

a·part S2 W1

/ə'pɑ:t \$ -ɑ:rt/

adverb, adjective

- 1 **DISTANCE** | **not close/touching** if things are apart, they are not close to each other or touching each other:

two miles/six feet etc apart

Place the two posts 6 metres apart.

*They have offices in countries as **far apart** as India and Peru.*

*The police try to **keep** rival supporters **apart** at all matches.
A couple of men started fighting and we had to **pull** them **apart**.*

Joel stood apart from the group, frowning.

- 2 | **in different pieces** if something comes apart, or you take it apart, it is separated into different pieces:

*The whole thing **comes apart** so that you can clean it.*

*They **took** the engine **apart** to see what was wrong.*

- 3 **SEPARATE** | **separate** if you keep things apart, you keep them separate from each other:

I try to keep my work and private life as far apart as possible.

- 4 **TIME** | **not at same time** **PERIOD OF TIME** if things are a particular time apart, they do not happen at the same time but have that much time between them:

two days/three weeks/five years etc apart

Our birthdays are exactly a month apart.

- 5 **SEPARATE** | **people** if people are apart, they are not together in the same place, or not having a relationship with each other:

The children have never been apart before.

My wife and I are living apart at the moment.

apart from

He's never been apart from his mother.

6 fall apart

a)

if something falls apart, it breaks into different pieces:

It just fell apart in my hands!

b)

if something is falling apart, it is in very bad condition:

He drives around in an old car that's falling apart.

c)

if something falls apart, it fails completely:

He lost his job and his marriage fell apart.

The country's economy is in danger of falling apart.

7 be torn apart

if a marriage, family etc is torn apart, it can no longer continue because of serious difficulties:

The play portrays a good marriage torn apart by external forces.

8 be worlds/poles apart DIFFERENT

if people, beliefs, or ideas are worlds or poles apart, they are completely different from each other:

I realized we were still worlds apart.

9 grow/drift apart SEPARATE

if people drift or grow apart, their relationship slowly becomes less close:

Lewis and his father drifted apart after he moved to New York.

10 joking apart SERIOUS/NOT JOKING

used to say that you want to say something seriously:

Joking apart, they did do quite a good job for us.

11 somebody/something apart

except for someone or something:

The car industry apart, most industries are now seeing an improvement in their economic performance.

12 set somebody/something apart

to make someone or something different from other people or things:

Her unusual lifestyle set her apart as a child.

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Old French

Origin: *a part* 'to the side'

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

© Pearson Education Limited 2009, 2011, 2015