

Date visited: December 17, 2015

1

## brief

[play](#)

adjective \ˈbrēf\

### Simple Definition of *brief*

Popularity: Top 30% of words

- : lasting only a short period of time
- : using only a few words
- *of clothing* : covering less of the body than is usual
- -
- -
- -
- -
- -
- 

### Full Definition of *brief*

1. *1* : short in duration, extent, or length
2. *2 a* : [concise](#)*b* : [curt](#), [abrupt](#)

**brief** *noun*See [brief](#) defined for English-language learnersSee [brief](#) defined for kids

### Examples of *brief*

1. The meeting will be *brief*.
2. The essay is *brief* but thorough enough.
3. a few *brief* words of caution

### Origin of *brief*

Middle English *bref*, *breve*, from Anglo-French *bref*, *brief*, from Latin *brevis*; akin to Old High German *murg* short, Greek *brachys*

First Known Use: 14th century

### Related to *brief*

Synonyms

[aphoristic](#), [apothegmatic](#), [concise](#), [capsule](#), [compact](#), [compendious](#), [crisp](#), [curt](#), [elliptical](#) (or [elliptic](#)), [epigrammatic](#), [laconic](#), [monosyllabic](#), [pithy](#), [sententious](#), [succinct](#), [summary](#), [telegraphic](#), [terse](#), [thumbnail](#)

Antonyms

[circuitous](#), [circumlocutory](#), [diffuse](#), [long-winded](#), [prolix](#), [rambling](#), [verbose](#), [windy](#), [wordy](#)

Date visited: December 17, 2015

#### Related Words

[abrupt](#), [blunt](#), [brusque](#) (also [brusk](#)), [short](#), [snippety](#), [snippy](#); [abbreviated](#), [abridged](#), [condensed](#), [curtailed](#), [shortened](#); [meaty](#), [substantial](#); [meaningful](#), [significant](#); [well-turned](#)

#### Near Antonyms

[pleonastic](#), [redundant](#), [repetitious](#), [tautological](#), [tautologous](#); [enlarged](#), [expanded](#), [supplemented](#); [embellished](#), [embroidered](#), [exaggerated](#), [inflated](#)

### Rhymes with *brief*

[beef](#), [chief](#), [fief](#), [grief](#), [kef](#), [leaf](#), [lief](#), [reef](#), [sheaf](#), [thief](#)

---

2

## brief

*noun*

### Simple Definition of *brief*

- : a brief statement or report
- *law* : a document that states the facts a lawyer plans to use in a court case
- : instructions that explain what a person is supposed to do

### Full Definition of *brief*

1. *a* : an official letter or mandate; *especially* : a papal letter less formal than a bull *b* : a specific instruction or responsibility <*his brief was to strengthen the army*>
- 2 [<sup>1</sup>*brief*]
3. *a* : a concise article *b* : [synopsis](#), [summary \*c\* : a concise statement of a client's case made out for the instruction of counsel in a trial at law](#)
4. *3* : an outline of an argument; *especially* : a formal outline especially in law that sets forth the main contentions with supporting statements or evidence
5. *4 plural* : short snug pants or underpants

#### in brief

1. : in a few words : [briefly](#)

See [brief](#) defined for English-language learners

### Examples of *brief*

1. Her *brief* is to manage the company's sales department.
2. <a one-page *brief* of the intelligence report>

### Origin of *brief*

Middle English *bref*, from Anglo-French, from Medieval Latin *brevis*, from Late Latin, *summary*, from Latin *brevis*, adjective

First Known Use: 14th century

Date visited: December 17, 2015

**Related to *brief***

## Synonyms

[abstract](#), [breviary](#), [summary](#), [capsule](#), [conspectus](#), [digest](#), [encapsulation](#), [epitome](#), [inventory](#), [outline](#), [précis](#), [recap](#), [recapitulation](#), [résumé](#) (or [resume](#) also [resumé](#)), [roundup](#), [rundown](#), [run-through](#), [sum](#), [summa](#), [summarization](#), [summing-up](#), [sum-up](#), [synopsis](#), [wrap-up](#)

## Related Words

[abbreviation](#), [abridgment](#) (or [abridgement](#)), [compend](#), [compendium](#), [condensation](#), [curtailment](#), [shortening](#); [simplification](#), [streamlining](#); [rehash](#), [reprise](#); [conclusion](#), [epilogue](#) (also [epilog](#))

## Near Antonyms

[amplification](#), [enlargement](#), [expansion](#); [addendum](#), [supplement](#)

3

**brief***verb***Simple Definition of *brief***

- : to give information or instructions to (someone)

**Full Definition of *brief***

1. *transitive verb*
2. *1* : to make an abstract or abridgment of
3. *2 a* : to give final precise instructions to *b* : to coach thoroughly in advance *c* : to give essential information to
4. *3* : to discuss (as a military operation) in a [briefing](#) <*briefed the mission*>

**brief** *er noun*See [brief](#) defined for English-language learners**Examples of *brief***

1. The captain *briefed* the crew on the new safety procedures.
2. The President has been *briefed* by his advisers.

15th Century

**First Known Use of *brief***

15th century

**Related to *brief***

## Synonyms

[acquaint](#), [advise](#), [apprise](#), [enlighten](#), [catch up](#), [clear](#), [clue \(in\)](#), [familiarize](#), [fill in](#), [hip](#), [inform](#), [instruct](#), [tell](#), [verse](#), [wise \(up\)](#)

## Related Words

[advertise](#), [alert](#), [notify](#); [announce \(to\)](#), [disclose \(to\)](#); [assure](#), [certify](#), [convince](#), [reassure](#), [warrant](#); [educate](#), [lecture](#), [school](#), [teach](#), [tutor](#); [disabuse](#), [disenchant](#), [disillusion](#), [undecieve](#)

Date visited: December 17, 2015

Near Antonyms

[misinform](#), [mislead](#)**Other Broadcasting Terms**[continuity](#), [dissolve](#), [fade](#), [feed](#), [remote](#), [residual](#), [spike](#), [wipe](#)**BRIEF Defined for Kids**

1

**brief**[play](#)  
*adjective* \ˈbrēf\**Definition of *brief*****brief·er****brief·est**1. : not very long : [short](#) <*a brief explanation*>**brief·ly** *adverb*

2

**brief**[play](#)  
*verb***Definition of *brief*****briefed****brief·ing**1. : to give information or instructions to <*The captain briefed the crew on the plan.*>**Learn More about *brief***1. Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for "brief"](#)Spanish Central: [Translation of "brief"](#)Nglish: [Translation of "brief" for Spanish speakers](#)Britannica English: [Translation of "brief" for Arabic speakers](#)Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about "brief"](#)**Seen and Heard**What made you want to look up *brief*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

10 Comments

Sort by 

Add a comment...

**Louel Ross Calleja** · Experienced EFL Teacher at Jazyková škola PARK

But he also opposes same-sex "marriage" and adoption, and even submitted a BRIEF to the United States Supreme Court arguing against the redefinition of marriage.

--Bisexual prof. raised by lesbians who supports traditional marriage faces loss of tenure (Dustin Siggins and John Jalsevac, Life Site)

Like · Reply · Nov 13, 2015 11:16am

[Load 9 more comments](#)

Facebook Comments Plugin