canad. & Irish informal), dotty (slang, chiefly Brit.), loopy (informal), crackpot (informal), out to lunch (informal), barking mad (slang), out of your mind, out of your wits, gonzo (slang), screwy (informal), doolally (slang), off your trolley (slang), off the air (Austral. slang), round the twist (Brit. slang), up the pole (informal), off your rocker (slang), not the full shilling (informal), as daft as a brush (informal, chiefly Brit.), wacko or whacko (slang), parang (N.Z.), daggy (Austral. & N.Z. informal) • some batty uncle of theirs

**bauble** = trinket, ornament, trifle, toy, plaything, bagatelle, ginmcrack, gawgaw, knick-knack, bibelot, kickshaw • The trees are decorated with fairy lights and coloured baubles.

**baulk** see balk

**badly** = rude, blue, dirty, gross, crude, erotic, obscene, coarse, filthy, indecent, vulgar, improper, steamy (informal), pornographic, raunchy, coarse, filthy, indecent, vulgar, lecherous, ribald, libidinous, licentious, smutty, lustful, lecherous, ribald, libidinous, licentious, coarse, filthy, indecent, vulgar, lecherous, ribald, libidinous, licentious, smutty, lustful, lecherous, ribald, libidinous, licentious

**FAMOUS BATTLES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>1066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imphal</td>
<td>1944</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inkerman</td>
<td>1854</td>
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<td>Issus</td>
<td>333</td>
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<td>Jemappes</td>
<td>1792</td>
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<td>Jena</td>
<td>1866</td>
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<td>Killiecrakie</td>
<td>1869</td>
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<td>Kursk</td>
<td>1943</td>
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<td>Ladysmith</td>
<td>1899-1900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Le Cateau</td>
<td>1814</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leipzig</td>
<td>1813</td>
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<td>Lepanto</td>
<td>1751</td>
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<td>Lützen</td>
<td>1832</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manassas</td>
<td>1861-1862</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mantinea or 418 B.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mantinea</td>
<td>1477</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marathon</td>
<td>1490</td>
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<td>Marengo</td>
<td>1800</td>
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<td>Marston Moor</td>
<td>1644</td>
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<td>Missionary Ridge</td>
<td>1863</td>
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<td>Naseby</td>
<td>1645</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navarino</td>
<td>425 B.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omdurman</td>
<td>1898</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passchendaele</td>
<td>1917</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippoi</td>
<td>1829</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plains of Abraham</td>
<td>1759</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plassey</td>
<td>1757</td>
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<tr>
<td>Platea</td>
<td>479 B.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poitou</td>
<td>1709</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pydna</td>
<td>168 B.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quatre Bras</td>
<td>1815</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramillies</td>
<td>1706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosicrucians</td>
<td>778</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sadová</td>
<td>1886</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint-Mihel</td>
<td>1918</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salamis</td>
<td>480 B.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sedgemoor</td>
<td>1885</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sempach</td>
<td>1862</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shiloh</td>
<td>1862</td>
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<td>Shikpa Pass</td>
<td>1877-78</td>
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<td>Somme</td>
<td>1916-1918</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stalingrad</td>
<td>1941-42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stamford Bridge</td>
<td>1066</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tannenberg</td>
<td>1410-1914</td>
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<td>Tewkesbury</td>
<td>1471</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thermopylae</td>
<td>480 B.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tobruk</td>
<td>1941-1942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trafalgar</td>
<td>1805</td>
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<td>Trenton</td>
<td>1776</td>
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<td>Verdon</td>
<td>1916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vitoria</td>
<td>1813</td>
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<td>Wagram</td>
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<td>Waterlois</td>
<td>1815</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ypres</td>
<td>1914; 1915; 1917; 1918</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zama</td>
<td>202 B.C.</td>
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indelicate, near the knuckle (informal), indecorous • We got arrested once, for singing bawdy songs in a cemetery.
OPPOSITES: good, seemly, clean

bawl 1 = shout, call, scream, roar, yell, howl, bellow, bay, clamour,oller (informal), raise your voice, halloo, hollo, vociferate • They were shouting and bawling at each other. 2 = cry, weep, sob, wail, whine, whimper, whinge (informal), keen, grieve (Scot. or archaic), squall, blubber, snivel, shed tears, yowl, mewl, howl your eyes out • One of the toddlers was bawling, and another had a runny nose.

bay 3 = inlet, sound, gulf, entrance, creek, cove, fjord, arm (of the sea), bight, ingress, natural harbour, sea loch (Scot.), firth or frith (Scot.) • a short ferry ride across the bay
See panel Bays

bay 1 = recess, opening, corner, niche, compartment, nook, alcove, embrasure • Someone had placed the device in a loading bay behind the shop.

bay 2

• as a verb = howl, cry, roar, (of a hound), bark, lament, cry out, wail, growl, bellow, quest, bell, clamour, yelp • A dog suddenly howled, baying at the moon.
• as a noun = cry, bell, roar, (of a hound), quest, bark, lament, howl, wail, growl, bellow, clamour, yelp • She trembled at the bay of the dogs.
• in phrases: at bay = away, off, at arm's length • Eating oranges keeps colds at bay.

bayonet 1 = sword, knife, blade, lance, brand • The sentry held his bayonet in front of his chest.

bazaar 2 = market, exchange, fair, marketplace, mart • He was a vendor in Egypt's open-air bazaar.

be 1 = exist, be present, be extant • There are two kinds of company.pyshion.
2 = be alive, live, exist, survive, breathe, last, be present, continue, endure, be living, be extant, happen • it hurt so badly he wished to cease to be.
3 = take place, happen, occur, arise, come about, transpire (informal), befall, come to pass • The film's premiere is next week.
4 = remain, last, stand, continue, stay, endure, prevail, persist, abide, bide • How long have you been here?
5 = be situated, be set, be placed, be located, be installed, be positioned • The church is on the other side of the town.
6 = attend, go to, be at, be there, be present, frequent, haunt • He's at university now.
7 = cost, come to, sell at, set (someone) back (informal), command a price of • How much is this?
8 = amount to, become, come to, total, equal, add up to • Eight plus eight is sixteen.

beach as a noun = shore, coast, sands, margin, strand, seaside, shingle, lakeside, water's edge, lido, foreshore, seashore, plage, littoral, sea (chiefly U.S.) • a beautiful sandy beach

as a verb = land, founder, be stuck, be stranded, come to rest, run aground, be on the rocks, be beached, run ashore, be high and dry • The boat beached on a mudflat.

related adjective: littoral

beachcomber = scavenger, wanderer, tramp, forager, loafer, vagrant, scavenger, vagabond • Beachcombers will note creeping vines beside the beach.

beached = stranded, grounded, abandoned, deserted, wrecked, ashore, marooned, aground, high and dry • A beached whale is a creature to be loved, rescued and cared for.

beacon 1 = signal, sign, rocket, beam, flare, bonfire, smoke signal, signal fire • The full moon beams like a beacon in the clear sky.
2 = lighthouse, pharos, watchtower • a lonely beacon on the rocks

bead as a noun = ball, pearl, globe, sphere, pellet, orb, pill, spherule • The beads scattered all over the floor.
2 = drop, tear, bubble, pearl, dot, drip, blob, droplet, globule, driblet • beads of blood

—as a plural noun = necklace, pearls, pendant, choker, necklace, choker • beaded, beaded, beaded, beaded • bobbles, bangles and beads

beaddy = bright, powerful, concentrated, sharp, intense, shining, glittering, gleaming, glinting • She felt the old woman's beady eyes on her.

beak 1 = bill, nib, neb (archaic or dialect), mandible • a black bird with a yellow beak
2 = nose, snout, hooter (slang), snitch (slang), conk (slang), neb (archaic or dialect), proboscis, schnozzle (slang, chiefly U.S.) • his sharp, aristocratic beak

beak 2 = magistrate, justice, sheriff • The beak told him he'd go down if he did anything like it again.

beaker = cup, glass, mug, tumbler • a beaker of hot milk, well-laced with brandy

beam as a verb = smile, grin, be all smiles • She beamed at her friend with undisguised admiration.
2 = transmit, show, air, broadcast, cable, send out, relay,
beaming | 90

televising, radio, emit, put on the air • The interview was beamed live across America.

1 = to radiate, flash, shine, glow, glitter, glare, gleam, emit light, give off light • A sharp white spotlight beamed down on a small stage.

As a noun 1 = ray, bar, flash, stream, glow, radiation, streak, emission, shaft, gleam, glint, glimmer 2 = a beam of light 3 = a rafter 4 = support, timber, spar, plank, girder, joist 5 = The ceilings are supported by oak beams.

= smile, grin • She knew he had news, because of the beam on his face.

beaming 1 = smiling, happy, grinning, pleasant, sunny, cheerful, cheery, joyful, chirpy (informal), light-hearted • his mother’s beaming eyes

2 = radiating, bright, brilliant, flashing, shining, glowing, sparkling, glittering, gleaming, glistening, radiant, glistening, scintillating, burnished, lustrous

= An engraved and beaming sun rose out of the sea.

bean

⇒ See panel! Beans and other pulses

bear 1 as a verb 1 = carry, take, move, bring, lift, transfer, conduct, transport, haul, transmit, convey, relay, tote (informal), hump (Brit. slang), lug • a surveyor and his assistant bearing a torch

opposites: drop, shed, put down

2 = hold, carry, pack • the constitutional right to bear arms

3 = support, carry, shoulder, sustain, endure, keep up, uphold, withstand, bear up under • The ice was not thick enough to bear the weight of marching men.

opposites: drop, give up, abandon

4 = display, have, show, hold, carry, possess, exhibit • notepaper bearing the President’s seal

5 = suffer, feel, experience, go through, sustain, stomach, endure, undergo, admit, brook, hack (slang), abide, put up with (informal) • He bore his sufferings manfully.

6 = bring yourself to, allow, accept, permit, endure, tolerate, hack (informal), abide, do with (informal), countenance • He can’t bear to talk about it, even to me.

7 = take on, support, carry, accept, shoulder, sustain, absorb • She should bear that responsibility alone.

8 = produce, give, provide, develop, generate, yield, bring forth, give forth • The plants grow and start to bear fruit.

9 = earn, make, get, receive, gain, net, collect, realize, obtain, yield, bring in, gross, reap, procure • The eight-year bond will bear an annual interest of 10%.

10 = give birth to, produce, deliver, breed, bring forth, beget, be delivered of • She bore a son called Karl.

11 = exhibit, hold, maintain, entertain, harbour, cherish • She bore no ill will. If they didn’t like her, too bad.

12 = conduct, carry, move, deport • There was elegance and simple dignity in the way he bore himself

13 = turn, tack, veer, swerve, change direction, change course, shift, sheer • Go left on the A107 and bear left into Seven Sisters Road.

In phrases: bear down on someone = advance on, attack, approach, move towards, close in on, converge on, move in on, come near to, draw near to • A group of half a dozen men entered the pub and bore down on her.

bear down on something or someone = press down, push, strain, crush, compress, weigh down, encumber • She felt as if a great weight was bearing down on her shoulders.

bear on something = be relevant to, involve, concern, affect, regard, refer to, be part of, relate to, belong to, apply to, be appropriate, befite, pertain to, touch upon, appertain to • The remaining 32 examples do not bear on our problem.

bear something out = support, prove, confirm, justify, endorse, uphold, vindicate, validate, substantiate, corroborate, legitimize • His photographs do not quite bear this out.

bear up = cope, suffer, manage, survive, carry on, persevere, bear the brunt, grin and bear it (informal), take it on the chin (informal), hold your own, keep your chin up, go through the mill • She felt that she would be unable to bear up under the pain.

bear with someone = be patient with, suffer, wait for, hold on (informal), stand by, tolerate, put up with (informal), make allowances for, hang fire • If you’ll bear with me, Frank, I can explain everything.

bear

⇒ Related adjective: Ursine

⇒ Name of young: cub

⇒ Collective noun: sloths

bearable = tolerable, acceptable, sustainable, manageable, passable, admissible, supportable, endurable, sufferable • A cool breeze made the heat pleasantly bearable.

opposites: too much (informal), unacceptable, intolerable

beard = whiskers, bristles, stubble, goatee, facial hair, five-o’clock shadow • Charlie’s bushy black beard

bearded = unshaven, hairy, whiskered, stubbly, bushy, shaggy, hirsute, bristly, bewhiskered • A bearded 40-year-old sociology professor

bears 1 as a noun 2 as a plural noun

⇒ Bear = A bear

⇒ As a noun 1 = agent, carrier, courier, herald, envoy, messenger, conveyer, emissary, harbinger • I hate to be the bearer of bad news.

2 = carrier, runner, servant, porter, transporter • A flag bearer

3 = holder, owner, possessor • The identity documents state the bearer’s profession.

4 = payee, beneficiary, consignee • the chief cashier’s promise to pay the bearer

bearing as a noun 1 usually with on or upon = relevance, relation, application, connection, import, reference, significance, pertinence, appurtenance • My father’s achievements don’t have any bearing on what I do.

opposites: irrelevance, irrelevancy, non sequitur

2 = manner, attitude, conduct, appearance, aspect, presence, behaviour, tone, carriage, posture, demeanour, deportment, mien (literary), air, comportment • She later wrote warmly of his bearing and behaviour.

3 = position, heading, course, direction, path, orientation, point of compass • I’m flying on a bearing of ninety-three degrees.

⇒ As a plural noun = way, course, position, situation, track, aim, direction, location, orientation, whereabouts, sense of direction • I lost my bearings and was just aware of cars roaring past.

BEANS AND OTHER PULSES

| adzuki bean or string bean | borlotti bean | dhal | haricot bean or (U.S.) navy bean
| black bean | broad bean | field bean | kidney bean
| black-eyed bean or (U.S.) navy bean | butter bean | flaggeolet bean | lentil
| black-eyed pea | cannellini bean | French bean | lima bean
| bobby bean | chick pea or garbanzo | green bean | mangetout or snow pea
| | continental lentil | green lentil | red kidney bean
| | | | (U.S.) red bean
| | | | red lentil
| | | | runner bean
| | | | soybean
| | | | sugar snap pea
| | | | split pea
| | | | string bean
| | | | sugar snap pea
beastly = unpleasant, mean, terrible, awful, nasty, foul, rotten, horrid, disagreeable, irksome, shitty (taboo slang) • The weather was beastly.

OPPOSITES: sensitive, humane

beast 1 = animal, creature, brute • the threats our ancestors faced from wild beasts

2 = brute, monster, savage, barbarian, fiend, swine, ogre, ghouls, sadist • a sex beast who subjected two sisters to a terrifying ordeal

QUOTATIONS
• And what rough beast, its hour come round at last, Slowues towards Bethlehem to be born?

[W.B. Yeats The Second Coming]

beastly 1 = unpleasant, mean, terrible, awful, nasty, foul, rotten, horrid, disagreeable, irksome, shitty (taboo slang)

The weather was beastly.

OPPOSITES: good, fine, pleasant

beast as a verb 1 = batter, break, hit, strike, knock, punch, beli (informal), whip, deck (slang), bruise, bash (informal), sock (slang), lash, chin (slang), pound, smack, thrash, cane, thump, lick (informal), buffet, clout (informal), flog, whack (informal), mail, clobber (slang), wallow (informal), tonk (informal), cudgel, thwack (informal), lambast(e), lay one on (slang), drub, tan (informal), lamb or knock seven bells out of (informal)

• They were beaten to death with baseball bats.

2 = pound, strike, hammer, batter, thrash, pelt • The rain was beating on the window pains.

3 = throb, pulse, tick, thump, tremble, pound, quake, quiver, vibrate, pulsate, palpitate • I felt my heart beat faster.

4 = hit, play, strike, bang, rap, hammer • When you beat the drum, you feel good.

5 = whisk, mix, stir, fold, whip, blend, fluff up • Beat the eggs and sugar until they start to thicken.

6 = flap, thrash, flatter, agitate, wag, swish • Its wings beat slowly.

7 = defeat, outdo, trounce, overcome, stuff (slang), master, tank (slang), crush, overwhelm, conquer, lick (informal), undo, subdue, excel, surpass, overpower, outstrip, clobber (slang), vanquish, outrun, subjugate, run rings around (informal), wipe the floor with (informal), knock spots off (informal), make mincemeat of (informal), pip at the post, knock about, do over, beat something out, put out, stifle, smother, extinguish, snuff out • His brother beat out the flames with a blanket.

8 = exceed, best, top, cap, eclipse, surpass, transcend, outdo, go one better than (informal), put in the shade

• He was as eager as his captain to beat the record.

AS A NOUN 1 = pounding, striking, hammering, battering, thrashing, thumping • the rhythmic beat of the surf

2 = throb, pounding, pumping, pulse, thumping, vibration, pulsating, palpitation, pulsation • He could hear the beat of his heart.

3 = rhythm, time, measure (Prosody), movement, pattern, swing, metre, accent, pulse, tempo, cadence, lit • the dance beats of the last two decades

4 = route, way, course, rounds, path, circuit • I was a relatively new PC on the beat, stationed in Henden.

IN PHRASES: beat it = go away, leave, depart, get lost (informal), pass off (taboo slang), shoo, exit, go to hell (informal), fuck off (offensive taboo slang), hook it (slang), bugger off (taboo slang), scarper (Brit. slang), pack your bags (informal), make tracks, hop it (slang), scram (informal), get

on your bike (Brit. slang), bog off (Brit. slang), skedaddle (informal), slang your hook (Brit. slang), vamoosh (slang, chiefly U.S.), voetsek (S. African offensive), rack off (Austral. & N.Z. slang) • Beat it before it’s too late.

beat someone up = assault, attack, batter, thrash, set about, do over (Brit. Austral. & N.Z. slang), work over (slang), clobber (slang), assail, set upon, lay into (informal), put the boot in (slang), lambast(e), duﬀ up (Brit. slang), beat the living daylights out of (informal), knock about or around, fill in (Brit. slang), beat or knock seven bells out of (informal)

• Then they actually beat her up as well.

beat something out = put out, stiﬀ, smother, extinguish, snuff out • He’s brother beat out the flames with a blanket.

beat yourself up = torture yourself, suffer, worry, struggle, be distressed, go through the mill, be in anguish • Don’t beat yourself up about it.

beaten 1 = well-trodden, worn, trodden, trampled, well-used, much travelled • Before you is a well-worn path of beaten earth.

2 = stirred, mixed, whipped, blended, whisicked, frothy, foamy • Cool a little and slowly add the beaten eggs.

3 = shaped, worked, formed, stamped, hammered, forged • brightly painted beaten metal

4 = defeated, overcome, frustrated, overwhelmed, cowed, thwarted, trounced, vanquished, disheartened • They had looked a beaten side with just seven minutes left.

beautiﬁc = blissful, happy, heavenly, glorious, enchanted, ecstatic, sublime, serene, joyous, exalted, joyful, elated, euphoric, rapturous, rapt, enraptured, blissed out, stoked (Austral. & N.Z. informal) • He smiled an almost beatiﬁc smile.

beating 1 = thrashing, hiding (informal), belting (informal), whipping (slang), slapping, tanning, lashing, smacking, caning, pasting (slang), flogging, drubbing, corporal punishment, chastisement • the savage beating of a suspect by police ofﬁcers

2 = defeat, ruin, overthrow, pasting (slang), conquest, rout, downfall • A beating at Wembley would be too much of a trauma for them.

3 = throb, pounding, pumping, pulse, thumping, vibration, pulsating, palpitation, pulsation • High in the stands there came the beating of a drum.

beau = boyfriend, man, guy (informal), date, lover, young man, steady, escort, admirer, fiancé, sweetheart, suitor, swain, toy boy, leman (archaic), fancy man (slang) • She appeared with her new beau.

beautiful 1 = attractive, pretty, lovely, stunning (informal), charming, tempting, pleasant, handsome, fetching, good-looking, gorgeous, fine, pleasing, fair, magnetic, delightful, cute, exquisite, enticing, seductive, graceful, captivating, appealing, radiant, alluring, drop-dead (slang), ravishing, bonny, winsome, comely, prepossessing, hot (informal), fit (Brit. informal) • a beautiful red-haired woman kneeling at her mother’s feet

OPPOSITES: ugly, unpleasant, hideous

2 = bright, clear, fine, summery, unclouded, sunny, without a cloud in the sky • It was a beautiful morning.

3 = wonderful, great, excellent, superb, marvellous, sensational (informal), mega (slang), cracking (Brit. informal), awesome (slang), topping (Brit. slang), world-class, first-rate, brill (informal), mean (slang), booshit (Austral. slang), exo (Austral. slang), sik (Austral. slang), rad (informal), phat (slang), schmick (Austral. informal), beat (informal), barrie (Scot. slang), belting (Brit. slang), pearler (Austral. slang) • That’s a beautiful shot!

OPPOSITES: bad, terrible, awful

QUOTATIONS
• Remember that the most beautiful things in the world are the most useless; peacocks and lilies for instance

[John Ruskin Stones of Venice]