

a·wake¹ S3

/ə'weɪk/

adjective [not before noun]

1 SLEEP not sleeping:

I hope he's awake now.

She was still only half awake when I brought her a cup of coffee.

*How do you **stay awake** during boring lectures?*

*Emma **lay awake** half the night, worrying.*

*The noise brought him **wide awake** (= completely awake) .*

*To **keep** themselves **awake** (= stop themselves from going to sleep) they sat on the floor and told each other stories.*

2 be awake to something UNDERSTAND

to understand a situation and its possible effects

SYN be aware of something

Too few people are awake to the dangers of noise pollution.

COLLOCATIONSense 1 verbs

stay/keep/remain awake *I was tired and it was hard to stay awake.*

lie awake *Kate lay awake thinking about what had happened.*

keep somebody awake *The noise of the airplanes kept me awake.*

shake somebody awake *Ben shook me awake and told me the news.*

adverbs

be wide/fully awake (= completely awake) *I'm never wide awake until I've had a cup of coffee.*

be half awake (= not fully awake) *Most of the people on the train were only half awake.*

be hardly/barely awake *George, barely awake, came stumbling down the stairs.*

awake²

verb

[intransitive and transitive]

(*past tense* **awoke** /ə'wəʊk \$ ə'wouk/, *past participle* **awoken** /ə'wəʊkən \$ ə'wou-/))

1 (formal) WAKE UP/GET UP to wake up, or to make someone wake up:

It was midday when she awoke.

We awoke to a day of brilliant sunshine.

In everyday English, people usually use **wake up** rather than **awake**:
*I **woke up** at 4 o'clock this morning.*

2 (literary) FEEL HAPPY/FRIGHTENED/BORED ETC if something awakes an emotion, or if an emotion awakes, you suddenly begin to feel that emotion:

The gesture awoke an unexpected flood of tenderness towards her.

awake to something

phrasal verb

UNDERSTAND to begin to realize the possible effects of a situation

SYN wake up to

Artists finally awoke to the aesthetic possibilities of photography.

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *awacan* (from *wacan*) and *awacian* (from *wacian*); → WAKE ¹

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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