

broth·er¹

S1 W1

/'brʌðə \$ -ər/

noun [countable]

1 FAMILY a male who has the same parents as you → **sister:**

I have two brothers, William and Mark.

elder/older/younger etc brother

My younger brother is a doctor.

little/kid brother (= younger brother)

I have to take my little brother to school.

*My **big brother** (= older brother) has always looked after me.*

my twin brother

2 (spoken informal) a word meaning a black man, used especially by other black men

3 TALK TO SOMEBODYMEMBER a male member of a group with the same interests, religion, profession etc as you

4 (plural **brothers** or **brethren**) a male member of a religious group, especially a MONK:

Brother Justin

5 (AmE) a member of a FRATERNITY (= a club of male university students)

6 **brothers in arms** ARMY (literary)

soldiers who have fought together in a war

→ BIG BROTHER,
BLOOD BROTHER,
HALF BROTHER,
STEPBROTHER

COLLOCATIONSSense 1

ADJECTIVES/NOUN + brother

an older/elder brother *I have two older brothers.*

a big brother (= older brother - used especially by or to children) *Jake was my big brother and I admired him.*

a younger brother *Do you have any younger brothers?*

a little brother

(also a kid brother *AmE*)

(= younger brother) *My kid brother was always annoying me.*

a baby brother (= brother who is still a baby) *Mum let me hold my new baby brother.*

a twin brother *Luke and his twin brother Sam went everywhere together.*

a half-brother (= brother with only one parent the same as yours) *I never really liked my half-brother.*

a step-brother (= the son of your stepfather or stepmother) *His dad's new wife brought him two step-brothers.*

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *brothor*

brother²

interjection

(especially *AmE*)

ANNOY used to show you are annoyed or surprised:

Oh, brother – I really don't want to deal with this now.

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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