

break

I

1. [breɪk] *n*
 - 1) пролом; разрыв; отверстие, щель; брешь; трещина
break in the pipe-line - разрыв трубопровода, пробоина в трубопроводе
 - 2) проламывание; пробивание
 - 3) прорыв
long [short] pass break - быстрый прорыв длинным [коротким] пасом (*баскетбол*)
 2. 1) перерыв; пауза; перемена (*в школе*)
a break in the song - пауза в песне *или* пении
without a break - непрерывно
a break for commercial - перерыв в программе для передачи рекламы
break for P.T., the P.T. break - физкультпауза, пятиминутка (*на производстве*)
there was a break in the conversation - разговор прервался, все вдруг замолчали
 - 2) многоточие *или* другой знак, указывающий на внезапную паузу
 - 3) *стих.* цезура
 3. раскол; разрыв отношений
to make a break with smb. - порвать с кем-л.
 4. первое появление
the break of day /of dawn/ - рассвет
 5. *амер. разг.*
 - 1) нарушение приличий
 - 2) ошибка; неуместное замечание
to make a (bad) break - а) сделать ложный шаг; б) сделать неуместное замечание; в) проговориться, обмолвиться
 6. внезапная перемена
a break in the weather - внезапное изменение погоды
a break in one's way of living - изменение в образе жизни
 7. побег (*из тюрьмы*; *тж.* break out)
to make a break for it - (попытаться) сбежать
 8. *амер. бирж.* внезапное падение цен
 9. *амер. полит.* передача голосов другому кандидату (*на съезде*)
 10. *амер. разг.* шанс; (благоприятная) возможность, (счастливый) случай
even breaks - равные шансы
lucky break - счастливый случай
bad break - невезение, незадача
the breaks were against us - нам не везло
he gets all the breaks - ему всегда везёт /фартит
 11. участок вспаханной земли (*под пастбище, пахоту и т. п.*)
 12. *амер. разг.* кража со взломом
 13. *диал.* большое количество (*чего-л.*)
 14. игра о борт (*хоккей*)
 15. *геол.*
 - 1) разрыв, нарушение
 - 2) малый сброс
 16. переход лошади с одного шага на другой
 17. *спорт.*
 - 1) первый удар
 - 2) право первого удара
 - 3) удачная серия ударов
◇ break in the clouds - просвет (в тучах), луч надежды
2. [breɪk] *v* (*broke, уст. brake; broken, поэт. broke*)
 1. 1) ломать
to break a rod [a stick] - сломать прут [палку]
to break in two - разломить, сломать пополам
to break one's leg [one's arm, one's neck] - сломать ногу [руку, шею]
to break on the wheel - *уст.* колесовать
 - 2) ломаться
the bench broke - скамейка сломалась
the branch bent but did not break - ветка согнулась, но не сломалась
 - 3) взламывать
to break a lock [a door] - взломать замок [дверь]
 2. (*тж.* break up)
 - 1) разбивать
to break a window [dishes] - разбить окно [посуду]
to break (in) to pieces /asunder/ - разбить на куски
to break to atoms - разбить вдребезги
to break up an attack - расстроить атаку (противника)
 - 2) разбиваться

the vase broke - ваза разбилась
the ship broke up on the rocks - корабль разбился о скалы
glass breaks easily - стекло легко бьётся
my heart is breaking - моё сердце разрывается

3. 1) **разрывать; прорывать**

to break the tape - *спорт.* финишировать
to break the enemy front - прорвать фронт противника
to break from one's bonds - разорвать оковы, вырваться из неволи
to break open - взламывать, открывать силой
to break open a lock [a safe] - взломать замок [сейф]
to break open a door - выломать дверь
to break open a letter - распечатать письмо
to break a deadlock - найти выход из тупика

2) **(по)рваться, разрываться**

the rope broke and he fell to the ground - верёвка порвалась, и он упал

3) **вскряться, прорваться**

to break loose /free/ - а) вырваться на свободу; his fury broke loose - он дал волю своему бешенству; her hair had broken loose - её волосы рассыпались; б) сорваться с цепи
the boil broke - нарыв прорвался

4. **портить, ломать, приводить в негодность**

to break a clock [a sewing-machine] - сломать часы [швейную машину]

5. 1) **прерывать, нарушать**

to break silence - нарушить молчание
to break the peace - нарушить мир /покой/
to break one's fast - разговеться
to break the thread of a thought - прервать нить /ход/ мысли

2) **временно прекращать, делать остановку (тж. break off)**

to break from work - сделать перерыв /передышку/ в работе
let's break (off) for half an hour and have some tea - давайте прервёмся на полчаса и выпьем чаю
we broke our journey at the village - мы сделали привал в деревне

3) **прерываться (о голосе)**

4) **эл. прерывать (ток); размыкать (цепь)**

6. **(into) врываться, вламываться**

to break into a house - ворваться в дом
the store was broken into - магазин ограбили

7. 1) **ослаблять**

to break the blow [the fall] - ослабить /уменьшить/ силу удара [падение]
the trees round the house break the force of the wind - деревья, окружающие дом, защищают его от ветра

2) **слабеть, ослабевать; прекращаться**

the frost broke - мороз ослабел /отпустил/
the spell of fine weather has broken - погода испортилась
his attention broke - его внимание ослабло

8. **рассеиваться, расходиться; проходить**

clouds broke - тучи рассеялись
darkness broke - темнота рассеялась
his gloom broke - его дурное настроение прошло
the enemy broke before them - противник отступил в беспорядке

9. 1) **начаться, наступить**

the day /dawn/ broke - рассвело

2) **разразиться (тж. break out)**

ten minutes later the storm broke - десятью минутами позже разразилась буря
his anger broke - он разъярился

10. 1) **разорять, приводить к банкротству**

to break the bank - а) подорвать банк; б) *карт.* сорвать банк
the money-lenders soon broke him - ростовщики вскоре разорили его
he was completely broke(n) - он был совершенно разорён

2) **разориться, обанкротиться**

he will be broke soon - он скоро обанкротится

3) **понижать в должности**

to break a general - разжаловать генерала

4) **амер. бирж. внезапно упасть в цене**

11. **вырваться, убежать (тж. break out)**

to break (out of) prison - убежать из тюрьмы
to break cover - выйти из убежища (о дичи)

12. **срывать**

a cry broke from her lips - крик вырвался из её уст

13. **лопаться, давать ростки**

the buds are breaking - почки лопаются

14. **разг. случаться, происходить**

anything broken? - Nothing much - что-нибудь случилось? - Ничего особенного

15. **спорт.** выйти из «боксинга» (о бегунах); освободиться от захвата противника (в боксе)

16. **лингв.** перейти в дифтонг

II A

1. 1) нарушать (слово, обещание, закон и т. п.)

to break one's word - не сдержать слова

to break a marriage - расторгнуть брак

to break an appointment - не явиться в назначенное время или место; не прийти на свидание

to break faith with smb. - обманывать кого-л., нарушать данное кому-л. слово; не выполнить (данного кому-л.) обещания

to break a law [a contract, an oath] - нарушить закон [договор, клятву]

to break the sanctuary - нарушить право убежища

2) сбиться (с ритма и т. п.)

to break the rhythm - **спорт.** нарушать ритм

to break contact **см.** contact I 1

to break step - **воен.** идти не в ногу; сбиться с ноги

2. 1) разрознивать (собрание сочинений, коллекцию и т. п.)

to break a set - а) разрознить комплект /набор/; б) продавать комплект /набор/ отдельными предметами (в разрозненном виде)

through losing that book you have broken the set - потеряв эту книгу, вы разрознили собрание сочинений

2) **ж.-д.** расформировать (состав)

3) расстраивать (ряды)

break ranks! - **воен.** разойдись!

4) **разг.** разменивать (деньги)

3. сломить (сопротивление, волю и т. п.; **тж.** break down)

to break opposition - сломить оппозицию

they couldn't break his will - они не могли сломить его волю

to break the spirit of the army - сломить дух армии

to break a strike - сорвать забастовку

4. сообщать (известия)

to break a secret - раскрыть тайну

to break one's mind to smb. - **уст.** раскрыть кому-л. свою душу

he broke the news of her husband's death to her - он сообщил ей о смерти её мужа

he broke his purpose to me - он раскрыл мне свои планы

5. 1) разрыхлять, вскапывать (грунт, почву; **тж.** break up)

to break the ground, to break fresh /new/ ground - а) распахать землю, поднимать целину; б) **воен.** начинать рытьё окопов; в) начинать новое дело; делать первые шаги (в чём-л.)

2) прокладывать, пробивать (дороги)

6. (**тж.** break in)

1) выезжать (лошадь); дрессировать; обучать

to break (in) a horse - объезжать /выезжать/ лошадь

2) дисциплинировать, прививать навыки; обуздывать

to break (in) a child - приучать ребёнка к дисциплине

7. ссадить, содрать (кожу)

8. появляться (на поверхности)

to break surface - появиться на поверхности (о подводной лодке)

to break the water - выскочить из воды (о рыбе)

9. резать на куски (дичь, птицу)

10. аннулировать по решению суда (завещание и т. п.)

11. **горн.** отбивать (породу)

12. мять, трепать (пеньку, лён)

II Б

1. to break into smth.

1) внезапно начинать что-л.

to break into (a loud) laughter - (громко) рассмеяться, расхохотаться

to break into tears - залиться слезами, расплакаться

her face broke into a radiant smile - сияющая улыбка озарила её лицо

to break into a run [into a gallop] - пуститься бежать [в галоп]

the waiting crowds broke into loud cheers - толпа ожидающих разразилась приветственными возгласами

2) неожиданно изменить скорость движения

to break into stride - **спорт.** войти в свой шаг

to break into column - **воен.** построиться в колонну

the herd broke into a gallop - табун перешёл в галоп

3) начать тратить (о монетах и банкнотах)

to break into a pound note - разменять фунт

2. to break upon smb.

1) представиться кому-л., предстать перед кем-л.

a new landscape broke upon us - нашему взору представился новый пейзаж

2) осенить кого-л., внезапно прийти в голову кому-л.

the truth broke upon me - мне сразу всё стало ясно

3. to break with smb., smth. порывать отношения с кем-л., чем-л.

to break with a firm - разорвать отношения с фирмой

he has broken with the past он порвал с прошлым



to break the back (of) - а) изнурять работой, перегружать; б) = to break the neck (of smth.)

to break one's back - а) сломать себе шею; б) перегрузиться; he won't break his back working - он не надорвётся на работе;

в) обанкротиться, потерпеть крах

to break the camel's back - ≅ переполнить чашу терпения

to break (the) camp - сниматься с лагеря

to break the neck (of smth.) - а) сокрушить; сломить сопротивление; б) одолеть самую трудную часть (чего-л.); в) суметь пережить самое тяжёлое

to break one's neck - а) сломать себе шею; б) нестись сломя голову

to break the record - побить рекорд

to break a jest - отпустить/отколоты/ шутку

to break a lance with smb. - а) сражаться на турнире с кем-л.; б) ломать копья, спорить с жаром с кем-л.

to break shins - *прост.* занимать деньги

to break ship - не явиться на пароход по истечении отпуска

to break the slate - *амер.* снять свою кандидатуру (на выборах)

to break bulk - а) начинать разгрузку; распаковывать; б) рассортировать груз по назначению

to break into pictures - *кино проф.* а) экранизировать; б) прорваться на экран (об актёре)

to break the bridge - дожать из положения «на мосту» (борьба)

to break no squares - не причинять вреда, не нарушать порядок; не иметь большого значения

to break no bones - не причинять вреда

no bones are broken - ничего плохого не случилось

to break one's head over smth. - ломать себе голову над чем-л.

to break the ice - сломать лёд, сделать первый шаг, положить начало

to break bread (with smb.) *см.* bread I

break it down! - *австрал.* перестаньте говорить об этом!

to break even - а) остаться при своих (в игре); б) *ком.* окончиться безубыточно; покрыть свои расходы

it is the first time in five years we broke even - впервые за пять лет мы завершили год без убытка

to break stones - выполнять тяжёлую работу, зарабатывать на жизнь тяжёлым трудом

to break china - наделать переполох, вызвать беспорядок

to break a butterfly /a fly/ on the wheel - ≅ стрелять из пушек по воробьям

who breaks pays - *посл.* кто разбил, тот и платит; ≅ сам заварил кашу, сам и расхлёбывай

II

[breɪk] *n*

1. рама для выездки лошадей
2. большой открытый экипаж с двумя продольными скамьями

II

[breɪk] *n*

- 1) брейк, сольная импровизация в джазе
- 2) брейк (*танец*)

break

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

break [break breaks broke breaking broken] *verb, noun* *BrE* [breɪk] ¹ *NAmE*

[breɪk]

verb (**broke** *BrE* [brəʊk] ¹ ; *NAmE* [brɔʊk] ¹ **broken** *BrE* ['brəʊkən] ¹ ; *NAmE* ['brɔʊkən] ¹)

IN PIECES

1. intransitive, transitive to be damaged and separated into two or more parts, as a result of force; to damage sth in this way

- All the windows broke with the force of the blast.
- The bag broke under the weight of the bottles inside it.
- ~ **in/into sth** She dropped the plate and it **broke into pieces** .
- ~ **sth** to break a cup/window
- She fell off a ladder and broke her arm.
- ~ **sth in/into sth** He **broke** the chocolate **in two** .

STOP WORKING

2. intransitive, transitive to stop working as a result of being damaged; to damage sth and stop it from working

- My watch has broken.
- ~ **sth** I think I've broken the washing machine.

SKIN

3. transitive ~ **sth** to cut the surface of the skin and make it ↑bleed

- The dog bit me but didn't break the skin.

LAW/PROMISE

4. transitive ~ **sth** to do sth that is against the law; to not keep a promise, etc

- to break the law/rules/conditions
- to break an agreement/a contract/a promise/your word
- to break an appointment (= not to come to it)

- He was breaking the speed limit (= travelling faster than the law allows) .

STOP FOR SHORT TIME

5. intransitive, transitive to stop doing sth for a while, especially when it is time to eat or have a drink

- ~ **(for sth)** Let's break for lunch.
- ~ **sth** a broken night's sleep (= a night during which you often wake up)
- (especially BrE) We **broke our journey** in Oxford (= stopped in Oxford on the way to the place we were going to) .

END STH

6. transitive ~ sth to interrupt sth so that it ends suddenly

- She **broke the silence** by coughing.
- A tree **broke his fall** (= stopped him as he was falling) .
- The phone rang and broke my train of thought.
- Someone laughed suddenly and the spell was broken.

7. transitive ~ sth to make sth end by using force or strong action

- an attempt to break the year-long siege
- Management has not succeeded in **breaking the strike** .

8. transitive ~ sth to end a connection with sth or a relationship with sb

- He broke all ties with his parents.

ESCAPE

9. intransitive ~ free (from sb/sth) (of a person or an object) to get away from or out of a position in which they are stuck or trapped

- He finally managed to break free from his attacker.

DESTROY, BE DESTROYED

10. transitive, intransitive ~ (sb/sth) to destroy sth or make sb/sth weaker; to become weak or be destroyed

- to break sb's morale/resistance/resolve/spirit
- The government was determined to break the power of the trade unions.
- The scandal broke him (= ruined his reputation and destroyed his confidence) .
- She broke under questioning (= was no longer able to bear it) and confessed to everything.

MAKE SB FEEL BAD

11. transitive ~ sb to make sb feel so sad, lonely, etc. that they cannot live a normal life

- The death of his wife broke him completely.

OF WEATHER

12. intransitive to change suddenly, usually after a period when it has been fine

SHOW OPENING

13. intransitive to show an opening

- The clouds broke and the sun came out.

OF DAY/DAWN/STORM

14. intransitive when the day or [↑]dawn or a storm breaks, it begins

- Dawn was breaking when they finally left.

see also [↑]daybreak

OF NEWS

15. intransitive if a piece of news breaks, it becomes known

- There was a public outcry when the scandal broke.
- **breaking news** (= news that is arriving about events that have just happened)

16. transitive ~ it/the news to sb to be the first to tell sb some bad news

- Who's going to break it to her?
- I'm sorry to be the one to break the news to you.

OF VOICE

17. intransitive if sb's voice breaks, it changes its tone because of emotion

- Her voice broke as she told us the dreadful news.

18. intransitive when a boy's voice breaks, it becomes permanently deeper at about the age of 13 or 14

A RECORD

19. transitive ~ a record to do sth better, faster, etc. than anyone has ever done it before

- She had broken the world 100 metres record.
- The movie broke all box-office records.

OF WAVES

20. intransitive when waves break, they fall and are dissolved into [↑]foam, usually near land

- the sound of waves breaking on the beach
- The sea was breaking over the wrecked ship.

STH SECRET

21. **transitive** ~ a **code/cipher** to find the meaning of sth secret

- to break a code

MONEY

22. **transitive** ~ **sth** (especially **NAmE**) to change a †**banknote** for coins

- Can you break a twenty-dollar bill?

Rem: Idioms containing break are at the entries for the nouns and adjectives in the idioms, for example break sb's heart is at heart.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	break
	BrE /'breɪk/
	NAmE /'breɪk/
he / she / it	breaks
	BrE /'breɪks/
	NAmE /'breɪks/
past simple	broke
	BrE /'brɔːk/
	NAmE /'brɔːk/
past participle	broken
	BrE /'brɔːkən/
	NAmE /'brɔːkən/
-ing form	breaking
	BrE /'breɪkɪŋ/
	NAmE /'breɪkɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Old English brecan (verb), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch **breken** and German **brechen**, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin **frangere** 'to break'.

Thesaurus:

break verb

1. I, T

- She fell and broke her arm.

crack • • **fracture** • • **snap** • • **break (sth) up** • • **smash** • • **shatter** • • **splinter** •

break/crack/fracture/smash/shatter/splinter a **bone**

crack/fracture/smash/shatter your **skull**

break/crack/smash a **cup/mirror**

a **branch/rope/cable** breaks/snaps

2. I, T

- My watch has broken.

break down • • **go wrong** • • **fail** • • **crash** • • **go down** •

a **watch/video/DVD player** breaks/goes wrong

a **washing machine** breaks down/goes wrong

a **system** fails/crashes/goes down

3. T

- Don't break the law by speeding.

formal **breach** • • **infringe** • • **violate** •

Opp: obey

break/breach/infringe a **regulation**

break/breach/violate a **rule/law/treaty**

break/violate a **ceasefire/truce**

4. T

- He wouldn't break a promise, would he?

go back on sth • • **backtrack** • |informal, especially journalism do a **U-turn** •

Opp: keep

break/go back on a **a promise/your word/an agreement**

Collocations:

Injuries

Being injured

have a fall/an injury

receive /suffer/sustain a serious injury/a hairline fracture/(especially BrE) whiplash/a gunshot wound

hurt/injure your ankle/back/leg

damage the brain/an ankle ligament/your liver/the optic nerve/the skin

pull/strain/tear a hamstring/ligament/muscle/tendon

sprain/twist your ankle/wrist

break a bone/your collarbone/your leg/three ribs

fracture/crack your skull

break/chip/knock out/lose a tooth

burst/perforate your eardrum

dislocate your finger/hip/jaw/shoulder

bruise/cut/graze your arm/knee/shoulder

burn/scald yourself/your tongue
bang/bump/hit/ (informal) bash your elbow/head/knee (on/against sth)

Treating injuries

treat sb for burns/a head injury/a stab wound
examine /clean/dress/bandage /treat a bullet wound
repair a damaged/torn ligament/tendon/cartilage
amputate /cut off an arm/a finger/a foot/a leg/a limb
put on/ (formal) apply/take off (especially NAmE) a Band-Aid™/(BrE) a plaster/a bandage
need/require/put in/ (especially BrE) have (out)/ (NAmE) get (out) stitches
put on/rub on/ (formal) apply cream/ointment/lotion
have/receive /undergo (BrE) physiotherapy/(NAmE) physical therapy

Language Bank:

illustrate

Referring to a chart, graph or table

- This bar chart **illustrates** ▪ how many journeys people made on public transport over a three-month period.
- This table **compares** ▪ bus, train, and taxi use between April and June.
- The results **are shown** ▪ in the chart below.
- In this pie chart, the survey results **are broken down** ▪ by age.
- This pie chart **breaks down** ▪ the survey results by age.

As can be seen from ▪ these results, younger people use buses more than older people.

According to ▪ these figures, bus travel accounts for 60% of public transport use.

From ▪ the data in the above graph, **it is apparent that** ▪ buses are the most widely used form of public transport.

Language Banks at ↑evidence, ↑fall, ↑increase, ↑proportion, ↑surprising

Vocabulary Building:

Words that mean 'break'

burst	The balloon hit a tree and burst.
crack	The ice started to crack.
crumble	Crumble the cheese into a bowl.
cut	Now cut the wire in two.
fracture	He fell and fractured his hip.
shatter	The vase hit the floor and shattered.
smash	Vandals had smashed two windows.
snap	I snapped the pencil in half.
split	The bag had split open on the way home.
tear	She tore the letter into pieces.

All these verbs, except cut, can be used with or without an object.

Example Bank:

- He broke off abruptly when Jo walked in.
- She broke down in tears as she spoke to reporters.
- She broke off from the conversation to answer the telephone.
- She broke the bar in two and gave a piece to me.
- She broke the chocolate up into small pieces.
- The glass broke into hundreds of pieces.
- Their marriage had broken down irretrievably.
- He broke the chocolate in two and gave me half.
- He was breaking the speed limit.
- How did this dish get broken?
- I didn't mean to break the window.
- I don't know how to break it to him.
- I think I've broken the video.
- I've never broken my word; why should I do it now?
- Just break the news to her gently.
- Perhaps it is more courageous to break a promise if it means saving the economy.
- She dropped the plate and it broke into pieces.
- She had broken the conditions of her bail.
- She has already broken three appointments.
- Some companies have broken sanctions by supplying arms to the warring states.
- They insist that they have not broken any rules.
- Would you be willing to break the law to achieve your goal?
- to break an agreement/a contract

Idioms: ↑break of day ▪ ↑give me a break! ▪ ↑give somebody a break ▪ ↑make a break for for it

Derived ↑break away ▪ ↑break down ▪ ↑break for something ▪ ↑break in ▪ ↑break into something ▪ ↑break off ▪ ↑break out ▪ ↑break out in something ▪ ↑break somebody in ▪ ↑break something down ▪ ↑break something off ▪ ↑break something up ▪ ↑break through ▪ ↑break through something ▪ ↑break up ▪ ↑break with something

SHORT STOP/PAUSE

- 1. countable** a short period of time when you stop what you are doing and rest, eat, etc.
 - a **coffee/lunch/tea break**
 - Let's **take a break** .
 - a break for lunch
 - She worked all day without a break.
- 2. (also 'break time') (both BrE) (NAme re-cess) uncountable** a period of time between lessons at school
 - Come and see me at break.
- 3. countable** a pause or period of time when sth stops before starting again
 - a break in my daily routine
 - She wanted to take a **career break** in order to have children.
- 4. countable** a pause for advertisements in the middle of a television or radio programme
 - More news after the break.

HOLIDAY/VACATION

- 5. countable** a short holiday/vacation
 - We had a weekend break in New York.
 - a well-earned break

CHANGE IN SITUATION

- 6. singular** the moment when a situation or a relationship that has existed for a time changes, ends or is interrupted
 - ~ **(with sb/sth)** He needed to make a complete break with the past.
 - a **break with tradition/convention** (= a change from what is accepted, in sth such as art, behaviour, etc.)
 - ~ **(in sth)** a **break in the weather** (= a change from one type of weather to a different one)
 - a break in diplomatic relations

OPENING/SPACE

- 7. countable ~ (in sth)** a space or an opening between two or more things
 - We could see the moon through a break in the clouds.
 - Wait for a break in the traffic before crossing the road.

OPPORTUNITY

- 8. countable (informal)** an opportunity to do sth, usually to get sth that you want or to achieve success
 - I got my **lucky break** when I won a 'Young Journalist of the Year' competition.
 - We've had a few bad breaks (= pieces of bad luck) along the way.
 - If you just give me a break, you won't regret it.

OF BONE

- 9. countable** a place where sth, especially a bone in your body, has broken
 - The X-ray showed there was no break in his leg.

IN TENNIS

- 10. (also break of 'serve) countable** a win in a game in which your opponent is [↑] **servicing**
 - It was her second break in the set.
 - **break point** (= a situation in which, if you win the next point, you win the game)

IN BILLIARDS/SNOOKER

- 11. countable** a series of successful shots by one player; the number of points scored in a series of successful shots
 - He's put together a magnificent break.
 - a 147 break (= the highest possible break in [↑] **snooker**)
 - The champion began with breaks of 74 and 58.
- more at** a clean break **at** [↑] **clean** adj.

Word Origin:

Old English brecan (verb), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch **breken** and German **brechen**, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin **frangere** 'to break' .

Thesaurus:

break noun

1. C

- Have a break for lunch.

rest • • **breathing space** • |informal **breather** • • **time out** • |formal **respite** • |BrE **break time** • |AmE **law recess** •

a break/a rest/time out/respite **from** sth

have/take a break/a rest/a breather/time out

give sb a break/rest/breathing space/respite

Break or recess? In British English **break time** or **break** **U** is a period of time between lessons at school. The American English word for this is **recess**.

2. C

- a break in your routine

lull • **gap** • **interruption** • **pause** •

a/an break/lull/gap/interruption/pause in sth

after a/an break/lull/gap/interruption/pause

a **short** break/lull/gap/interruption/pause

a **long** break/gap/pause

Break, lull or gap? A **break** is often planned. A **lull** or **gap** usually just happens without planning

• There was a gap/lull in the conversation.

3. C

• a weekend break

trip • **excursion** • **outing** • **BrE holiday** • **day out** • **AmE vacation** • **informal getaway** •

a **great/relaxing** break/trip/holiday/day out/vacation/getaway

a **summer/winter** break/trip/holiday/vacation/getaway

take a break/trip/holiday/vacation

go on (a/an) trip/excursion/outing/day out/holiday/vacation

Synonyms:

rest

break • **respite** • **time out** • **breathing space**

These are all words for a short period of time spent relaxing.

rest • a period of relaxing, sleeping or doing nothing after a period of activity: ▪ We stopped for a well-earned rest.

break • a short period of time when you stop what you are doing and rest or eat: ▪ Let's ▪ take a break ▪.

In British English **break** is a period of time between lessons at school. The North American English word is **recess**.

respite • a short break from sth difficult or unpleasant: ▪ The drug brought a brief respite from the pain.

time out • (informal, especially NAmE) time for resting or relaxing away from your usual work or studies: ▪ Take time out to relax by the pool.

breathing space • a short rest in the middle of a period of mental or physical effort ▪ This delay gives the party a breathing space in which to sort out its policies.

(a) rest/break/respite/time out **from** sth

to **have/take** (a) rest/break/time out

to **give sb** (a) rest/break/respite/breathing space

Example Bank:

- He's the director who gave her her first big break.
- His new work makes a break with the past.
- I always knew I would get my lucky break one day.
- I had a word with John during the break.
- I wanted to leave but was nervous about making the break.
- I won a weekend break in Paris.
- I'll see you at break.
- We have a 15-minute break in the morning.
- We worked all day without a break.
- We'll take a break now and resume in an hour.
- a break from caring for the children
- a break from tradition
- a break in the weather
- A lot of students go to Florida for Spring Break.
- Choose from our range of city breaks.
- Everyone needs a break, a change from day-to-day routine.
- Have you got any plans for the Easter break?
- I need a break from mental activity.
- I need a break in my daily routine.
- I'd like to take her on a mini— break.
- It's a great city for a weekend break.
- It's often difficult for talented newcomers to get the break they deserve.
- Let's take a break.
- Spend the weekend at a spa for a really relaxing break.
- The prize is a three-night break in Paris.
- The team have been taking a break in Spain.
- The track bends left through a break in the hedge.
- a coffee/lunch/tea break
- a commercial break

See also: ↑break time ▪ ↑recess

break

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **break**¹ **S1 W1** /breɪk/ **BrE** ^ˈ **AmE** ^ˈ **verb** (past tense **broke** /brəʊk \$ broʊk/, past

participle **broken** /'brəʊkən \$ 'brəʊ-)

[Word Family: noun: ↑break, ↑outbreak, ↑breakage; adjective: ↑breakable ≠ ↑unbreakable, ↑broken ≠ ↑unbroken; verb: ↑break]

[Language: Old English; Origin: brecan]

1. SEPARATE INTO PIECES

a) [transitive] if you break something, you make it separate into two or more pieces, for example by hitting it, dropping it, or bending it:

- I had to break a window to get into the house.
- Don't lean on the fence like that – you'll break it!

break something in half/two

- He broke the biscuit in half and handed one piece to me.
- Break the chocolate into small pieces and melt it over a gentle heat.

b) [intransitive] if something breaks, it separates into two or more pieces:

- He kept pulling at the rope until it broke.
- The frames are made of plastic and they tend to break quite easily.

2. **BONES** [transitive] to damage a bone in your body by making it crack or split:

- She fell downstairs and broke her hip.

3. MACHINES

a) [transitive] to damage a machine so that it does not work properly:

- Don't mess about with my camera – you'll break it.
- Someone's broken the TV.

b) [intransitive] if a machine breaks, it stops working properly:

- The washing machine's broken again.

4. **RULES/LAWS** [transitive] to disobey a rule or law:

- They're breaking the law by employing such young children.
- If you break the rules, you will be punished.
- The cameras catch motorists who break the speed limit.

5. **PROMISE/AGREEMENT** [transitive] to not do something that you have promised to do or signed an agreement to do:

- I never break my promises.
- You betrayed me. You broke your word.

break an agreement/contract

- He was worried that he might be breaking his contract.

6. **STOP/REST** [intransitive] to stop for a short time in order to have a rest or eat something

break for

- Shall we break for lunch now?

7. **END SOMETHING** [transitive] to stop something from continuing:

- We need to break the cycle of poverty and crime in the inner cities.
- We took turns driving, in order to try and break the monotony.
- New talks will begin on Monday in an effort to break the deadlock.

8. **DEFEAT SOMEBODY** [transitive] to make someone feel that they have been completely defeated and they cannot continue working or living:

- Losing his business nearly broke him.
- I won't give in. I won't be broken by him.

9. **DESTROY AN ORGANIZATION** [transitive] to damage an organization so badly that it no longer has any power:

- The government succeeded in breaking the unions.

10. **DAY/DAWN** [intransitive] when the day or the **↑dawn** breaks, the sky gets light:

- Dawn was breaking by the time we arrived home.

11. **STORM** [intransitive] if a storm breaks, it begins:

- We were keen to get back to the hotel before the storm broke.

12. **WEATHER** [intransitive] if the weather breaks, it suddenly changes and becomes cold or wet:

- The following day the weather broke and we had ten days of solid rain.

13. **WAVES** [intransitive] when waves break, they fall onto the land at the edge of the water:

- We sat and watched the waves breaking on the shore

14. **SB'S VOICE** [intransitive]

a) when a boy's voice breaks, it becomes lower and starts to sound like a man's voice:

- He was fifteen, and his voice was just beginning to break.

b) if your voice breaks, it does not sound smooth because you are feeling strong emotions:

- Her voice broke as she told us what had happened.

15. NEWS

a) [intransitive] if news about an important event breaks, it becomes known:

- News of his resignation broke yesterday.
- The minister has refused to give any interviews since the scandal broke.

b) [transitive] if you break unpleasant news to someone, you tell it to them:

- I didn't know how I was going to break the news to my mother.
- The doctor finally broke it to me that there was no cure.

16. **break a habit** to stop doing something that you do regularly, especially something that you should not do:

- a new drug which helps smokers to break their habit

17. **break a record** to do something even faster or even better than the previous best time, amount etc:

- an attempt to break the 10,000-metres world record

18. **break a journey** *British English* to stop somewhere for a short time during a long journey:

- We decided to break our journey in Oxford.

19. **break sb's heart** to make someone very unhappy by ending a relationship with them or doing something that upsets them a lot:

- He broke my heart when he left me.

It'll break your father's heart if you tell him you're giving up college.

20. **break a strike** to force workers to end a **↑strike**:

The government has threatened to bring in the army to break the 10-month-old strike.

21. **break a link/tie/connection** to end a relationship with a person or organization:

The US has now broken all diplomatic links with the regime.

Sometimes it is necessary to break family ties in order to protect the child.

22. **break the skin** to cut the skin on your body:

Their teeth are sharp enough to break the skin.

23. **break the back of something** to finish the main or worst part of something:

I think we've broken the back of the job now.

24. **break the bank** to cost a lot of money, or more money than you have:

A new hard drive doesn't have to break the bank.

25. **break sb's concentration** to interrupt someone and stop them from being able to continue thinking or talking about something:

The slightest sound would break his concentration.

26. **break the silence** to end a period of silence by talking or making a noise:

The silence was broken by a loud scream.

27. **break sb's spirit** to destroy someone's feeling of determination:

They could not break her spirit.

The spirit of our soldiers will never be broken.

28. **break sb's power** to take away someone's position of power or control:

At last the power of the Church was finally broken.

29. **break the ice** *informal* to make people feel more friendly and willing to talk to each other:

Sam's arrival broke the ice and people began to talk and laugh.

30. **break a code** to succeed in understanding something that is written in a secret way:

Scientists worked day and night to break the code.

31. **break wind** to allow gas to escape from your bottom, making a noise and an unpleasant smell

32. **break (sb's) serve** to win a game in tennis when your opponent is starting the game by hitting the ball first:

Hewitt broke serve twice in the second set.

33. **break a leg** *spoken* used to wish someone luck, especially just before they perform on stage

...

COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 5)

■ break + NOUN

- **break your promise** I'll never forgive him for breaking his promise to me.
- **break your word** (=break your promise) I've promised to do it and I never break my word.
- **break your vow** (=break a serious or formal promise) He accused her of breaking her marriage vows.
- **break (off) your engagement** In the end she decided to break their engagement.
- **break a contract** He took the company to court for breaking the contract.
- **break an agreement** This action broke the international agreement of 1925.

...

THESAURUS

■ to break something

- **break** *verb* [transitive] to damage something and make it separate into pieces, for example by dropping it or hitting it: Careful you don't break the chair. | He broke his leg.
- **smash** *verb* [transitive] to break something with a lot of force: A policeman smashed his camera.
- **snap** *verb* [transitive] to break something into two pieces, making a loud noise – used especially about long thin objects: He snapped the sticks in two.
- **split** *verb* [transitive] to separate something into two pieces along a straight line: Using a sharp knife, split the melon in half.
- **fracture** *verb* [transitive] to damage a bone, especially so that a line appears on the surface: I fell over and fractured my wrist.
- **tear** /teə \$ ter/ *verb* [transitive] to damage paper or cloth by pulling it so that it separates into pieces: She tore up the letter and put it in the bin. | I tore my jacket.

■ to become broken

- **break** *verb* [intransitive] to become damaged and separate into pieces: Plastic breaks quite easily.
- **smash** *verb* [intransitive] to break after being hit with a lot of force: The bowl smashed as it hit the floor.
- **shatter** *verb* [intransitive] to break into a lot of small pieces: The glass shattered all over the pavement.
- **crack** *verb* [intransitive] if something cracks, a line appears on the surface, which means that it could later break into separate pieces: The ice was starting to crack.
- **burst** *verb* [intransitive] if a tyre, balloon, pipe etc bursts, it gets a hole and air or liquid suddenly comes out of it: She blew up the balloon until it burst.
- **split** *verb* [intransitive] to break in a straight line: The damp had caused the wood to split.
- **crumble** *verb* [intransitive] to break into a powder or a lot of small pieces: The cork just crumbled in my hand.

break away *phrasal verb*

1. to leave a group or political party and form another group, usually because of a disagreement:

More than 30 Labour MPs broke away to form a new left-wing party.

break away from

They broke away from the national union and set up their own local organization. ⇨ **↑breakaway**²

2. to leave your home, family, or job and become independent

break away from

I felt the need to break away from home.

3. to move away from someone who is holding you:

She started crying and tried to break away.

break away from

She broke away from him and ran to the door.

4. to move away from other people in a race or game:

Radcliffe broke away 200 metres before the finish.

5. to become loose and no longer attached to something:

Part of the plane's wing had broken away.

break down *phrasal verb*

1. if a car or machine breaks down, it stops working:

The car broke down just north of Paris.

The printing machines are always breaking down. ⇒ ↑breakdown

2. to fail or stop working in a successful way:

Negotiations broke down after only two days.

I left London when my marriage broke down. ⇒ ↑breakdown

3. **break something ↔down** if you break down a door, you hit it so hard that it breaks and falls to the ground:

Police had to break down the door to get into the flat.

4. **break something ↔down** to change or remove something that prevents people from working together and having a successful relationship with each other:

Getting young people together will help to break down the barriers between them.

It takes a long time to break down prejudices.

5. if a substance breaks down, or something breaks it down, it changes as a result of a chemical process

break something ↔down

Food is broken down in the stomach.

Bacteria are added to help break down the sewage.

6. to be unable to stop yourself crying, especially in public:

He broke down and cried.

She broke down in tears when she heard the news.

7. **break something ↔down** to separate something into smaller parts so that it is easier to do or understand:

He showed us the whole dance, then broke it down so that we could learn it more easily.

The question can be broken down into two parts.

⇒ ↑breakdown

break for something *phrasal verb*

to suddenly run towards something, especially in order to escape from someone:

He broke for the door, but the guards got there before he did.

break in *phrasal verb*

1. to enter a building by using force, in order to steal something:

Thieves broke in and stole £10,000 worth of computer equipment. ⇒ ↑break-in

2. to interrupt someone when they are speaking

break in on

I didn't want to break in on his telephone conversation.

break in with

Dad would occasionally break in with an amusing comment.

3. **break something ↔in** to make new shoes or boots less stiff and more comfortable by wearing them:

I went for a walk to break in my new boots.

4. **break somebody in** to help a person get used to a certain way of behaving or working:

She's quite new to the job, so we're still breaking her in.

5. **break something ↔in** to teach a young horse to carry people on its back:

We break the horses in when they're about two years old.

break into something *phrasal verb*

1. to enter a building or car by using force, in order to steal something:

Someone broke into my car and stole the radio.

Her house was broken into last week.

2. to become involved in a new job or business activity:

She made an attempt to break into journalism.

It's a profession that is very hard to break into.

Many British firms have failed in their attempts to break into the American market.

3. to start to spend money that you did not want to spend:

I don't want to break into my savings unless I have to.

4. **break into a run/trot etc** to suddenly start running:

He broke into a run as he came round the corner.

5. **break into a smile/a song/applause etc** to suddenly start smiling, singing etc:

Her face broke into a smile.

The audience broke into loud applause.

break somebody of something *phrasal verb*

to make someone stop having a bad habit:

Try to break yourself of the habit of eating between meals.

break off *phrasal verb*

1. to suddenly stop talking:

She started to speak, then broke off while a waitress served us coffee.

He broke off in mid-sentence to shake hands with the new arrivals.

break something ↔ off

I broke off the conversation and answered the phone.

2. break something ↔ off to end a relationship:

She broke off their engagement only a few weeks before they were due to be married.

The US has broken off diplomatic relations with the regime.

3. if something breaks off, or if you break it off, it comes loose and is no longer attached to something else:

One of the car's wing mirrors had broken off.

break something ↔ off

He broke off a piece of bread.

break out phrasal verb

1. if something unpleasant such as a fire, fight, or war breaks out, it starts to happen:

I was still living in London when the war broke out.

Does everyone know what to do if a fire breaks out?

Fighting broke out between demonstrators and the police. ⇒ ↑outbreak

2. to escape from a prison

break out of

Three men have broken out of a top-security jail. ⇒ ↑breakout

3. to change the way you live because you feel bored

break out of

She felt the need to break out of her daily routine.

4. break out in spots/a rash/a sweat etc if you break out in spots etc, they appear on your skin:

I broke out in a painful rash.

My whole body broke out in a sweat.

break through phrasal verb

1. break through (something) to manage to get past or through something that is in your way:

Several demonstrators broke through the barriers despite warnings from the police.

After hours of fierce fighting, rebels broke through and captured the capital.

2. break through (something) if the sun breaks through, you can see it when you could not see it before because there were clouds:

The sun broke through at around lunch time.

The sun soon broke through the mist.

3. to manage to do something successfully when there is a difficulty that is preventing you:

He's a very talented young actor who's just ready to break through.

break through into

It is possible that at this election some of the minority parties might succeed in breaking through into parliament.

⇒ ↑breakthrough

break up phrasal verb

1. if something breaks up, or if you break it up, it breaks into a lot of small pieces:

It seems that the plane just broke up in the air.

break something ↔ up

Use a fork to break up the soil.

2. break something ↔ up to separate something into several smaller parts:

There are plans to break the company up into several smaller independent companies.

You need a few trees and bushes to break up the lawn.

3. break something ↔ up to stop a fight:

Three policemen were needed to break up the fight.

4. break something ↔ up to make people leave a place where they have been meeting or protesting:

Government soldiers broke up the demonstration.

Police moved in to break up the meeting.

5. if a marriage, group of people, or relationship breaks up, the people in it separate and do not live or work together any more:

He lost his job and his marriage broke up.

The couple broke up last year.

Many bands break up because of personality clashes between the musicians.

break up with

Has Sam really broken up with Lucy? ⇒ ↑breakup

6. if a meeting or party breaks up, people start to leave:

The party didn't break up until after midnight.

The meeting broke up without any agreement.

7. British English when a school breaks up, it closes for a holiday:

School breaks up next week.

break up for

When do you break up for Easter?

8. break somebody up American English informal to make someone laugh by saying or doing something funny:

He breaks me up!

break with somebody/something phrasal verb

1. to leave a group of people or an organization, especially because you have had a disagreement with them:

She had broken with her family years ago.

They broke with the Communist Party and set up a new party.

2. break with tradition/the past to stop following old customs and do something in a completely different way:

Now is the time to break with the past.

His work broke with tradition in many ways.

II. break ² **S2 W2 BrE** ^{AmE} **noun**

[Word Family: **noun**: ↑break, ↑outbreak, ↑breakage; **adjective**: ↑breakable ≠ ↑unbreakable, ↑broken ≠ ↑unbroken; **verb**: ↑break]

1. STOP WORKING [countable] a period of time when you stop working in order to rest, eat etc:

We'll have a short break for lunch, then start again at two o'clock.

Let's take a ten-minute break.

We'd worked for ten hours without a break.

I'll go shopping during my lunch break.

2. STOP DOING SOMETHING [countable] a period of time when you stop doing something before you start again

break from

I wanted a break from university life.

She decided to take a career break when she had children.

break in

a welcome break in my normal routine

3. HOLIDAY [countable] a short holiday:

I was beginning to feel that I needed a break.

We flew off for a week's break in Spain.

They're offering weekend breaks in Paris for only £100.

the Easter/Christmas etc break

Are you looking forward to the summer break?

4. AT SCHOOL [uncountable] the time during the school day when classes stop and teachers and students can rest, eat, play etc

at break

I'll speak to you at break.

They get together with their friends at break time.

5. ON TV [countable] a pause for advertisements during a television or radio programme:

Join us again after the break.

We'll be back with more after a short break.

6. SOMETHING STOPS HAPPENING [countable] a period of time when something stops happening before it starts again

break in

We'll go for a walk if there's a break in the rain.

Latecomers will be admitted at a suitable break in the performance.

She waited for a break in the conversation.

There was no sign of a break in the weather (=an improvement in bad weather).

7. END A RELATIONSHIP [singular] a time when you leave a person or group, or end a relationship with someone:

I wanted a clean break so that I could restart my life.

It was years before I plucked up enough courage to make the break and leave him.

break with

He was beginning to regret his break with the Labour Party.

8. SPACE/HOLE [countable] a space or hole in something

break in

We crawled through a break in the hedge.

The sun shone through a break in the clouds.

9. CHANCE [countable] *informal* a sudden or unexpected chance to do something that allows you to become successful in your job:

There are hundreds of young musicians out there looking for their first break.

He got his first big break in 1998.

a lucky break

10. BONES [countable] the place where a bone in your body has broken:

It's quite a bad break, which will take several months to heal.

11. TENNIS [countable] a situation in a game of tennis in which you win a game when your opponent is starting the game by hitting the ball first:

She really needs a break of serve now if she wants to win this match.

12. SNOOKER [countable] the number of points that a player wins when it is their turn to hit the ball in a game such as ↑snooker

13. break with tradition/the past a time when people stop following old customs and do something in a completely different way:

It is time for a complete break with the past.

14. make a break for something to suddenly start running towards something in order to escape from a place:

As soon as the guard's back was turned, they made a break for the door.

Two of the prisoners made a break for it but were soon recaptured.

15. give me/it a break! *spoken* used when you want someone to stop doing or saying something that is annoying you

16. give somebody a break *spoken* to stop being strict with someone so that a situation becomes easier for them:

Give the kid a break. It's only his second day on the job.

17. the break of day *literary* the time early in the morning when it starts getting light

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COLLOCATIONS

■ **verbs**

- **have/take a break** After two hours, she took a break and switched on the radio.

- **need a break** I'm sorry, I can't do any more - I need a break.

■ **ADJECTIVES/NOUN + break**

- **a short/quick break** Shall we have a quick five-minute break?
- **a lunch break** What time's your lunch break?
- **a coffee/tea break** How about a coffee break?
- **a morning/afternoon break** I don't usually have time for a morning break.
- **a well-earned break** (=one that you deserve) Everyone's looking forward to a well-earned break when the exams are over.

...

THESAURUS

- **vacation** *especially American English*, **holiday** *especially British English* time you spend away from school or work: Are you taking a vacation this summer? | We met on holiday in Cyprus. | What are you doing in the school holidays?
- **holiday** a day that is set by law, when no one has to go to work or school: the Thanksgiving holiday | New Year's Day is a national holiday. | In 2002, there was an extra public holiday to mark the Queen's golden jubilee. | the August bank holiday (=day when all the banks and shops are closed – used in British English)
- **break** a time when you stop working or studying in order to rest, or a short vacation from school: a ten-minute coffee break | Lots of college kids come to the beaches during the spring break.
- **leave** a time when you are allowed not to work: We get four weeks' annual leave (=paid time off work each year). | He has been taking a lot of sick leave (=time off work because you are ill) recently. | Angela is on maternity leave (= time off work when having a baby). | He was given compassionate leave (=time off work because someone close to you has died, is very ill etc) to go to his father's funeral.
- **sabbatical** [usually singular] a period when someone, especially a teacher, stops doing their usual work in order to study or travel: She was on sabbatical for six months. | I'm thinking of taking a sabbatical.
- **furlough** a period of time when a soldier or someone working in another country can return to their own country as a holiday: While on furlough, he and his girlfriend got married.
- **R & R (rest and relaxation)** a holiday, especially one given to people in the army, navy etc after a long period of hard work or during a war: Soldiers in Vietnam were taken to Hawaii for R & R.

break

Freakuency Pack

12500 **509**^{MCW}
 15000 **314**^{COCA}
 RANGE: **1k** **BREAK** 150698
 break 67794
 breaking 15274
 breakage 250
 breakages 6
 breaks 10254
 broke 23919
 broken 26018
 unbreakable 298
 outbreaks 1712
 outbreak 3159
 unbroken 852
 breaker 530
 breakers 632
 COCA 500k Unlemmatized
 18322 **988**⁴⁰⁹⁷¹ *nn1*
 15817 **2137**²⁰¹⁵⁸ *vvi*
 5691 **5707**⁶⁵⁸⁶ *vv0*
 38 **123515**³⁹ *jj*
 28 **129505**³⁶ *nnu*
 4 **450399**⁴ *pph1*