Although *bear* and *bare* sound alike, their spellings and meanings are completely different.

*Bear* can be a noun or a verb. As a noun, the word most commonly refers to large, furry omnivores from America and Eurasia. As a verb, *bear* has many possible meanings, including to carry, to have a characteristic or feature, to endure, and to give birth to.

**Examples:**
- He arrived in the lab bearing three boxes of medical journals.
- The child bears scars from smallpox.
- He insisted that the pain in his ankle was bearable, but we advised him to put ice on it as a precaution.
- She is likely to bear her twins before Christmas.

Common idioms using the word *bear* include *bear fruit*, meaning to produce results; *bear in mind*, meaning to remember; and *bear with*, meaning to be patient with.
**Examples:**
The experiment will likely bear fruit after only one month.
Bear in mind that the chemicals need to be ordered by Wednesday.
Bear with me while I master this unfamiliar technique.

*Bare* is an adjective used to describe something that is without a covering, exposed, empty, or without adornment. It can also refer to something that has nothing left over or added.

**Examples:**
The rat had an allergic reaction to the ointment and developed a bare, blistered patch on its left side.
The hospital, in a remote area, had only the bare essentials needed for routine patient care.

**Bibliography**

--Laura L. Russell

Image Credit: [c] Can Stock Photo

Copyright © 2019, All rights reserved. Research Medical Library, Scientific Publications Services.