Bear

**Etymology:** from Middle English *bere*, from Old English *bera*; akin to Old English *br*un brown. (Source: m-v.com)

**Definition:** a large, strong wild animal with a thick furry coat that lives in colder parts of Europe, Asia and North America

**Forms:** *pl.* bears

**Related words:** *adj.* bearish; *n.* teddy bear; *v.* to bear; *n.* bear hug

**Fluency Practice:** I’ve never been to Big Bear Mountain,

*But I hear the bears there dine in bistros besides beautiful fountains.*

*Bears bathe in bubble baths and enjoy ballet.*

*They even barbeque and go boating all day.*

*Some have big bikes; others have cars.*

*Boy! Bears have the best life by far.*

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**Phonics and Vocabulary Activities**

**Beginning**

Display the photo card and say: *Have you seen bears at the zoo or in movies?* Allow students to briefly describe what they have seen and experienced. Then write the word *bear* on the board. Slowly pronounce each sound /b/-/e/-/r/. Ask students to repeat the sounds with you and blend the word together. Ask volunteers to name other words with the sound /b/ and list them on the board. Call for volunteers to pronounce the words and circle the letter *b* at the beginning of each word.

**Intermediate**

Show students the photo card. Ask them which word best describes the animal shown on the card. After students identify the key word *bear*, have them spell it. Have volunteers use the word in complete sentences. You may use this photo card to practice homophones. Dictate to students the sentence *The bear has to bear living in captivity.* Verify spelling of the homophones. Point out that the action word *to bear* in this context means to put up with.

**Advanced**

Show students the photo card. Ask them which word best describes the animal shown on the card. After students identify the key word *bear* have volunteers use the word in complete sentences. Introduce students to the compound word *bear hug*. Have them explain in complete sentences how the meaning of *bear* helps to determine the meaning of *bear hug*. Ask volunteers to use the compound word in a sentence.