

# brush<sup>1</sup> S3

/brʌʃ/

noun

**1 | object for cleaning/painting** FOR CLEANING[countable] an object that you use for cleaning, painting, making your hair tidy etc, made with a lot of hairs, BRISTLES, or thin pieces of plastic, fastened to a handle → **broom:**

*a scrubbing brush*

→ HAIRBRUSH,  
NAILBRUSH,  
PAINTBRUSH,  
TOOTHBRUSH

**2 | trees** BUSHES/TREES[uncountable]

a)

small bushes and trees that cover an area of land

b)

branches that have broken off bushes and trees

**3 | movement** [singular] CLEAN a movement in which you brush something to remove dirt, make something smooth, tidy etc:

*I'll just **give my hair a quick brush**.*

**4 | touch** TOUCH[singular] TOUCH a quick light touch, made by chance when two things or people pass each other:

*the brush of her silk dress as she walked past*

**5 | avoid**[countable] a time when you only just avoid an unpleasant situation or argument:

**brush with**

*His first **brush with the law** came when he was 16.*

*A **brush with death** can make you appreciate life more.*

**6 | tail** TAIL[countable] the tail of a FOX

## Word origin

Sense 1, 3-6:

**Date:** 1300–1400

**brush**

**Origin:** Early French *broisse*, from Old French *broce* ( → [BRUSH](#) <sup>1</sup> 2); probably because branches from bushes and trees were used to make brushes.

Sense 2:

**Date:** 1300–1400

**Language:** Old French

**Origin:** *broce* ‘broken branches, brushwood’

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

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