destroy

[dɪs'trɔɪ] *v*

1. разрушать; разбивать
   to destroy a building - разрушить /снести/ здание
   to destroy an army - разбить армию
2. разбивать, расстраивать
   to destroy smb.'s hopes - разбить чьи-л. надежды
   to destroy smb.'s plans - расстроить чьи-л. планы
3. ломать, портить
   to destroy a dress - разорвать /испортить/ платье
   excesses destroy our powers of resistance to disease - излишества подрывают нашу способность сопротивляться болезням
4. уничтожать; истреблять
   to destroy a document [the rights] - уничтожить документ [права]
   to destroy smb.'s love - убить чью-л. любовь
   to destroy a reputation - погубить репутацию
5. убивать
   to destroy an injured horse - убить раненую лошадь
   to destroy oneself - кончить жизнь самоубийством

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destroy

des·troy [destroy destroys destroyed destroying] *BrE* [dɪ'strɔɪ] ˈ   *NAmE*
[dɪ'strɔɪ] ˈ   verb

1. **~ sth/sb** to damage sth so badly that it no longer exists, works, etc
   • The building was completely destroyed by fire.
   • They've destroyed all the evidence.
   • Heat gradually destroys vitamin C.
   • You have destroyed my hopes of happiness.
   • Failure was slowly destroying him (= making him less and less confident and happy).
2. **~ sth** to kill an animal deliberately, usually because it is sick or not wanted
   • The injured horse had to be destroyed.

see also ↑soul-destroying

Verb forms:

present simple	
I / you / we /they	destroy
	BrE /dɪ ˈstrɔɪ/
	NAmE /dɪ ˈstrɔɪ/
he / she /it	destroys
	BrE /dɪ ˈstrɔɪz/
	NAmE /dɪ ˈstrɔɪz/
past simple, past participle	destroyed
	BrE /dɪ ˈstrɔɪd/
	NAmE /dɪ ˈstrɔɪd/
-ing form	destroying
	BrE /dɪ ˈstrɔɪɪŋ/
	NAmE /dɪ ˈstrɔɪɪŋ/

Word Origin:
Middle English: from Old French destruire, based on Latin destruere, from de- (expressing reversal) + struere **'build'**.

Thesaurus:
destroy verb T
• a mission to destroy the enemy
devastate • • **wipe sb/sth out** • • **annihilate** • • **eradicate** • • **decimate** • • **exterminate** • • **stamp sth out** • |informal **zap** •
|especially written **ravage** •
Opp: create
   destroy/devastate/wipe out/decimate/ravage a **village /town/city**
   destroy/wipe out/decimate/annihilate/exterminate/zap **the enemy**
   a/an **earthquake /flood/fire** destroys/devastates/ravages sth
Destroy or devastate? **Devastate** is stronger than **destroy**, but is only used about places or buildings, not substances or objects. When used about people it has a different meaning.

Word Family:
destroy verb
destroyer noun
destruction noun
destructive adjective
indestructible adjective

Example Bank:
• Drugs can destroy the health and lives of young people.
• He physically destroyed the computer by smashing it to pieces.

- Our greed may ultimately destroy the planet.
- She seemed intent on destroying everything they had built up together.
- That guy just single-handedly destroyed everything we've worked for.
- The bomb hit, instantly destroying the building.
- The building was destroyed by fire last year.
- The earthquake literally destroyed their villages.
- The horse broke a leg and had to be destroyed.
- The rainforest is being systematically destroyed.
- Their lives have been virtually destroyed by this tragedy.
- These weapons are capable of destroying the entire planet.
- This disease threatens to destroy many of our native trees.
- a new attempt to destroy enemy positions
- Failure was slowly destroying him.
- The brigade's mission was to destroy the enemy.
- They've destroyed all the evidence.

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de·stroy S2 W2 /dɪˈstrɔɪ/ *BrE* ⬚ *AmE* ⬚ *verb* [transitive]

[Word Family: noun: ↑destroyer, ↑destruction; adjective: ↑indestructible, ↑destructive; verb: ↑destroy; adverb: ↑destructively]

[Date: 1100-1200; Language: Old French; Origin: destruire, from Latin destruere, from struere *'to build'*]

1. to damage something so badly that it no longer exists or cannot be used or repaired ⇨ **destruction**

  completely/totally destroy
  - The school was completely destroyed by fire.
  - companies that are polluting and destroying the environment

  destroy sb's confidence/hope/faith etc

2. if something destroys someone, it ruins their life completely:
  - The scandal destroyed Simmons and ended his political career.

3. *informal* to defeat an opponent easily:
  - The Bears destroyed the Detroit Lions 35–3.

4. to kill an animal, especially because it is ill or dangerous:
  - One of the bulls had to be destroyed.

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COLLOCATIONS

■**nouns**
  - **destroy the evidence** *(=deliberately destroy evidence of a crime)* They set light to the car to destroy the evidence.
  - **destroy the environment** Some of these companies are polluting and destroying the environment.
  - **destroy the world/planet** No one wants another war, which might destroy the world.
  - **destroy sb's career** She made one bad mistake and it destroyed her career.
  - **destroy sb's reputation** The scandal destroyed his reputation.
  - **destroy the character of something** New buildings have destroyed much of the character of the area.
  - **destroy sb's hopes** Losing the game destroyed the team's hopes of reaching the semi-finals.
  - **destroy sb's confidence** When he failed his degree, it completely destroyed his confidence.

■**adverbs**
  - **completely/totally destroy something** The plane was completely destroyed when it hit a mountain.
  - **partially destroy something** The Great Fire of 1666 partially destroyed the prison.

■**phrases**
  - **be destroyed by fire/a bomb/earthquake etc** The building was destroyed by fire in 2004.

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THESAURUS
  - **destroy** to damage something so badly that it no longer exists or cannot be used or repaired: The earthquake almost completely destroyed the city. | The twin towers were destroyed in a terrorist attack.
  - **devastate** to damage a large area very badly and destroy many things in it: Allied bombings in 1943 devastated the city. | The country's economy has been devastated by years of fighting.
  - **demolish** to completely destroy a building, either deliberately or by accident: The original 15th century house was demolished in Victorian times. | The plane crashed into a suburb of Paris, demolishing several buildings.
  - **flatten** to destroy a building or town by knocking it down, bombing it etc, so that nothing is left standing: The town centre was flattened by a 500 lb bomb.
  - **wreck** to deliberately damage something very badly, especially a room or building: The toilets had been wrecked by vandals. | They just wrecked the place.
  - **trash** *informal* to deliberately destroy a lot of the things in a room, house etc: Apparently, he trashed his hotel room while on drugs.
  - **obliterate** *formal* to destroy a place so completely that nothing remains: The nuclear blast obliterated most of Hiroshima.
  - **reduce something to ruins/rubble/ashes** to destroy a building or town completely: The town was reduced to rubble in the First World War.
  - **ruin** to spoil something completely, so that it cannot be used or enjoyed: Fungus may ruin the crop. | The new houses will ruin the view.

destroy

12500 **1570**^{MCW}

15000 **1020**^{COCA}

RANGE: **2k** DESTROY 45634

  destroy 10000

  destroyed 12715

  destroying 3868

  destroys 1213

  destruction 12731

  destructive 3908

  destroyer 725

  destroyers 474

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

6235 **4818**⁸⁰⁸⁶ *vvi*

1666 **13923**¹⁹¹⁴ *vv0*