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. 2a : concise b : curt, abrupt

brief·ness noun

See brief defined for English-language learners
See 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 brief, brief, from Latin brevis; akin to Old High German murg short, Greek brachys

First Known Use: 14th century

Related to brief

Synonyms
aphoristic, apothegmatic, concisely, 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
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, fiar, grief, kef, leaf, lief, reef, sheaf, thief

2

brief

definition

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. 1a: an official letter or mandate; especially: a papal letter less formal than a bullb: a specific instruction or responsibility <his brief was to strengthen the army>
2. 2[brief]
3. a: a concise articleb: synopsis, summare: 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

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 brief, from Anglo-French, from Medieval Latin brevis, from Late Latin, summary, from Latin brevis, adjective

First Known Use: 14th century
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, summary, 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

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, undeceive
Near Antonym
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 (brief) is defined as:

1. not very long: short  a brief explanation

briefly 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"English: Translation of "brief" for Spanish speakersBritannica English: Translation of "brief" for Arabic speakersBritannica.com: Encyclopedia article about "brief"

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