

brick<sup>1</sup>

S2 W3

/brɪk/

noun

**1** [uncountable and countable] a hard block of baked clay used for building walls, houses etc:

*a brick wall*

*a house made of brick*

*Protesters attacked the police with stones and bricks.*

**2 bricks and mortar**

houses – used especially when talking about them as an INVESTMENT

**3** [countable] (*BrE*) a small square block of wood, plastic etc used as a toy

**4** [countable] *NICE* (*old-fashioned*) a good person who you can depend on when you are in trouble

→ **be (like) banging/bashing etc your head against a brick wall**

AT HEAD<sup>1</sup> (31),

→ **drop a brick** AT DROP<sup>1</sup> (27)

**Word origin**

**Date:** 1400–1500

**Language:** French

**Origin:** *brique*, from Middle Dutch *bricke*

brick<sup>2</sup>

verb

**be bricking it** (*BrE*) (informal)

to feel very nervous or frightened

**brick something ↔ off**

phrasal verb

to separate an area from a larger area by building a wall of bricks:

*Some of the rooms had been bricked off.*

**brick** something ↔ **up/ in**  
phrasal verb

to fill or close a space by building a wall of bricks in it:

*The windows were bricked up.*

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*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

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