

## APSU Writing Center

### Bear and Bare

Word	Bear	Bare
<b>Definition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>noun:</b> a large, heavy mammal that walks on the soles of its feet, having thick fur and a very short tail.</li> <li>• <b>verb:</b> carry the weight of; support, to endure, to give birth, and to yield fruit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>adjective:</b> without addition; basic and simple.</li> <li>• <b>verb:</b> uncover and expose to view.</li> </ul>

**Bear** as a noun refers to an animal that can be described as a large, furry mammal. As a verb it refers to carrying the weight of, supporting, enduring, giving birth to, and yielding fruit.

- Verb Example: This bridge can **bear** over 50 tons.
- Noun Example: The **bear** tried to eat the food from our camp.

**Bare** means minimal or only the most basic or important. As a verb it means to uncover or to expose.

- Example: Don't walk around outside in your **bare** feet.
- Example: They would have liked **bare** wooden floors throughout the house.

**Bare** in British English can be defined as a determiner that means a large amount or number of and as an adverb that means very or really.

- Determiner Example: There were **bare** people waiting to get in.
- Adverb Example: The questions are **bare** difficult.
- Hint: A good way to remember the difference is a **bear** has **ears**.

### Brake and Break

Word	Brake	Break
<b>Definition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>noun:</b> device used to stop your car from a moving position.</li> <li>• <b>verb:</b> make a moving vehicle slow down by using a brake.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>noun:</b> an interruption of continuity</li> <li>• <b>verb:</b> separate or cause to separate into pieces</li> </ul>

**Brake** is a device used to stop your car from a moving position.

- Noun Example: In a car, the **brake** pedal on the floorboard can reduce the speed.
- Verb Example: If your car is approaching the hill, you need to **brake**.

**Break** is an interruption of some kind.

- Noun Example: We've been working all day. When can we expect a **break**?
- Verb Example: Another driver cut me off and I had to **brake** suddenly.

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