verbintransitive (of a piece of clothing, especially one made of wool)

to become covered in very small balls of fibre

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we /they	pill
	BrE /pzl/
	NAmE /pɪl/
he / she /it	pills
	BrE /pzlz/
	NAmE /pxlz/
past simple, past participle	pilled
	BrE /pt/d/
	NAmE /pɪld/
-ing form	pilling
	BrE /pɪlɪŋ/
	NAmE /pɪlɪŋ/

#### Word Origin:

- n. late Middle English Latin pilula 'little ball' pila Middle Dutch Middle Low German pille
- v. 1960s pill †pill 'tablet'

# pill

I. pill 1 S3 /pɪl/ BrE \* AmE \* noun

[Date: 1400-1500; Language: Latin; Origin: pilula, from pila 'ball']



- 1. [countable] a small solid piece of medicine that you swallow whole:
  - He has to take pills to control his blood pressure.
  - sleeping pills
  - a bottle of vitamin pills
- 2. the Pill/the pill a pill taken regularly by some women in order to prevent them having babies
  - My doctor advised me to go on the pill (=start\_taking\_it\_regularly).
- 3. sugar/sweeten the pill to do something to make an unpleasant job or situation less unpleasant for the person who has to accept it

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

- 4. be a pill American English informal if someone, especially a child, is a pill, they are annoying:
  - Luke can be a real pill sometimes.
- ⇒ a bitter pill (to swallow) at ¹bitter¹(7), ⇒ ¹morning-after pill

## **COLLOCATIONS**

## verbs

- take a pill (=use it by swallowing it) Have you taken your pills?
- swallow a pill He swallowed a handful of pills.
- pop a pill informal (=take one too easily, without thinking about it seriously) Some people just pop a pill to get a good night's sleep.
- a doctor prescribes pills (=tells someone to take them) Her doctor just prescribed more pills and told her to take it easy.

### ■NOUN + pill

- **a sleeping pill** I took a sleeping pill and tried to go back to sleep.
- malaria pills (=pills that prevent malaria)
- vitamin pills
- diet pills (=pills that are said to help you become thinner)

# **THESAURUS**

- **medicine** *noun* [uncountable and countable] a substance used for treating illness: Certain medicines should not be taken with alcohol. | Has he taken his medicine?
- **pill** noun [countable] a small piece of medicine that you swallow: She managed to swallow the pill with a sip of water. | The doctor gave him some pills. | sleeping pills | diet pills | contraceptive pills
- tablet noun [countable] especially British English a small piece of solid medicine: She's now on four tablets a day. | a five-day course of tablets | sleeping tablets | anti-malaria tablets
- antibiotics/aspirin/codeine etc: The doctor put him on a course of antibiotics. | Why don't you take some aspirin? | The

tablets contain codeine, which is unsuitable for people with asthma.

- capsule noun [countable] a small tube-shaped container with medicine inside that you swallow whole: a bottle of 500 capsules of vitamin C | I advised her to take four to six garlic capsules a day for the duration of the treatment.
- caplet noun [countable] a small smooth pill that is slightly longer than it is wide used especially on bottles and containers: In small type, the consumer is warned not to take more than one caplet per day.
- eye/ear drops liquid medicine that you put into your eye or ear: Remember if you 're using eye drops for your hay fever, leave your contact lenses out.
- cream noun [uncountable and countable] especially British English (also lotion especially American English) a thick smooth substance containing medicine, that you put on your skin: an antibiotic cream | antiseptic cream | skin cream
- **drug** *noun* [countable] a medicine or a substance for making medicines: a drug used to treat malaria | There are a wide range of different drugs on the market.
- **dosage** *noun* [countable usually singular] the amount of medicine that you should take at one time: The dosage should be reduced to 0.5 mg. | It's important to get the dosage right.
- **medication** *noun* [uncountable and countable] **medicine** or drugs given to someone who is ill: He takes medication for his diabetes. | She's on medication (=taking medication), having suffered from depression for a number of years.
- II. pill 2 BrE AmE verb [intransitive] American English

if a piece of clothing pills, especially a \*sweater, it forms little balls on the surface of the cloth after it has been worn or washed

pill

125005815MCW

150002908COCA

RANGE: 4k PILL 9032

pill 3904

pills 5128

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

214485183863 nn1

2912090541 np1