



SINCE 1828

snap

verb

\ˈsnæp \

snapped; snapping

Definition of *snap* (Entry 1 of 4)

intransitive verb

- 1 **a** : to make a sudden closing of the jaws : seize something sharply with the mouth
// fish snapping at the bait
- b** : to grasp at something eagerly : make a pounce or snatch
// snap at any chance
- 2 : to utter sharp biting words : bark out irritable or peevish retorts
- 3 **a** : to break suddenly with a sharp sound
// the twig snapped
- b** : to give way suddenly under emotional stress or strain
// He snapped under the pressure of the job.
- 4 **a** : to make a sharp or crackling sound
- b** : to use your thumb and fingers to make a short sharp sound

// the lock *snapped* shut

6 a : to move briskly or sharply

// *snaps* to attention

b : to undergo a sudden and rapid change (as from one condition to another)

// *snap* out of it

// *snapped* awake

7 : SPARKLE, FLASH

// eyes *snapping* with fury

transitive verb

1 : to seize with or as if with a snap of the jaws

2 : to take possession or advantage of suddenly or eagerly —usually used with *up*

// shoppers *snapping* up bargains

3 a : to retort to or interrupt curtly and irritably

b : to utter curtly or abruptly

4 : to break suddenly : break short or in two

5 a : to cause to make a snapping sound

// *snap* a whip

b : to make a snapping sound by moving (thumb and finger) against one another

c : to put into or remove from a particular position by a sudden movement or with a sharp sound

// *snap* the lock shut

6 a : to project with a snap

// *snapped* a spitball across the classroom

b : to put (a football) in play with a snap

c (1) : to take photographically

// *snapping* exclusive news pictures

— *Current Biography*

(2) : to take a snapshot of
// snapped the scenery

snap noun

Definition of *snap* (Entry 2 of 4)

- 1** : an abrupt closing (as of the mouth in biting or of scissors in cutting)
- 2**
 - a** *archaic* : a share of profits or booty
 - b** : something that brings quick and easy profit or advantage
 - c** : something that is easy and presents no problems : CINCH
- 3** : a small amount : BIT
- 4**
 - a** : an act or instance of seizing abruptly : a sudden snatching at something
 - b** : a quick short movement
// lithe snaps of its body
— Barbara Taylor
 - c** : a sudden sharp breaking
- 5**
 - a** : a sound made by snapping something
// shut the book with a snap
 - b** : a brief sharp and usually irritable speech or retort
- 6** : a sudden spell of weather
// a cold snap
- 7** : a catch or fastening that closes or locks with a click
// the snap of a bracelet
- 8** : a flat brittle cookie
— compare GINGERSNAP
- 9** : SNAPSHOT

Te

syr
slu
enc

10 a : the condition of being vigorous in body, mind, or spirit : ALERTNESS, ENERGY

b : a pleasing vigorous quality

11 *football* : the act of a center's putting the ball in play from its position on the ground by quickly passing it between the legs back to a teammate (such as a quarterback) : the act of snapping the ball

// The quarterback fumbled the *snap*. [=fumbled the ball when it was snapped to him]

snap adverb

Definition of *snap* (Entry 3 of 4)

: with a snap

snap adjective

Definition of *snap* (Entry 4 of 4)

1 : done, made, or carried through suddenly or without deliberation

// a *snap* judgment

2 : called or taken without prior warning

// a *snap* election

3 : fastening with a snap

// a *snap* lock

4 : unusually easy or simple

// a *snap* course

Synonyms & Antonyms

More Example Sentences

Learn More about *snap*

Keep scrolling for more

Synonyms & Antonyms for *snap*

Synonyms: Verb

change, fluctuate, mutate, shift, vary

Synonyms: Noun

beans, bounce, brio, dash, drive, dynamism, energy, esprit, gas, get-up-and-go, ginger, go, gusto, hardihood, juice, life, moxie, oomph, pep, punch, sap, starch, verve, vigor, vim, vinegar, vitality, zing, zip

Synonyms: Adjective

cheap, downhill, easy, effortless, facile, fluent, fluid, hands-down, light, painless, ready, royal, simple, smooth, soft

Antonyms: Verb

plateau, stabilize

Antonyms: Noun

lethargy, listlessness, sluggishness, torpidity

Antonyms: Adjective

arduous, demanding, difficult, exacting, formidable, grueling (or gruelling), hard, herculean, killer, labored, laborious, murderous, rough, severe, stiff, strenuous, toilsome, toilsome, tough



Examples of *snap* in a Sentence

Verb

- // The branch *snapped* and fell to the ground.
- // The earpiece of his glasses *snapped* off.
- // She *snapped* the twig in two.
- // The boy *snapped* the wing off his toy airplane.
- // The bent tree *snapped* back into an upright position.
- // I *snapped* the lid shut.
- // She *snapped* the pieces together.
- // She *snapped* her handbag shut.

Noun

- // I've trained the dog to come to me with a *snap* of my fingers.
- // The *snap* of the bracelet broke.

Adjective

- // a *snap* course that even an idiot could pass



Recent Examples on the Web: Verb

// Fail to notice the axle *snapping*, and the frame would be under constant stress from the axle.

— John Timmer, *Ars Technica*, "How bicycles have changed in the last 25 years," 10 Nov. 2018

// Sellers *snap* a picture and enter a description to get started.

— Jenny Xie, *Curbed*, "Best apps and sites for selling used home goods," 8 Nov. 2018

// Nineteen-year-old Aldi Novel Adilang had been working as a lamp keeper on a rompong — a floating hut used to catch fish — when strong winds *snapped* the rope anchoring the vessel and carried him out to sea.

— Jameelah Nasheed, *Teen Vogue*, "Indonesian Teen Aldi Novel Adilang Survived 49 Days at Sea in a Tiny Fishing Raft," 24 Sep. 2018

// The tactic is aimed to trick the paparazzi *snapping* and leaking scenes being filmed.

— Erica Gonzales, *Harper's BAZAAR*, "Game of Thrones Season 8: Everything We Know," 25 July 2018

// The prosecutor argued that on Dec. 13, 2006, while babysitting, Mendez *snapped* and fatally injured the baby.

— Marisa Gerber, *latimes.com*, "Judge orders release of woman who served 11 years behind bars in grandson's death," 12 July 2018

// The pump *snaps* and leftover fuel from inside the hose sprays everywhere, the video shows.

— Kaitlyn Schwerts, *kansascity*, "Gas pump ripped out by van sprays Lamborghini, which bursts into flames," 10 July 2018

// San Diego's now-defunct Harcourt Brace Jovanovich *snapped* up the book and turned it into a runaway bestseller.

— Pam Kragen, *sandiegouniontribune.com*, "'Stellaluna' author and artist celebrates 25th anniversary with exhibit," 1 July 2018

// His head *snapped* down and Hutsko fractured his C6 vertebra.

— Matthew Defranks, *Sun-Sentinel.com*, "Nearly paralyzed by broken neck, Panthers' draft pick Logan Hutsko chases dream of NHL," 28 June 2018

Recent Examples on the Web: Noun

// At the time, 9% of offensive *snaps* came from the shotgun position, and only 54.9% of offensive plays were passes, according to Stats LLC.

— Andrew Beaton, *WSJ*, "The NBA and NFL Have Become Videogames," 6 Nov. 2018

// Strong safety Jaquiski Tartt was inactive with a shoulder injury and free safety Adrian Colbert hurt his ankle, forcing a bunch of backups to play significant *snaps*.

— *Fox News*, "49ers lose Garoppolo to possible ACL injury," 24 Sep. 2018

// The purpose of the *snap* was to inspire and support others who have dealt with bullies as well.

— Carolyn Twersky, *Seventeen*, "Kylie Jenner Gets Real About Being Bullied in this Touching Video," 13 Sep. 2018

// In one of the *snaps*, Hadid is lying down while wearing an orange bikini top and an AllSaints Hawaiian print shirt.

— Marina Liao, *Marie Claire*, "Gigi Hadid's Fae Bikini Top Is Only \$67—and You Can Still Buy It," 9 Aug. 2018

// Manziel played 22 *snaps* over five possessions, entering the game with 3:36 left to play in the second quarter.

— Lorenzo Reyes, *USA TODAY*, "Johnny Manziel's CFL debut with Hamilton Tiger-Cats a positive step in football comeback," 1 June 2018

// Anthony Brown has also played significant *snap*s at corner the last two seasons.

— Drew Davison And Clarence E. Hill Jr., *star-telegram*, "After 10 years together, Cowboys to grant Orlando Scandrick his desired release | Fort Worth Star-Telegram," 17 Mar. 2018

// The calling of *snap* elections then triggers a 60- to 90-day process that includes primary contests among Israel's major parties.

— Dov Lieber, *WSJ*, "Netanyahu Coalition Partner Joins Push for Early Elections," 16 Nov. 2018

// And while Jenner's legs may have taken center stage, there was one more notable addition: her slicked, flat-ironed lengths that came with two darling *snap* barrettes.

— Liana Satenstein, *Vogue*, "Kendall Jenner Nails the Winter Leg Reveal—No Tights Required," 15 Nov. 2018

Recent Examples on the Web: Adverb

// Investors look at *Snap*'s new user numbers as an important metric to gauge the company's future growth.

— Jonathan Vanian, *Fortune*, "Snap CEO Evan Spiegel Makes A Case For Slow User Growth," 10 Aug. 2017

// During the recession and in the years that followed, *SNAP* expanded to accommodate the increased number of people who needed food assistance.

— Greg Trotter, *chicagotribune.com*, "Fewer people going hungry in Cook County, but many still need help," 4 May 2017

// *Snap*'s new technology, a 3-D lens, can also change and shift in response to physical objects.

— Katie Benner, *New York Times*, "To Stay Ahead of Facebook, Snap Rolls Out 3-D Features for Messaging," 18 Apr. 2017

Recent Examples on the Web: Adjective

// In order to provoke a *snap* vote, the chancellor could call a vote of confidence in parliament and engineer its failure.

— Bertrand Benoit, *WSJ*, "Germany Faces Unprecedented Path in Fight Over Migration Deal," 2 July 2018

// The outcome of the *snap* vote agreement hinges on the Slovak National Party, whose Chairman Andrej Danko said on Monday the party was ready for early elections if needed.

— Radoslav Tomek, *Bloomberg.com*, "Slovaks Tilt Toward Snap Vote as Ruling Party Sets Ultimatum," 12 Mar. 2018

// From graduations, weddings and family vacations to those long, lazy days sleeping in late and running through sprinklers— 'tis the season to get super *snap*-happy!

— Jennifer Jolly, *USA TODAY*, "Easy ways to share and organize digital photos," 5 June 2018

// Whatever happens, Shuri will play a major role regardless as one of the few heroes left after Thanos's *snap* decision.

— David Betancourt, *chicagotribune.com*, "What's next for the Black Panther after 'Avengers: Infinity War'?", 1 May 2018

// Plus, the papers come in a roll that's secured in the little *snap* tube, so it can get beat up in your bag without ruining the product.

— Tynan Sinks, *Allure*, "In Defense of 'Festival Beauty,' Even for People Who Hate Music Festivals," 25 Apr. 2018

// Turkey's weak opposition is scrambling to mount a meaningful challenge against strongman President Recep Tayyip Erdogan with just nine weeks to prepare for *snap* elections.

— Suzan Fraser, *Fox News*, "Turkey's weak opposition scrambles to challenge Erdogan," 19 Apr. 2018

// Trump's *snap* decision — and the seemingly short time frame for starting negotiations — also has observers worried.

— Amanda Erickson, *Washington Post*, "Will Trump's North Korea gamble actually pay off?," 12 Mar. 2018

// The viewers pressed keys to indicate their *snap* judgments about which side of the court, right or left, the ball was heading toward.

— Gretchen Reynolds, *New York Times*, "To Boost Sports Performance (and Annoy Your Opponents), Grunt," 7 Mar. 2018

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'snap.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback.



First Known Use of *snap*

Verb

1530, in the meaning defined at intransitive sense 1a

Noun

1555, in the meaning defined at sense 1

Adverb

1583, in the meaning defined above

Adjective

1739, in the meaning defined at sense 1

History and Etymology for *snap*

Verb

Dutch or Low German *snappen*; akin to Middle High German *snappen* to snap

Keep scrolling for more

Learn More about *snap*

Share *snap*



Resources for *snap*



Dictionary Entries near *snap*

snakish

snaky

snallygaster

snap

Phrases Related to *snap*

cold snap

snap judgment

snap out of

snap to attention

St

La

5 [

Lo

snap back

snap to it

snapback

snap up

snap bean

Keep scrolling for more

More Definitions for *snap*

snap verb

English Language Learners Definition of *snap* (Entry 1 of 3)

: to break quickly with a short, sharp sound

: to move into a specified position with a short, sharp sound

: to close (something) with a fastener and especially with a snap

snap noun

English Language Learners Definition of *snap* (Entry 2 of 3)

: a sudden, short, sharp sound caused by something breaking or moving into a new position

: the act of snapping your fingers or the sound made when you snap your fingers

: a device that fastens something by closing or locking with a short, sharp sound;
especially : a set of two metal or plastic pieces that fit tightly together when you press them

snap adjective

English Language Learners Definition of *snap* (Entry 3 of 3)

: done or made suddenly or without careful thought

See the full definition for *snap* in the English Language Learners Dictionary

snap verb

\ˈsnaɪp \

snapped; snapping

Kids Definition of *snap* (Entry 1 of 3)

1 : to break or break apart suddenly and often with a cracking noise

// The branch *snapped*.

2 : to grasp or grasp at something suddenly with the mouth or teeth

3 : to speak or utter sharply or irritably

// "You keep quiet!" *snapped* Beezus.

— Beverly Cleary, *Henry Huggins*

4 : to make or cause to make a sharp or crackling sound

// *snap* a whip

5 : to close or fit in place with a quick movement

// The lid *snapped* shut.

6 : to put into or remove from a position suddenly or with a cracking sound

// She *snapped* on the light.

7 : to act or be acted on with energy

// The soldier *snapped* to attention.

8 : to grasp at something eagerly

// I *snapped* at the chance.

9 : to get, take, or buy at once

// Customers were hoping to *snap* up a bargain.

10 : to close by means of snaps or fasteners

11 : to take a snapshot of

12 : to make a short sharp sound by quickly moving the middle finger against the thumb

snap noun

Kids Definition of *snap* (Entry 2 of 3)

1 : a sudden short sharp sound

2 : an act of moving the middle finger against the thumb to make a short sharp sound

3 : something that is easy and presents no problems

// That job is a *snap*.

4 : a sudden change in weather

// a cold *snap*

5 : a catch or fastening that closes or locks with a click

// the *snap* on a purse

6 : SNAPSHOT

7 : a short amount of time

// ... over the hedge he jumped in a *snap* ...

— Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty*

snap adjective

Kids Definition of *snap* (Entry 3 of 3)

1 : made suddenly or without careful thought

// a *snap* decision

2 : closing with a click or by means of a device that snaps

// a *snap* lock

3 : very easy

Keep scrolling for more

More from Merriam-Webster on *snap*

Rhyming Dictionary: Words that rhyme with *snap*