

beat

I

1. [bi:t] n

1. 1) удар; бой

the beat of a drum - барабанный бой

the beat of waves on a beach - прибой

2) *спец.* пульсация (*напр.*, сердца); колебание (*маятника и т. п.*)

the beat of the heart - биение сердца

his heart missed a beat - его сердце замерло (*от волнения*)2. *муз.*

1) ритм; такт

in beat - в ритме

off the beat - не в ритме

off beat - а) синкопический (*о музыке*); б) неровный (*о поведении человека*); [*ср. тж.* ◇]

2) отсчитывание такта

he kept beat with his hand - он отбивал такт рукой

3) доля (*единица ритма, метра*)

strong [weak] beat - сильная [слабая] доля

four beats to a measure - четырёхдольный размер, четырёхдольный такт

4) взмах дирижёрской палочки

3. 1) дозор, обход; маршрут дозора; район патрулирования

a policeman on his beat - полицейский на своём участке

a street-walker on the beat - проститутка, вышедшая на промысел

to be on the beat - совершать обход; обходить дозором

2) *охот.* место облавы4. *амер. сл.* сенсационное сообщение (*опубликованное в одной газете раньше, чем во всех остальных*)5. *разг.* нечто выдающееся, невиданное

you never saw the beat of it - вы никогда ничего подобного не видали

I've never seen his beat - он бесподобен

6. *амер. разг.*

1) мошенник, обманщик

hotel beats - постояльцы, уезжающие из гостиницы, не уплатив по счёту

2) тунядец

3) = beatnik

the beats = beat generation

7. 1) *разг.* надувательство; мошенничество

to get a beat on smb. - надуть кого-л.

2) убытки

8. батман (*фехтование*)9. *мор.* лавирование; курс против течения или ветра10. *кино* «хлопушка» (*при съёмке звуковых фильмов*)11. *р/физ.* биения

◇ to be off one's beat - а) быть вне привычной обстановки, не в своей стихии; б) вести себя не так, как всегда

it is off my beat altogether - это не по моей части; это не моё дело [*ср. тж.* 2, 1)]

2. [bi:t] a

1. *амер. разг.* усталый, измотавшийся, разбитый, выдохшийся (*о человеке*)2. *амер. разг.* ошарашенный

3. относящийся к битникам

beat poetry - поэзия битников

3. [bi:t] v (*beat; beaten, beat*)

I

1. бить, ударять; колотить, стучать

to beat at /on/ the door - колотить/стучать/ в дверь

to beat a nut-tree - сбивать орехи с дерева (*с помощью шеста*)

the hail was beating against the window-panes - град барабанил в окна

waves beat against the shore - волны бились /разбивались/ о берег

the hailstorm had beaten the wheat - град побил пшеницу

the eagle beats the air with its wings - орёл машет /хлопает/ крыльями

2. 1) бить, побить; избивать

badly beaten - сильно избитый

to beat with a stick - отдубасить палкой

to beat with a whip - (от)хлестать (от)стегать кнутом

to beat to death - забить до смерти

to beat black and blue - избить до синяков

you ought to be well beaten! - тебя надо бы хорошенько вздуть!

2) колоть, измельчать

to beat to powder, to beat small - истолочь в порошок

to beat to pieces - расколоть на куски

3. 1) побить, победить

- to beat smb. on points - **спорт.** победить по очкам
 to beat for the loss of only two games - **спорт.** выиграть с потерей только двух игр
 to beat smb. to his /her/ knees - сломить, унижить кого-л.
 their team was beaten - их команда потерпела поражение
 I can beat you at swimming - в плавании я тебя побью, плаваю я лучше тебя
 the enemy was beaten and scattered - враг был разбит и обращён в бегство
- 2) **разг.** превосходить; быть лучше, выше
 to beat all - превзойти всё
 as a story-teller Chaucer beats all his contemporaries - как рассказчик Чосер выше всех своих современников
 that beats everything I ever heard - это поразительно, никогда ничего подобного не слышал
- 3) **амер. разг.** обойти, надуть, обмануть
 to beat a statute - обойти закон
 to beat a grocer's bill - обмануть бакалейщика, не заплатив по счёту
- 4) (to) обогнать; ≅ обскакать
 to beat smb. to smth. - раньше кого-л. прийти куда-л. или добиться чего-л.
 to beat smb. to it - оказаться быстрее кого-л. в чём-л.; обогнать, перегнать кого-л.
- 5) **разг.** озадачить
 it beats me - это выше моего понимания
 can you beat it? - ну, что ты на это скажешь?, можете себе представить что-л. подобное?
4. биться; трепетать; пульсировать
 his heart beat with joy - его сердце забилося /затрепетало/ от радости
 the flag was beating in the wind - флаг развевался по ветру, ветер трепал флаг
 the waves were beating (against) the shore - волны разбивались /плескались/ о берег
 the cans beat in the van - банки гремели /громыхали/ в кузове
5. обыскивать, обшаривать, устраивать облаву
 to beat the jungle for monkeys - организовать в джунглях облаву на обезьян
 to beat the town for smb. - исколесить /объездить, исходить/ весь город в поисках кого-л.
 the posse beat the countryside for the fugitive - отряд прочесал местность в поисках беглеца
6. **амер. разг.** убежать, удирать (**преим.** to beat it)
 let's beat it - давай смоемся; давай сбежим отсюда
 beat it! - убирайся!, пошёл вон!, отвали!
7. **физ.** создавать биения

II A

1. 1) отбивать (**такт, время**)
 to beat time - а) отбивать такт; б) делать (**что-л.**) в такт (**маршировать и т. п.**)
 he was beating time with his foot - он отбивал такт ногой
 the clock was beating midnight - било полночь
- 2) бить (**в барабан и т. п.**); подавать сигнал
 to beat the drum - бить в барабан [**см. тж.** ◇]
 to beat a retreat - а) **воен. ист.** бить отступление (**на барабанах**); б) давать сигнал к отступлению; в) бить отбой, отступить (**от своей позиции и т. п.**); г) **разг.** убежать, уносить ноги
 to beat a charge - а) **воен. ист.** бить наступление; б) подавать сигнал к наступлению /к атаке/
 to beat an alarm - бить тревогу
 to beat daybreak - **воен.** бить зорю
 to beat to arms - а) **воен.** бить сбор; б) призывать к оружию
 beat to arms! - оружие к осмотру! (**команда**)
 to beat a parley - а) **воен. ист.** давать сигнал к переговорам; б) предлагать перемирие
- 3) звучать при ударе (**о барабанах и т. п.**)
 the drums were beating - били барабаны
2. 1) взбивать (**яйца, белки и т. п.**); вымешивать (**тесто; тж. beat up**)
 to beat eggs [cream] - взбивать яйца [сливки]
 to beat pillows - взбивать подушки
 to beat dough - месить тесто
- 2) взбиваться (**о яйцах и т. п.**)
 this cream does not beat well - эти сливки плохо взбиваются
- 3) размешивать (**глину и т. п.**)
 to beat clay - мять глину
- 4) размешиваться (**о глине и т. п.**)
3. 1) выколачивать, выбивать (**одежду и т. п.; тж. beat up**)
 to beat carpets [rugs, curtains] - выбивать ковры [половики, занавески]
- 2) отбивать (**мясо и т. п.**)
- 3) **тех.** ковать; чеканить
 to beat flat - плющить, сплющивать
 to beat into leaf - расплющивать металл
 they shall beat their swords into plough-shares - **библ., поэт.** они перекуют свои мечи на орала
- 4) молотить, выколачивать (**злаки**)
- 5) трепать (**лён**)
4. пробивать, протаптывать, прокладывать (**дорогу и т. п.**)
 to beat a walk - утрамбовывать дорожку

to beat the streets - гранить мостовую

to beat one's way through - проложить /пробить/ себе дорогу

5. **мор. , спорт.** лавировать; бороться со встречным ветром *или* течением; продвигаться против ветра

to beat along the wind - держать курс по ветру

to beat (up) to windward - приводить на ветер

II Б

1. *to beat smth. into smth.*

1) вбивать, вколачивать; вдавливать

to beat a nail into the wall - вбить гвоздь в стену

to beat smth. into one's head - вбить себе в голову что-л.

I can't beat it into his head - никак не могу втолковать ему это

2) смешать, взбивая

2. *to beat smb. into smth., into doing smth.* (битьём) заставить кого-л. сделать что-л.; вынудить кого-л. к чему-л.

◇

to beat one's head against a wall - биться головой о стенку

to beat the drum - **сл.** а) трезвонить, разглагольствовать; б) хвастаться, рекламировать, раздувать; [**см. тж.** II 1, 2]]

to beat one's breast - бить себя в грудь, каяться

to beat one's brains /head/ (out) with /about, on/ smth. - ломать себе голову над чем-л.

to beat the air /the wind/ - ≅ толочь воду в ступе

to beat the hoof - ходить пешком, на своих (на) двоих

to beat one's gums /chops/ - **сл.** трепать языком, болтать разглагольствовать

to beat hollow /to a frazzle, all to pieces/ - а) разбить наголову; б) избить до полусмерти

to beat the living daylight out of smb. - **амер. сл.** избить кого-л. до полусмерти

to beat the rap - **амер.** уйти от возмездия /закона/

you won't easily beat it - у тебя лучше не выйдет /не получится/

it beats the band /creation, cock-fighting, the Dutch, my grandmother, the devil, hell/ - это превосходит всё, это невероятно /потрясающе/

enough flowers were sent to beat the band - ≅ завалили /засыпали/ цветами

it rained to beat the band - дождь лил как из ведра

to beat smb.'s time - **сл.** отбивать у кого-л. невесту, жениха

to beat one's way - **амер. сл.** ехать без билета, путешествовать зайцем *или* на своих (на) двоих

to beat about the bush - ходить вокруг да около, вилять, подходить к делу издалека, говорить обиняками

stop beating about the bush! - говорите прямо!

one beats the bush while another catches the birds - ≅ чужими руками жар загребать

II

[bi:t] *n*

сорняки, сжигаемые для удобрения

beat

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

beat [beat beats beating beaten] **verb, noun, adjective** **BrE** [bi:t] **NAmE** [bi:t]

verb (beat, beaten **BrE** ['bi:t] ; **NAmE** ['bi:t])

IN GAME

1. **transitive** ~ **sb (at sth)** to defeat sb in a game or competition

• He beat me at chess.

• Their recent wins have proved they're still **the ones to beat** (= the most difficult team to beat) .

CONTROL

2. **transitive** ~ **sth (informal)** to get control of sth

Syn: ↑defeat

• The government's main aim is to beat inflation.

BE TOO DIFFICULT

3. **transitive (informal)** to be too difficult for sb

Syn: ↑defeat

• ~ **sb** a problem that beats even the experts

• ~ **sb why, how, etc...** **It beats me** (= I don't know) why he did it.

• **What beats me** is how it was done so quickly (= I don't understand how) .

BE BETTER

4. **transitive** ~ **sth (rather informal)** to do or be better than sth

• **Nothing beats** home cooking.

• **You can't beat** Italian shoes.

• They want to **beat the** speed **record** (= go faster than anyone before) .

AVOID

5. **transitive** ~ **sth (informal)** to avoid sth

• If we go early we should beat the traffic.

- We were up and off early to **beat the heat** .

HIT

6. intransitive, transitive to hit sb/sth many times, usually very hard

- **+ adv./prep.** Somebody was beating at the door.
- Hailstones beat against the window.
- **~ sth** Someone was beating a drum.
- **~ sth + adv./prep.** She was beating dust out of the carpet (= removing dust from the carpet by beating it) .
- **~ sb** At that time children were regularly beaten for quite minor offences (= a punishment) .
- **~ sb + adv./prep.** An elderly man was found **beaten to death** .
- The prisoners were beaten into submission (= they were beaten until they did what was wanted) .
- **~ sb + adj.** They beat him unconscious (= hit him until he became unconscious) .

OF HEART/DRUMS/WINGS

7. intransitive, transitive to make, or cause sth to make, a regular sound or movement

- She's alive— her **heart is still beating** .
- We heard the **drums beating** .
- The bird was **beating its wings** (= moving them up and down) frantically.

MIX

8. transitive to mix sth with short quick movements with a fork, etc

- **~ sth (up)** Beat the eggs up to a frothy consistency .
- **~ A and B together** Beat the flour and milk together.

SHAPE METAL

9. transitive to change the shape of sth, especially metal, by hitting it with a hammer, etc

- **~ sth (out) (into sth)** beaten silver
- The gold is beaten out into thin strips.
- **~ sth + adj.** The metal had been beaten flat.

MAKE PATH

10. transitive ~ sth (through, across, along, etc. sth) to make a path, etc. by walking somewhere or by pressing branches down and walking over them

- a well-beaten track (= one that has been worn hard by much use)
- The hunters beat a path through the undergrowth

more at (beat sb) black and blue **at** [↑]**black** _{adj.} beat/knock the (living) daylight out of sb **at** [↑]**daylights** , beat/bang the drum (for sb/sth) **at** [↑]**drum** _{n.} , beat/kick (the) hell out of sb **at** [↑]**hell**

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	beat
	BrE /bɪ:t/
	NAmE /bɪ:t/
he / she / it	beats
	BrE /bɪ:ts/
	NAmE /bɪ:ts/
past simple	beat
	BrE /bɪ:t/
	NAmE /bɪ:t/
past participle	beaten
	BrE /'bi:tən/
	NAmE /'bi:tən/
-ing form	beating
	BrE /'bi:tɪŋ/
	NAmE /'bi:tɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Old English bēatan, of Germanic origin.

Thesaurus:

beat verb

1. T

- He beat me at chess.

defeat • • **get the better of sb** • |especially BrE, informal **thrash** • |AmE, informal **whip** • |written **overcome** • • **route** • • **trounce** • |formal **best** • • **prevail** • |literary **vanquish** •

beat/defeat/thrash/rout/trounce sb **by** 10 points/4 goals, etc.

beat/defeat/get the better of/thrash/whip/overcome/rout/trounce/vanquish an **opponent**

beat/defeat/overcome/rout/vanquish an **enemy**

Beat or defeat? You can use **beat** to talk about winning against one or several opponents in a competition or race; use **defeat** to talk about one opponent in a battle or contest

- She won the 100 metres, beating a number of top Europeans.
- He defeated the incumbent president.

Beat is more common in spoken and **defeat** in written English.

2. I, T

- beating a drum

batter • • **pound** • • **hammer** • • **pummel** • • **hit** • • **thump** • • **lash** • • **dash** •

beat/batter/pound/hammer/pummel/hit/lash sb/sth **with** sth

beat/batter/pound/hammer/lash/dash sb/sth **against** sth

beat/batter/pound/hammer/lash/dash sb **to death**

the **rain/wind/sea** beats/batters/pounds/lashes/dashes (at) sth

3. I

- Her heart began to beat faster.

pulse • • **throb** • • **pound** • |written **flutter** •

sb's **heart** beats/pulses/throbs/pounds/flutters

sb's **blood** beats/pulses/throbs/pounds

sb's **pulse** beats/throbs/pounds/flutters

Beat, pulse or throb? **Pulse** and **throb** are stronger than **beat** but are not used to talk about **drums**. **Music** and **pain** can **pulse** or **throb**. **Machines throb** but don't **pulse**.

4. T

- Beat the eggs until they are frothy.

whisk • • **whip** • • **stir** • • **mix** • • **blend** •

beat/whisk/stir/mix/blend sth **into** sth

beat/whisk/stir A and B **together**

beat/whisk/whip **cream/eggs/egg whites**

Synonyms:

beat

batter • **pound** • **lash** • **hammer**

These words all mean to hit sb/sth many times, especially hard.

beat • to hit sb/sth a lot of times, especially very hard: ▫ Someone was beating at the door. ▫ A young man was found beaten to death last night. ▫ At that time, children were often beaten for quite minor offences ▫ (= as a punishment) ▫.

batter • to hit sb/sth hard a lot of times, especially in way that causes serious damage: ▫ He had been badly battered around the head and face. ▫ Severe winds have been battering the coast.

pound • to hit sb/sth hard a lot of times, especially in a way that makes a lot of noise: ▫ Heavy rain pounded on the roof.

lash • to hit sb/sth with a lot of force: ▫ The rain lashed at the window.

The subject of **lash** is often **rain, wind, hail, sea** or **waves**.

hammer • to hit sb/sth hard a lot of times, in a way that is noisy or violent ▫ He hammered the door with his fists.

pound or hammer ?

There is not much difference in meaning between these two, but to **pound** is sometimes a steadier action. To **hammer** can be more violent and it is often used figuratively.

to beat/batter/pound/lash/hammer sb/sth **with** sth

to beat/batter/pound/lash/hammer **against** sth

to beat/batter/pound/hammer **on** sth

to beat/batter/hammer sth **down**

the **rain/wind/sea** beats/batters/pounds/lashes (at) sth

Example Bank:

- Add three eggs, lightly beaten.
- Beat the mixture well, until it is light and creamy.
- He beat her hands down.
- He had been beaten about the head with a rock.
- He was beaten into second place by the American.
- He was narrowly beaten by his opponent.
- His stepfather repeatedly beat his mother.
- I beat her by just three points.
- I could feel my heart beating wildly.
- She beat him at chess.
- She was beaten with a metal bar.
- She was beating the carpet with a large brush.
- The African sun beat relentlessly down on his aching head.
- a higher-rated player who consistently beat her
- rain beating against the window panes
- rain beating on the roof
- someone beating at the door
- 'Where's she gone?' 'Beats me.'
- A young man was found beaten to death at his home last night.
- At that time, children were often beaten for quite minor offences.
- Beat the eggs to a frothy consistency.
- Book a break in the sun to try to beat those winter blues.
- For a break in the sun, Thailand is hard to beat.
- He is struggling to beat his heroin addiction.
- Her entry really did beat the others hands down.
- Her heart began to beat a little faster.
- I could detect a pulse beating very faintly.

- It beats me why he did it.
- Its wings beat feebly against the window.
- Nothing beats home cooking.
- She beat him hands down.
- She was beating dust out of the carpet.
- She won the 100 metres, beating a number of top Europeans.
- Sprinkle in the sugar and beat the mixture until it is white and stiff.
- The bird was frantically beating its wings.
- The new law is a way of trying to beat terrorism.
- The prisoners were beaten into submission.
- Their recent wins have proved that they're still the ones to beat.
- They beat him unconscious.
- They used to get beaten with a wooden spoon.
- They were soundly beaten in the finals by a much stronger Dutch side.
- This is his latest attempt to beat the world record.
- We could hear the drums beating in the distance.
- What beats me is how it was done so quickly.
- When it comes to quality, you can't beat Italian shoes.

Idioms: ↑beat a path to somebody's door ▪ ↑beat a retreat ▪ ↑beat about the bush ▪ ↑beat it ▪ ↑beat somebody at their own game ▪ ↑beat somebody to the punch ▪ ↑beat the clock ▪ ↑beat the rap ▪ ↑beat time ▪ ↑beat your brains out ▪ ↑beat your breast ▪ ↑can you beat it! ▪ ↑if you can't beat them, join them ▪ ↑off the beaten track ▪ ↑rod to beat somebody with ▪ ↑take some beating

Derived ↑beat down ▪ ↑beat off ▪ ↑beat on somebody ▪ ↑beat somebody down ▪ ↑beat somebody off ▪ ↑beat somebody out of something ▪ ↑beat somebody to it ▪ beat somebody to something ▪ ↑beat somebody up ▪ ↑beat something down ▪ ↑beat something out ▪ ↑beat something out of somebody ▪ ↑beat up on somebody ▪ ↑beat yourself up

noun

OF DRUMS/HEART/WINGS

- 1. countable** a single blow to sth, such as a drum, or a movement of sth, such as your heart; the sound that this makes
 - several loud beats on the drum
 - (figurative) His heart missed a beat when he saw her.
 - 2. singular** a series of regular blows to sth, such as a drum; the sound that this makes
 - the steady beat of the drums
- see also** ↑heartbeat

RHYTHM

- 3. countable** the main rhythm, or a unit of rhythm, in a piece of music, a poem, etc
 - This type of music has a strong beat to it.
 - The piece has four beats to the bar.
 - Pause for two beats and then repeat the chorus.

OF POLICE OFFICER

- 4. countable, usually singular** the area that a police officer walks around regularly and which he or she is responsible for
 - More police officers out **on the beat** may help to cut crime.
- see** your heart misses a beat **at** ↑heart, march to (the beat of) a different drummer/drum **at** ↑march, walk the beat **at** ↑walk _{v.}

Word Origin:

Old English bēatan, of Germanic origin.

Thesaurus:

beat noun C

- I like dancing to music with a strong beat.

rhythm • |music tempo •

a **regular/strong/throbbing** beat/rhythm

have/lack a beat/rhythm/tempo

clap/dance/sway to the beat/rhythm

Example Bank:

- Count four beats and then start singing.
- He chants his lyrics over an infectious disco beat.
- She felt the beat of his heart.
- They danced to the rhythmic beat of the music.
- We have two officers walking the beat after midnight.
- We heard the beat of distant drums.
- officers on the beat

adjective not before noun (informal) = ↑dead beat

Word Origin:

Old English *bēatan*, of Germanic origin.

See also: ↑beat around the bush ▪ ↑beat on somebody ▪ ↑beat up on yourself

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

beat

I. **beat** ¹ **S2 W2** /bi:t BrE ¹ *AmE* ¹ *verb* (past tense **beat**, past participle **beaten** /'bi:t(ə)/)

[Word Family: noun: ↑beat, ↑beating; adjective: beatable ≠ ↑unbeatable, ↑beaten ≠ ↑unbeaten; verb: ↑beat]

[Language: Old English; Origin: *beatan*]

1. **COMPETITION/ELECTION** [transitive] to get the most points, votes etc in a game, race, or competition **SYN** defeat:

- Brazil were beaten 2–1.
- Labour easily beat the Conservatives in the last election.

beat somebody at/in something

- I beat him more often at pool than he beats me.

beat somebody hollow *British English* **beat the pants off somebody** *American English* (=defeat them easily)

2. **HIT** [transitive] to hit someone or something many times with your hand, a stick etc:

- photographs of rioters beating a policeman
- He was questioned and beaten.
- The woman had been beaten to death by her husband.
- Two prisoners were beaten unconscious.

beat somebody black and blue (=hit someone until it makes marks on their body)

beat the living daylights out of somebody (=beat someone very hard)

3. **HIT AGAINST** [intransitive always + adverb/preposition] to hit against something many times or continuously

beat on/against/at etc

- Waves beat against the cliffs.
- rain beating on the windows
- Sid beat on the door with his hand.

4. **DO BETTER** [transitive] to do something better, faster etc than what was best before

beat a record/score etc

- The record set by Kierson in '84 has yet to be beaten.
- The company's profits are unlikely to beat last year's £10 million.

5. **BE BETTER** [transitive not in progressive] *especially spoken* to be much better and more enjoyable than something else:

- Fresh milk beats powdered milk any time.

beat doing something

- 'Well,' said Culley, 'it beats going to the office.'
- You can't beat swimming as a good all-body exercise.
- Nothing beats homemade cake.

you can't beat something (for something)

- For excitement, you just can't beat college basketball.

6. **FOOD** [intransitive and transitive] to mix things together quickly with a fork or special kitchen machine:

- Beat the eggs, then add the milk.

beat something in

- Gradually beat in the sugar.

beat something together

- Beat the butter and sugar together until fluffy.

7. **CONTROL/DEAL WITH** [transitive] to successfully deal with a problem that you have been struggling with **SYN** conquer:

- advice on how to beat depression
- the government's long fight to beat inflation

8. **HEART** [intransitive] when your heart beats, it moves in a regular ↑rhythm as it pumps your blood:

- The average person's heart beats 70 times a minute.
- Jennifer's heart was beating fast.

9. **DRUMS** [intransitive and transitive] if you beat drums, or if drums beat, they make a regular continuous sound

10. **WINGS** [intransitive and transitive] if a bird beats its wings, or if its wings beat, they move up and down quickly and regularly **SYN** flap

11. **take some beating** if something or someone will take some beating, it will be difficult for anyone or anything to be or do better:

- Raikkonen has 42 points, which will take some beating.
- Florida takes some beating as a vacation destination.

12. **AVOID** [transitive] to avoid situations in which a lot of people are trying to do something, usually by doing something early:

- We left at four a.m. to beat the traffic.
- Shopping by mail order lets you beat the queues.
- Shop now and beat the Christmas rush!

13. **DO BEFORE SOMEBODY ELSE** [transitive] *informal* to get or do something before someone else, especially if you are both trying to do it first

beat somebody to something

- John had beaten me to the breakfast table.
- I wanted the last piece of pie, but somebody beat me to it.
- They wanted to make it into a film, but another studio beat them to the punch.

14. **beat about/around the bush** to avoid or delay talking about something embarrassing or unpleasant:

- Don't beat around the bush. Ask for your account to be paid, and paid quickly.

15. **beat the system** to find ways of avoiding or breaking the rules of an organization, system etc, in order to achieve what you want:
 - " Accountants know a few ways to beat the system.
16. **beat a path to sb's door** (also **beat down sb's door**) if people beat a path to your door, they are interested in something you are selling, a service you are providing etc:
 - " The new design was supposed to have consumers beating a path to their door.
17. **beat a (hasty) retreat** to leave somewhere or stop doing something very quickly, in order to avoid a bad situation:
 - " He beat a hasty retreat when he spotted me.
18. **beat the clock** to finish something very quickly, especially before a particular time:
 - " The company managed to beat the clock on delivering its new system.

SPOKEN PHRASES

19. **(it) beats me** used to say that you do not know something, or cannot understand or explain it:
 - " Beats me why he wants such a big car.
 - " 'What's he saying?' 'Beats me.'
 20. **beat it!** used to tell someone to leave at once, because they are annoying you or should not be there
 21. **can you beat that/it?** used to show that you are surprised or annoyed by something:
 - " They've got eight children! Can you beat that?
 22. **beat your brains out** to think about something very hard and for a long time:
 - " I've been beating my brains out all week trying to finish this essay.
 23. **if you can't beat 'em, join 'em** used when you decide to take part in something even though you disapprove of it, because everyone else is doing it and you cannot stop them
 24. **beat the rap** *American English informal* to avoid being punished for something you have done
 25. **beat time** to make regular movements or sounds to show the speed at which music should be played:
 - " a conductor beating time with his baton
 26. **beat a path/track** to make a path by walking over an area of land
 27. **to beat the band** *American English informal* in large amounts or with great force:
 - " It's raining to beat the band.
 28. **beat the heat** *American English informal* to make yourself cooler:
 - " Fresh lemonade is a great way to beat the heat.
 29. **METAL** (also **beat out**) [*transitive*] to hit metal with a hammer in order to shape it or make it thinner
 30. **HUNTING** [*intransitive and transitive*] to force wild birds and animals out of bushes, long grass etc so that they can be shot for sport
 31. **beat your breast** *literary* to show clearly that you are very upset or sorry about something
- ⇒ †beaten, †beating

COLLOCATIONS

■ adverbs

- **easily beat somebody** Jason easily beats me at chess every time we play.
- **narrowly beat somebody** (=by only a few points, votes etc) New Zealand narrowly beat the Springboks in South Africa.
- **comfortably beat somebody** (=by more than a few points, votes etc) He comfortably beat the second placed candidate.
- **soundly beat somebody** (=by a lot of points, votes etc) In each event she soundly beat her opponents.
- **beat somebody hands down** (=beat someone very easily) He should be able to beat them all hands down.
- **comprehensively beat somebody** (=by a lot of points, votes etc) There's no point trying to offer excuses as to why we were so comprehensively beaten.
- **convincingly beat somebody** (=in a way that clearly shows somebody deserves to win) Mexico convincingly beat Brazil 2–0.

■ phrases

- **beat somebody into second/third etc place** He was beaten into second place in the Monaco Grand Prix.

THESAURUS

- **beat** to get more points, votes etc than someone. **Beat** is used especially in spoken English: We should have beaten them easily. | I always beat my brother at tennis.
- **defeat** to beat someone. **Defeat** is more formal than **beat** and is used especially in writing: England were defeated by 2 goals to 1. | Bush defeated Kerry in the election.
- **trounce** /traʊns/ to defeat someone completely in a game: They were trounced 20–0 by Kuwait.
- **thrash** *British English informal*, **cream** *American English informal* to beat someone very easily in a game: Of course, they totally creamed the other team. | I hope we thrash them!
- **wipe the floor with somebody** *informal* to beat someone completely in a game or argument: She wiped the floor with her opponent in the debate. | They won a £1,000 prize after wiping the floor with the opposition in a bowling competition.

beat down *phrasal verb*

1. if the sun beats down, it shines very brightly and the weather is hot
2. if the rain beats down, it is raining very hard
3. **beat the door down** to hit a door so hard that it falls down
4. **beat somebody down** *British English* to persuade someone to reduce a price

beat somebody down to

- " He wanted £4,500 for the car, but I beat him down to £3,850.

5. **beat somebody** ↔ **down** to make someone feel defeated, so they no longer respect themselves:

- " The women seemed beaten down.

beat off *phrasal verb*

1. **beat somebody/something** ↔ **off** to succeed in defeating someone who is attacking, opposing, or competing with you:

McConnell beat off a challenge for his Senate seat.

2. **American English informal not polite** if a man beats off, he ↑**masturbates**

beat somebody/something ↔ **out** *phrasal verb*

1. if a drum or something else beats out a ↑**rhythm**, or if you beat out a rhythm on a drum, it makes a continuous regular sound

2. **especially American English** to defeat someone in a competition:

▪ Lockheed beat out a rival company to win the contract.

beat somebody/something ↔ **out for**

▪ Roberts beat out Tony Gwynn for the Most Valuable Player Award.

3. to put out a fire by hitting it many times with something such as a cloth

beat up *phrasal verb*

1. **beat somebody** ↔ **up** to hurt someone badly by hitting them:

▪ Her boyfriend got drunk and beat her up.

2. **beat up on somebody** **American English** to hit someone and harm them, especially someone younger or weaker than yourself

3. **beat yourself up** (also **beat up on yourself** **American English**) **informal** to blame yourself too much for something:

▪ If you do your best and you lose, you can't beat yourself up about it.

II. **beat**² **S3** **BrE** ^{AmE} **noun**

[**Word Family**: **noun**: ↑beat, ↑beating; **adjective**: beatable ≠ ↑unbeatable, ↑beaten ≠ ↑unbeaten; **verb**: ↑beat]

1. [**countable**] one of a series of regular movements or hitting actions:

▪ a heart rate of 80 beats a minute

▪ the steady beat of the drum

2. [**singular**] a regular repeated noise **SYN** **rhythm**

beat of

▪ the beat of marching feet

3. [**countable**] the main ↑**rhythm** that a piece of music or a poem has:

▪ a song with a beat you can dance to

4. [**singular**] a subject or area of a city that someone is responsible for as their job:

▪ journalists covering the Washington beat

on the beat

▪ People like to see police officers on the beat.

5. [**countable**] one of the notes in a piece of music that sounds stronger than the other notes

• • •

THESAURUS

■ preparing food

▪ **grate** to cut cheese, carrot etc into small pieces by rubbing it against a special tool: Grate the cheese and sprinkle it over the top of the pasta.

▪ **melt** to make butter, chocolate etc become liquid: Melt the butter, chocolate, and 1 teaspoon of cream over a low heat.

▪ **sieve** **British English**, **sift** **American English** to put flour or other powders through a ↑**sieve** (=tool like a net made of wire, which you use for removing larger grains or pieces): Sift the flour and cocoa before adding to the rest of the mixture.

▪ **chop** to cut something into pieces, especially using a big knife: Chop up the vegetables.

▪ **dice** to cut vegetables or meat into small square pieces: Dice the carrots and then fry them in butter.

▪ **season** to add salt, pepper etc to food: Season the meat before grilling.

▪ **crush** to use a lot of force to break something such as seeds into very small pieces or into a powder: Add one clove of crushed garlic.

▪ **mix** to combine different foods together: Mix together all the ingredients in one bowl.

▪ **beat/whisk** to mix food together quickly with a fork or other tool: Whisk the egg whites until they form soft peaks.

▪ **stir** to turn food around with a spoon: Stir the sauce gently to prevent burning.

▪ **fold something in** to gently mix another substance into a mixture: Fold in the beaten egg whites.

▪ **knead** to press ↑**dough** (=a mixture of flour and water) many times with your hands when you are making bread: Knead the dough for ten minutes, until smooth.

▪ **drizzle** to slowly pour a small amount of a liquid onto something: Drizzle with olive oil.

▪ **let something stand** to leave something somewhere, before you do something else with it: Let the mixture stand for a couple of hours so that it cools naturally.

▪ **serve** to put different foods together as part of a meal: Serve with rice and a salad. | Serve the aubergines on a bed of lettuce.

III. **beat**³ **BrE** ^{AmE} **adjective** [not before noun]

informal very tired **SYN** **exhausted**:

▪ I'm beat.

▪ Come and sit down – you must be dead beat.

• • •

THESAURUS

▪ **tired** feeling that you want to sleep or rest: I was really tired the next day. | the tired faces of the children

▪ **exhausted** extremely tired: I was exhausted after the long trip home. | He sat down, exhausted. | She immediately fell into an exhausted sleep.

▪ **worn out** [not before noun] very tired because you have been working hard: With three small children to care for, she was always worn out.

▪ **weary** /'wiəri \$ 'wi:r-/ **written** tired because you have been travelling, worrying, or doing something for a long time: weary travellers | a weary sigh | He looks tired and weary after 20 years in office.

▪ **fatigued** **formal** very tired: They were too fatigued to continue with the climb. | Because of her illness, she often became fatigued.

- **drained** [not before noun] very tired and feeling as if all your energy has gone: Afterwards, he felt drained, both physically and mentally.
- **bushed/beat** [not before noun] *informal* very tired: I'm bushed. I think I'll go to bed early. | I'm beat. I don't think I'll go for a run tonight.
- **knackered** *British English*, **pooped** *American English* [not before noun] *informal* very tired. **Knackered** is a very informal use - do not use it in polite conversation: By the time I got home I was absolutely knackered.
- **shattered** [not before noun] *British English informal* extremely tired: When I first started teaching, I came home shattered every night.
- **dead** *spoken* extremely tired, so that you cannot do anything but sleep: I was absolutely dead by the time I got home.

beat

Freakuency Pack

12500 **1194**^{MCW}

15000 **779**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** BEAT 60033

beat 37278

beats 3744

beating 10022

beatings 823

beaten 6867

unbeaten 479

unbeatable 333

beater 223

beaters 264

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

4548 **3454**¹¹⁹⁵⁰ *nn1*

7287 **4324**⁹²³⁶ *vvi*

4661 **4966**⁷⁷³³ *vv0*

5557 **5016**⁷⁶⁴³ *vvd*

640 **26685**⁶⁷⁸ *vvn*

15 **188150**¹⁸ *np1*

14 **213505**¹⁴ *jj*

6 **347280**⁶ *nnu*