**Breadth-first search** (**BFS**) is an [algorithm](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algorithm) for traversing or searching [tree](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree_data_structure) or [graph](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graph_(data_structure)) data structures. It starts at the [tree root](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree_(data_structure)#Terminology) (or some arbitrary node of a graph, sometimes referred to as a 'search key'[[1]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breadth-first_search#cite_note-1)) and explores the neighbor nodes first, before moving to the next level neighbours.

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| **Breadth-first search** |
| [Order in which the nodes get expanded](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Breadth-first-tree.svg)  Order in which the nodes are expanded |