

# be·gin·ning

S1 W2

/bɪˈɡɪnɪŋ/

**noun** [countable usually singular]

**1** **BEGINNING** the start or first part of an event, story, period of time etc:

## **beginning of**

*She's been here **since the beginning** of the year.*

*There's a short poem **at the beginning** of every chapter.*

***From the beginning** of my career as a journalist, I've been writing about gender issues.*

*I thought he loved me; perhaps he did **in the beginning**.*

*That chance meeting **marked the beginning** of a long and happy relationship.*

*This is **just the beginning** of a new and different life for you.*

*I said he would cause trouble, **right from the beginning**.*

*I opposed it from **the very beginning**.*

*The whole trip was a disaster **from beginning to end**.*

*I feel like I've been offered **a new beginning**.*

*Could we **start at the beginning**? Tell me where you first met him.*

**2 beginnings** [plural] **BEGINNING**

the early signs or stages of something that later develops into something bigger or more important:

## **beginnings of**

*I think I **have the beginnings** of a cold.*

## **from humble/small beginnings**

*He rose from humble beginnings to great wealth.*

**3 the beginning of the end**

the time when something good starts to end

## COLLOCATIONSSense 1

### adjectives

a new beginning *The country needed a new government and a new beginning.*

### verbs

mark the beginning of something (*also* signal/herald the beginning of something) (= show that something is starting to happen) *This event marked the beginning of a ten-year worldwide depression.*

see the beginning of something (= be the time when something important starts to happen) *The 1970s saw the beginning of a technological revolution.*

### phrases

right at/from the beginning (= used for emphasis) *That's what I suggested right at the beginning.*

at/from the very beginning (= used for emphasis) *He had been lying to me from the very beginning.*

start at the beginning (= start a story or activity at the first part) *Just start at the beginning and tell us exactly what happened.*

from beginning to end *The whole project was full of problems from beginning to end.*

something is just/only the beginning (= used to emphasize that many more things will happen) *Signing the contract is just the beginning of a long process.*

## THESAURUS

**beginning** the first part of something such as a story, event, or period of time: *The beginning of the movie is very violent. | Let's go back to the beginning.*

**start** the beginning of something, or the way something begins: *Tomorrow marks the start of the presidential election campaign.*

| *It was not a good start to the day.* | *The runners lined up for the start of the race.*

**commencement** (formal) the beginning of something – used especially in official contexts: *the commencement of the academic year* | *the commencement of the contract*

**origin** the point from which something starts to exist: *He wrote a book about the origins of the universe.* | *The tradition has its origins in medieval times.*

**the onset of something** the time when something bad begins, such as illness, old age, or cold weather: *the onset of winter* | *An active lifestyle can delay the onset of many diseases common to aging.*

**dawn** (literary) the beginning of an important period of time in history: *People have worshipped gods since the dawn of civilization.*

**birth** the beginning of something important that will change many people's lives: *the birth of democracy in South Africa* | *the birth of the environmental movement*