



**Phrasal verb  
break**

**1. break down** -stop working  
- lose control of feelings  
- fail

- My car **broke down** on the way home last night!
- She **broke down** when she started talking about her bad childhood.
- I was a little embarrassed about my **breakdown** at work.



2. **break in**  
**break into**

- enter a building or car by using force, in order to steal something
- to interrupt when someone is talking

- We had our house **broken into** last week.

- ‘Hilary,’ **he broke in** gently,  
‘I’m just trying to help.’



**3. break out**- to start suddenly  
(of war, fighting or other unpleasant events)  
-to escape from a place or situation escape

- They had escaped to America shortly before war **broke out** in 1939.
- Fire **broke out** during the night.
- Several prisoners **broke out** of the jail.



## 4. **break up**

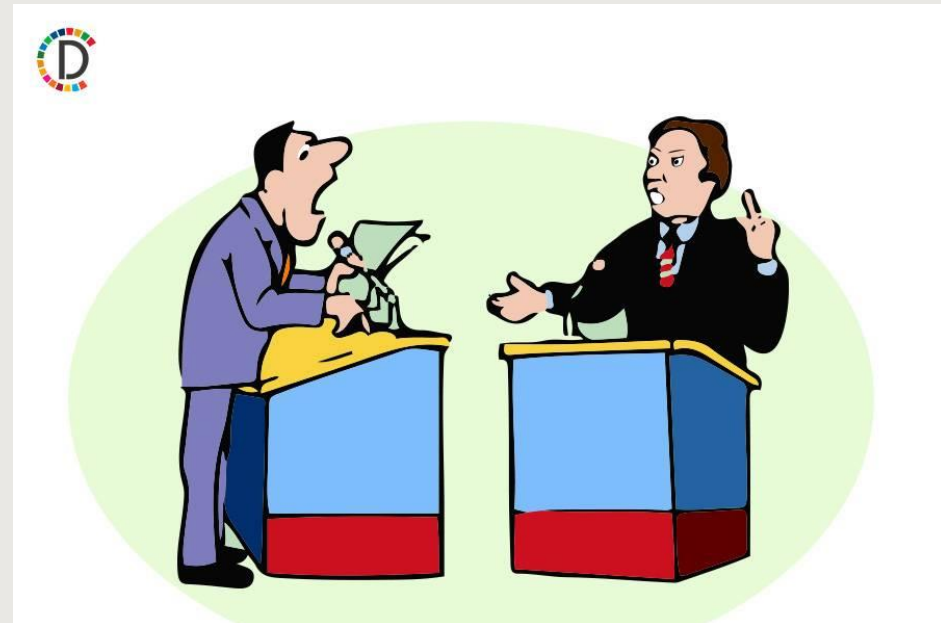
- stop for holidays
- to end a relationship with someone
- to separate into smaller pieces

- The ship **broke up** on the rocks.
- She just **broke up** with her boyfriend.
- The ship **was broken up** for scrap metal.



## 5. **break off** - to end a relationship/agreement

- The governments **broke off** diplomatic relations.
- She returned the ring and they **broke off** their engagement.



## Practice

1. We .....for the holidays in June.
2. Someone ..... my car and stole the radio.
3. Negotiations between the two sides have .....
4. She needed to break out of her daily routine and do something exciting.
5. I am afraid my computer will ..... if I try to run it at too high speed.
6. She is back to work now, after she ..... the other day.
7. Her house was ..... last week.
8. Jenny and George have .....
9. The school will ..... for the holidays soon.
10. When she heard the bad news she ..... and cried.
11. Government negotiations .....last week.
12. The couple .....for a while, but then got back together.
13. The secretary ..... on the meeting to bring us coffee.

## Answer key

1. We **broke up** for the holidays in June.
2. Someone **broke into** my car and stole the radio.
3. Negotiations between the two sides have **broken down**.
4. She needed to **break out** of her daily routine and do something exciting.
5. I am afraid my computer will **break down** if I try to run it at too high speed.
6. She is back to work now, after she **broke down** the other day.
7. Her house was **broken into** last week.
8. Jenny and George have **broken up**.
9. The school will **break up** for the holidays soon.
10. When she heard the bad news she **broke down** and cried.
11. Government negotiations **broke down** last week.
12. The couple **broke up** for a while, but then got back together.
13. The secretary **broke in** on the meeting to bring us coffee.



## Break into

*interrupt (a conversation)*

Samuel **break into** the conversation and told us.

## Break down

*Get upset*

The man **broke down** when the doctor told her.

## Break down

*To stop functioning (vehicle or machine)*

I'm very sorry because my father's car **broke down** yesterday.



English Study  
Here

## Phrasal Verbs

# BREAK

## Break out

*Escape*

The prisoners **broke out** of jail yesterday.

## Break off

*End something*

Hannah **broke** her engagement to Clay **off**.

## Break up

*End a relationship*

Clay and Michael **broke up**. They had been together for two years.

## Break in

*Force entry*

The burglar **broke in** through the front door.

## Break away

*Escape from a person*

Samuel tried to **break away**, but she held his tight.

The image features a white background with decorative floral and leaf patterns in the corners. The top-left corner shows green leaves and a red flower. The top-right corner shows a red flower and green leaves. The bottom-left corner shows a red flower. The bottom-right corner shows green leaves and a blue flower.

**Learn more phrasal verbs!**