

# at·tempt<sup>1</sup>

S2 W1

/ə'tempt/

**noun** [countable]

- 1** TRY TO DO OR GET SOMETHING an act of trying to do something, especially something difficult:

**attempt to do something**

*All attempts to control inflation have failed.*

**attempt at (doing) something**

*her feeble attempts at humour*

**at the first/second etc attempt**

*She passed her driving test at the first attempt.*

- 2 make no attempt to do something**

to not try to do something at all:

*He made no attempt to hide his anger.*

- 3 an attempt on somebody's life**

an occasion when someone tries to kill a famous or important person:

*She has already survived two attempts on her life.*

## COLLOCATIONSense 1

### verbs

make an attempt *She made several attempts to escape.*

abandon/give up an attempt *They had to abandon their attempt to climb the mountain.*

fail/succeed in your attempt *He failed in his attempt to set a new Olympic record.*

foil/thwart an attempt (**formal**) (= make it fail) *Troops loyal to the general foiled the assassination attempt.*

an attempt fails/succeeds *All attempts to find a cure have failed.*

## adjectives

on the first/second etc attempt (*also at the first/second etc attempt* **BrE**) *The car started at the second attempt.*

a vain attempt (= one that does not succeed) *They worked through the night in a vain attempt to finish on schedule.*

a desperate attempt (= that involves a lot of effort) *Doctors made a desperate attempt to save his life.*

a deliberate/conscious attempt *His question was a deliberate attempt to humiliate her.*

a serious/genuine attempt *This is the first serious attempt to tackle the problem.*

an unsuccessful/a successful attempt *an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the government*

an abortive attempt (**formal**) (= unsuccessful) *They made an abortive attempt to keep the company going.*

a futile attempt (= certain to fail and not worth doing) *I jumped up and down in a futile attempt to keep warm.*

a doomed attempt (= certain to fail, and causing something very bad to happen) *His attempt to reach the Pole was doomed from the beginning.*

a brave/bold/gallant/valiant attempt (**approving**) (= one that you admire, but that is unsuccessful) *The previous government made a brave attempt to tackle the problem. | She made a valiant attempt to continue playing, but the pain was too much.*

a blatant attempt (**disapproving**) (= when someone openly tries to do something bad) *It was a blatant attempt to hide the truth.*

a final/last attempt *They made one final attempt to make their marriage work.*

a last-ditch attempt (= a final attempt to achieve something before it is too late) *Negotiators are making a last-ditch attempt to*

*save the agreement.*

## **NOUN + attempt**

a rescue attempt *Two firefighters were hurt in the rescue attempt.*

an assassination attempt (= an attempt to kill a leader) *De Gaulle survived an assassination attempt in 1961.*

a suicide attempt (= an attempt to kill yourself) *He was admitted to hospital after a suicide attempt.*

a coup attempt (= an attempt to change the government, usually by force) *The US helped to crush the coup attempt.*

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*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

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