
Oxford
learner's Pocket dictionary

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Guide to the dictionary

headword	break ¹ /breɪk/ <i>v</i> (pt <i>broke</i> /brəʊk/, pp <i>broken</i> /'brəʊkən/) 1 [t, 1] cause sth to be damaged and separated into pieces: <i>Glass -s easily.</i> 2 [t, 1] cause sth to stop working as a result of being damaged: <i>My</i>	irregular verb forms
examples	etc 4 [t] -(for) stop doing sth for a while, esp when it is time to eat or have a drink: <i>Let's - for lunch.</i> 5 [t] interrupt sth - <i>your journey is stop</i>	
preposition that usually follows the headword	voice) become deeper 12 [t] do better than a previous record 13 [t] solve sth secret - <i>a code</i> [10w] break the back of sth finish the largest or most difficult part of sth break even make neither a loss nor a profit break fresh/new ground introduce	idioms
	succeed or fail [pv] break away (from sthsth) go away from sthsth, leave: eg a political party break down 1 (for machinery) stop working 2 fail, collapse: <i>Links between the two sides have broken down.</i> 3 lose control of your feelings break sth down 1 destroy sth - <i>down resist</i>	phrasal verbs
compound nouns and adjectives	<i>Their marriage is -ing up.</i> ► breakable <i>adj</i> easily broken ■ 'break-away <i>adj</i> (of a political group or an organization) having separated from a larger group ■ 'break-in <i>n</i>	derivative
words with the same spelling but different meanings and parts of speech	brief ¹ /brɪf/ <i>adj</i> 1 lasting only a short time 2 using few words 3 (for clothes) short [10w] in brief in a few words ► briefly <i>adv</i>	different meanings of a word
word with a similar meaning to the headword, but a different part of speech	brief ² /brɪf/ <i>n</i> 1 instructions and for a barrister 3 (GB, myth) soldier or defence lawyer <i>I want to see one.</i> - ► brief <i>v</i> [t, 1] give sb information about sth so that they are prepared to deal with it 2 (GB, law) give a barrister the main facts	degree of formality
differences in meaning between British and American English	bureau /bjuːroʊ/ <i>n</i> (pt -s or -s 'brazz/) 1 (GB) writing desk with drawers 2 (US) chest of drawers 3 office or organization that provides information on a particular subject 4 (esp US) government department	subject area in which the word is used
help with spelling	cancel /kænsl/ <i>v</i> (pt, US -d) [t, 1] say that sth already arranged will not be done or happen: <i>The meeting was -ed.</i> 2 mark a ticket or stamp so that	irregular plurals
		differences between British and American spelling