

More Odd Balls

Bell Balls



When a ball-shaped clapper inside a bell strikes the bell's side, it causes vibrations. These vibrations send sound waves through the air to your ear.

Bell clappers have called people to church, warned of fires and announced the start of each school day for centuries. The kind of sound depends on what the bell and its clapper are made of, and how big they are.

The twelve bells in a handbell choir are different sizes. Each one sets up its own unique pattern of vibration, resulting in a wide range of musical notes. Handbell ringing has been practised for at least 800 years.

Wrecking Balls

Someone whose job it is to demolish an old building might swing a huge steel ball against it in order to knock down the walls. A wrecking ball weighs 900kg (1,984 lb.), as much as 25 average sized ten-year-olds.

Mothballs

A mothball is a small ball made of naphthalene, a strong-smelling white crystalline substance moths can't stand. People put these highly poisonous balls in clothes closets, trunks, or blanket boxes — anywhere they want moths to get the "bug off" message.

Balls to Help You Relax

Do you like backrubs? Massage is a great way to relax tired muscles. Goosebumps are plastic balls covered with pointy bumps. Goosebumps are rolled over a person's back or neck to make a backrub feel even more wonderful.

Yuck!
What's that
smell?



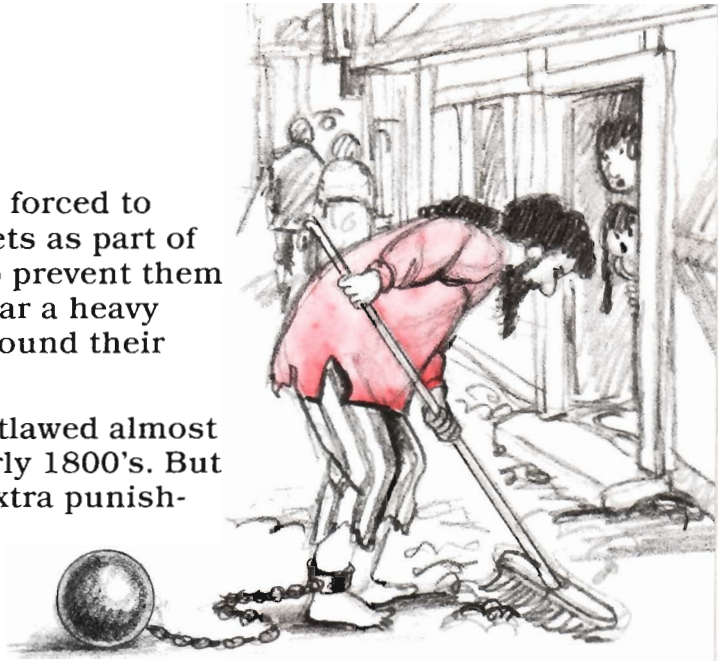
Serious Bingo tournaments use numbered and lettered balls to tell the caller what to announce. "Under the B — Three."



Ball and Chain

Not so very long ago prisoners were forced to repair highways and clean city streets as part of the punishment for their crimes. To prevent them from escaping, they often had to wear a heavy iron ball chained to an iron band around their ankles, arms or necks.

Chaining prisoners to a ball was outlawed almost everywhere by the late 1700's or early 1800's. But in 1850, it was still being used as extra punishment for those who misbehaved.

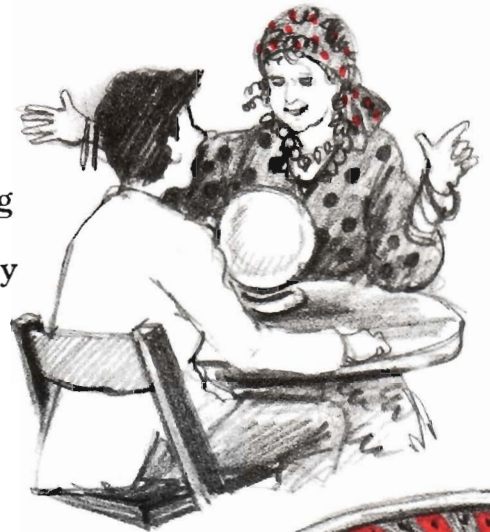


Mysterious Balls

Do you want to know if you'll become a veterinarian — or a movie star? Will you travel, have children, lead a long and happy life? We are all curious about what the future holds.

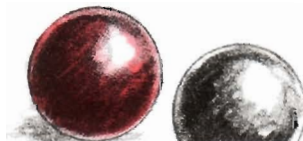
Through the ages, some people have turned to crystal gazing. They believe that by concentrating their gaze on a crystal ball, they will be able to see a picture of the future. The practice is usually not taken very seriously, but some mystics truly believe they can predict future events that way.

Whether or not they have special powers, crystal balls are fun to think about and — they make beautiful paper weights!



Therapeutic Balls

For hundreds of years, the Chinese have used heavy, smooth metal balls as a treatment for arthritis. Today, hollow stainless steel balls with moving weights inside are still rolled in the hand to help ease the pain of arthritic joints and to keep the hand flexible. The rolling motion and weight of the balls massage and soothe sore hands. Generally two balls are used, but with practice more can be added.



Gamblers know how the little steel ball on a roulette wheel can make them rich or poor in the wink of an eye. More often than not, good luck rolls away, but the thought of easy money still tempts many people to take a chance.