

# Bare vs. Bear

## The Easy Explanation

- **“Bare”** is an adjective that means *uncovered*:
  - The bare floors and windows made the house look deserted.
- **“Bear”** is a noun signifying the *animal* (or *stuffed animal*):
  - The bear swiped a big paw toward the beehive.
- **“Bear”** can also be a verb meaning *to endure* or *to carry*:
  - After bearing the stress of the long hike, Susan could hardly bear the weight of her pack as she reached camp.



## When to Use Bare vs. Bear

The word **“bare”** is an adjective meaning *uncovered* (as in *bare feet*).

The word **“bear”** can be a noun meaning the mammal or stuffed animal (as in *a teddy bear*) or it can be a verb meaning to endure (as in *I can't bear this.*) or to carry (as in *a stranger bearing gifts*).

## Practice: Fill in the blank with “bare” or “bear”.

1. The sun felt very hot on John's \_\_\_\_\_ arms. (meaning *uncovered*)
2. She alone would have to \_\_\_\_\_ the heavy bags of groceries. (meaning *carry*)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ used its powerful claws to kill its prey. (meaning *the mammal*)
4. Unfortunately, the lawyer couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ the thought of another trial. (meaning *endure*)
5. She couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ the cold any longer and went inside the cabin.
6. Her \_\_\_\_\_ head had just gotten too cold.