***Breaking Bad*** is an American crime drama television series created and produced by Vince Gilligan. Set and filmed in [Albuquerque, New Mexico](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Albuquerque,_New_Mexico), the series follows [Walter White](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Walter_White) ([Bryan Cranston](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Bryan_Cranston)), an underpaid, overqualified, and dispirited high-school chemistry teacher who is struggling with a recent diagnosis of stage-three lung cancer. Walt turns to a life of crime and partners with a former student, [Jesse Pinkman](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Jesse_Pinkman) ([Aaron Paul](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Aaron_Paul)), to produce and distribute crystal meth to secure his family's financial future before he dies, while navigating the dangers of the criminal underworld. The show aired on AMC from January 20, 2008, to September 29, 2013, consisting of five seasons for a total of 62 episodes.

Among the show's co-stars are [Anna Gunn](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Anna_Gunn) and [RJ Mitte](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/RJ_Mitte) as Walter's wife [Skyler](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Skyler_White) and son [Walter Jr.](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Walter_White_Jr.), and [Betsy Brandt](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Betsy_Brandt) and [Dean Norris](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Dean_Norris) as Skyler's sister [Marie Schrader](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Marie_Schrader) and her husband [Hank](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Hank_Schrader), a [DEA](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Drug_Enforcement_Administration) agent. Others include [Bob Odenkirk](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Bob_Odenkirk) as Walter's and Jesse's sleazy lawyer [Saul Goodman](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Jimmy_McGill), [Jonathan Banks](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Jonathan_Banks) as private investigator and fixer [Mike Ehrmantraut](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Mike_Ehrmantraut), and [Giancarlo Esposito](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Giancarlo_Esposito) as drug kingpin [Gustavo Fring](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Gustavo_Fring). The [final season](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Season_5B_(Breaking_Bad)) introduces [Jesse Plemons](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Jesse_Plemons) as the criminally ambitious [Todd Alquist](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Todd_Alquist), and [Laura Fraser](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Laura_Fraser) as [Lydia Rodarte-Quayle](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Lydia_Rodarte-Quayle), a cunning business executive secretly managing Walter's global meth sales for [her company](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Madrigal_Electromotive_GmbH).

*Breaking Bad'*s [first season](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Season_1_(Breaking_Bad)) received generally positive reviews, while the rest of its run received unanimous critical acclaim. Since its conclusion, the show has been lauded by critics as one of the greatest television series of all time. It had fair viewership in its first [three](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Season_2_(Breaking_Bad)) [seasons](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Season_3_(Breaking_Bad)), but the [fourth](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Season_4_(Breaking_Bad)) and [fifth](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Season_5A_(Breaking_Bad)) seasons saw a moderate rise in viewership when it was made available on Netflix just before the fourth season premiere. Viewership increased more drastically upon the premiere of the second half of the fifth season in 2013. By the time that [the series finale](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/Felina) aired, it was among the most-watched cable shows on American television. The show received [numerous awards](https://breakingbad.fandom.com/wiki/List_of_awards_and_nominations_received_by_Breaking_Bad), including 16 Primetime Emmy Awards, eight Satellite Awards, two Golden Globe Awards, two Peabody Awards, two Critics' Choice Awards, and four Television Critics Association Awards. Cranston won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series four times, while Aaron Paul won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series three times; Anna Gunn won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series twice. In 2013, *Breaking Bad* entered the *Guinness World Records* as the most critically acclaimed TV show of all-time.

Plot summary:

Season 1 (2008)

Walter, diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer, conspires with Jesse to cook crystal meth as a way to pay for his treatment and provide financial security for his family. Jesse secures an R.V. to cook in, while Walter devises a revolutionary formula using unregulated chemicals, creating a highly pure product tinted blue. After a run-in with the Mexican drug cartel, Walter adopts the nickname "Heisenberg" and trades his "blue sky" meth with psychotic drug lord Tuco Salamanca. Hank and the DEA become aware of this new figure in the drug trade and begin their investigations.

Season 2 (2009)

Tuco and Walter become hostile to one another and Tuco is killed by Hank. Walter hires corrupt lawyer Saul Goodman, who later connects them to high-profile drug distributor Gus Fring and hitman Mike Ehrmantraut. Jesse dates his apartment manager Jane, who introduces him to heroin, making him unreliable. Walter refuses to pay Jesse's half of the sale to Gus, but Jane blackmails Walter. Walter returns to Jesse to apologize, but instead allows an unconscious Jane to choke on her own vomit. Jesse, traumatised, enters rehab. Walter seems content with life until he witnesses a mid-air collision of two planes, a result of Jane's father, an air-traffic controller, becoming distraught over her death while on the job.

Season 3 (2010)

Skyler learns of Walter's crimes and demands a divorce, so he retires from the drug trade briefly, but Gus offers him a job cooking meth at a state-of-the-art hidden lab with an assistant, Gale. Hank's investigation leads him to Jesse; he finds no evidence, but violently assaults him and is suspended from the DEA. Walt, in order to keep Jesse from suing Hank for the assault, coerces Gus into replacing Gale with Jesse as lab assistant. Hank is attacked by Tuco's vengeful cousins and kills them, becoming paralysed in the aftermath. Jesse's behaviour becomes erratic, and Walter is forced to kill two of Gus' drug dealers to protect Jesse. After an enraged Gus orders Walter and Jesse killed, Jesse kills Gale so Gus cannot replace them as a cook for meth

Season 4 (2011)

Gus tightens security at the lab after Gale's death. Gus and Mike work to drive a wedge between Walter and Jesse, seeking to coerce Jesse to be their solitary cook by capturing Walter while at the same time eliminating the Mexican cartel. Skyler accepts Walter's meth cooking, and works with Saul to launder his earnings. Hank, while recovering, tracks Gale's death to Gus and the drug trade. Gus releases Walter and plans to kill Hank. Walter tricks Jesse into turning against Gus, and convinces Hector Salamanca, the last living member of the cartel, to detonate a bomb while meeting with Gus, killing them both.

Season 5 (2012–13)

After Gus' death, Walter, Jesse, and Mike start a new meth business. When their accomplice Todd kills a child witness during their theft of methylamine, Jesse and Mike sell their share of the methylamine to Declan, another distributor. Walter produces meth for Declan, and Gus' former associate Lydia starts distribution in Europe, which is so successful that Walter earns US$80 million, which he buries on the Tohajiilee Indian Reservation. After Walter kills Mike during an argument, he gets the list of Mike's imprisoned men from Lydia, and hires Todd's uncle Jack and his gang to kill Mike's associates and Jesse. Hank discovers Walter is Heisenberg and begins gathering evidence, and turns to Jesse, who helps locate Walter's money in the desert. During a desert showdown between Walter and Hank and his partner Steve, Jack's gang arrives. They turn on Walter, kill Hank and Steve, capture Jesse, and take most of Walter's money, leaving him just one of the seven barrels. Walter uses this to escape to New Hampshire.

After months in hiding, Walter intends to surrender, but changes course after Elliott and Gretchen publicly minimize his involvement in starting Gray Matter. Walt forces Elliott and Gretchen to give the money to Walter Jr. once he turns 18. After poisoning Lydia, Walt admits to Skyler that he manufactured meth for his own satisfaction rather than for his family. At Jack's compound, Walter kills Jack and the rest of his gang with a remote-activated machine gun turret and frees Jesse, who kills Todd. Wounded by his own machine gun, Walter asks Jesse to kill him, but Jesse refuses. The two share a farewell glance, after which Jesse escapes. Walter dies from his wounds in Jack's meth lab.