

break²

S2 W2

noun

- 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 away 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/CHANGE** **end a relationship** [singular] **FINISH/COME TO AN END** 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** **A SPACE** **space/hole** [countable] **SPACE/GAP** 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** **A CHANCE** **chance** [countable] **(informal)** **CHANCE/OPPORTUNITY** 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** **BROKEN PLACE** **bones** [countable] **INJURE** 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 **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 POINTS **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 ESCAPE

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) STOP DOING SOMETHING

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) EARLY

the time early in the morning when it starts getting light

COLLOCATIONSense 1

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.*

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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