

# ap·proach<sup>1</sup>

S2 W2 AC

/ə'prəʊtʃ \$ ə'prɔʊtʃ/

verb

- 1 **move towards** [intransitive and transitive] TOWARDS to move towards or nearer to someone or something:

*As I approached the house, I noticed a light on upstairs.*

*She heard footsteps approaching.*

- 2 **ask** [transitive] ASK FOR SOMETHING/ASK SOMEBODY TO DO SOMETHINGCONTACT SOMEBODY to ask someone for something, or ask them to do something, especially when you are asking them for the first time or when you are not sure if they will do it:

**approach somebody for something**

*Students should be able to approach teachers for advice.*

**approach somebody/something about (doing) something**

*The charity approached several stores about giving food aid.*

*I have already been approached by several other companies (= offered a job, work etc).*

→ APPROACHABLE

- 3 **future event** [intransitive and transitive] NEAR if an event or a particular time approaches, or you approach it, it is coming nearer and will happen soon:

*She was then approaching the end of her career.*

*The time is **fast approaching** when we will have to make a decision.*

*With winter approaching, many animals are storing food.*

- 4 **deal with** [transitive] DEAL WITH to begin to deal with a situation or problem in a particular way or with a particular attitude:

**approach a problem/task/matter etc**

*It might be possible to approach the problem in a different*

way.

5 **almost** [intransitive and transitive] ALMOST to be almost equal to something:

*temperatures approaching 35° C*

*He's never had anything approaching a normal life.*

## COLLOCATIONS – Meaning adjectives

a new/ different/ fresh/ alternative approach *a new approach to pollution control*

a positive approach (= showing that you believe something can be done) *A positive approach is essential in beating pain.*

a creative approach (= thinking of new ideas and methods) *International business requires a more creative approach.*

a general/ broad approach *Many governments have pursued this general approach to economic policy.*

a direct approach *We would do better to adopt a direct approach and tackle the problem at its source.*

a practical approach *Women often take a more practical approach.*

a pragmatic approach (= dealing with problems in a way that is not limited by a strict set of principles) *a pragmatic approach to management problems*

a balanced approach (= considering everything in a sensible way) *The President spoke in favour of a calm and balanced approach.*

a tough approach (= dealing with something in a severe way) *The council adopted a tough approach to fighting crime.*

a cautious approach *China has followed a more cautious approach.*

a flexible approach (= using different methods if

necessary) *We have a flexible approach to our clients' requirements.*

a traditional/conservative approach *This is different from the traditional approach to high school teaching.*

an unorthodox approach (= not the same as people usually use) *It's an unorthodox approach that her doctor doesn't recommend for everyone.*

a scientific/systematic approach *a scientific approach to the study of language*

## verbs

have an approach *In the US they have a somewhat different approach.*

take/adopt an approach (= use an approach) *There were concerns that Beijing would take a tougher approach.*

use an approach *This approach has been used for a number of major investigations.*

try an approach *Some scientists have been trying an alternative approach.*

prefer/favour an approach *I prefer a traditional approach.*

## Word origin

**Date:** 1300–1400

**Language:** Old French

**Origin:** *aprochier*, from Late Latin *appropriare*, from Latin *ad-* 'to' + *prope* 'near'