

branch¹ S2 W2

/brɑːntʃ \$ bræntʃ/

noun [countable]

1 | of a tree a part of a tree that grows out from the TRUNK (= main stem) and that has leaves, fruit, or smaller branches growing from it → **limb**:
After the storm, the ground was littered with twigs and branches.
*The **topmost branches** were full of birds.*

2 | of a business/shop/company etc IN A LOCAL AREA a local business, shop etc that is part of a larger business etc:
The bank has branches all over the country.
*a **branch office** in Boston*
She now works in our Denver branch.
Where's their nearest branch?
*They're planning to **open a branch** in St. Louis next year.*
*Have you met our **branch manager**, Mr. Carlson?*

3 | of government OF AN ORGANIZATION a part of a government or other organization that deals with one particular part of its work → **department**:
All branches of government are having to cut costs.

the executive/judicial/legislative branch (= the three main parts of the US government)

4 | of a subject OF A SUBJECT/AREA OF KNOWLEDGE, DUTIES, STUDY ETC one part of a large subject of study or knowledge → **field**:

a branch of mathematics/physics/biology etc

5 | of a family OF A FAMILY a group of members of a family who all have the same ANCESTORS → **side**:

the wealthy South American branch of the family

6 | of a river/road etc SMALLER PART/PART a smaller less important part of a river, road, or railway that leads away from the larger more important part of it:
*The rail company may have to close the **branch line** to Uckfield.*

Word origin**Date:** 1200–1300**Language:** Old French**Origin:** *branche*, from Late Latin *branca* 'animal's foot'

branch²

verb

[intransitive]

to divide into two or more smaller, narrower, or less important parts → **fork:***When you reach the village green, the street **branches into two**.*

branch off

phrasal verb

- 1** SEPARATE if a road, passage, railway etc branches off from another road etc, it separates from it and goes in a different direction

SYN fork off:

branch off from

a passage branching off from the main tunnel

- 2** (BrE)_{TURN} to leave a main road

SYN fork off:

branch off from/into

We branched off from the main road and turned down a country lane.

- 3** TALK TO SOMEBODY to start talking about something different from what you were talking about before:

branch off into

Then the conversation branched off into a discussion about movies.

branch out

phrasal verb

VARIOUS/OF DIFFERENT KINDS to start doing something different from the work or activities that you normally do:

Don't be afraid to branch out and try something new.

branch out into (doing) something

Profits were falling until the bookstore branched out into selling CDs.

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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