

block¹

S2 W2

/blɒk \$ blɔːk/

noun [countable]

1 SOLID MASSPIECE **solid material** a piece of hard material such as wood or stone with straight sides

→ BREEZE-BLOCK,
BUILDING BLOCK,
CINDER BLOCK:

block of

a block of ice

a wall made of concrete blocks

2 STREET/STREETS **streets/area**

a) (AmE)

the distance along a city street from where one street crosses it to the next:

Head for 44th Street, a few blocks east of Sixth Avenue.

The church is down the block.

b) AREA

the four city streets that form a square around an area of buildings:

Let's walk round the block.

She grew up playing with the other kids on the block.

c) (AusE)

a large piece of land:

a ten-acre block near the city

3 LARGE BUILDING **large building** a large building divided into separate parts:

block of

a block of flats

an office block

an apartment block

the school science block

4 QUANTITY OF THINGSAMOUNT **quantity of things** a quantity of things of the same

kind, considered as a single unit:

block of

New employees receive a block of shares in the firm.

Set aside blocks of time for doing your homework.

5 block booking/voting GROUP OF PEOPLE

an arrangement that is made for a whole group to buy something or to vote together

6 UNABLE TO THINK inability to think [usually singular] FORGET the temporary loss of your normal ability to think, learn, write etc:

*I have a **mental block** whenever I try to remember my password.*

*After his second novel, Garland had **writer's block** (= he could not write anything) .*

7 STOPPING MOVEMENT stopping movement [usually singular] PREVENT something that prevents movement or progress:

block to

a major block to progress

→ ROADBLOCK,
STUMBLING BLOCK

8 punishment the block

in the past, a solid block of wood on which someone's head was cut off as a punishment

9 put your head/neck on the block DO SOMETHING/TAKE ACTIONSAY/STATE

to risk destroying other people's opinion of you or losing your job by doing or saying something:

I'm not prepared to put my head on the block for him.

10 SPORT sport a movement in sport that stops an opponent going forward or playing the ball forward

11 sell go on the block

to be sold, especially at an AUCTION:

\$500 million worth of art will go on the block.

→ BLOCK CAPITALS,
TOWER BLOCK,

→ be a chip off the old block AT CHIP¹ (7) ,

→ I'll knock your block off AT KNOCK¹ (24)

COLLOCATIONS – Meaning 3

types of block

a block of flats (*BrE*) *Three new blocks of flats were built on the land.*

an apartment block *I met him at his apartment block in Manhattan.*

an office block *She works in a 27-storey office block.*

a tower block (= very high and usually in a poor area) *She lived on the 17th floor of a tower block in East London.*

a tenement block (= an apartment block, usually in a poor area - used especially in Scotland) *We had a tiny flat in an Edinburgh tenement block.*

a high-rise block (= very high) *The area is full of monstrous concrete high-rise blocks.*

a multi-storey block (= having many levels) *Many shops and offices have been rebuilt in high multi-storey blocks.*

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Old French

Origin: *bloc*, from Middle Dutch *blok*

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

© Pearson Education Limited 2009, 2011, 2015