



DICTIONARY

refrain



MENU

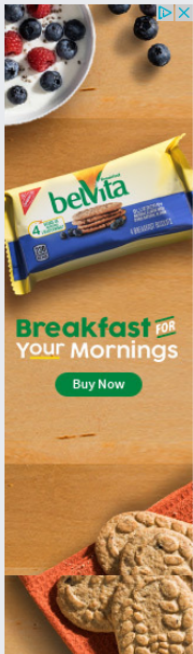
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English
Oxford Living Dictionaries

DICTIONARY

refrain



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Main definitions of **refrain** in English: refrain¹ refrain²

refrain¹



VERB

[NO OBJECT]

Stop oneself from doing something.
'she refrained from comment'

+ More example sentences + Synonyms

Origin

Middle English (in the sense 'restrain a thought or feeling'): from Old French *refrener*, from Latin *refrenare*, from *re-* (expressing intensive force) + *frenum* 'bridle'.

Pronunciation

refrain /rɪˈfreɪn/

Main definitions of **refrain** in English: refrain¹ refrain²

refrain²



1 A repeated line or number of lines in a poem or song, typically at the end of each verse.

+ Example sentences

1.1 The musical accompaniment for a refrain.

'he would play the refrain'

+ More example sentences

1.2 A comment or complaint that is often repeated.

"Poor Tom" had become the constant refrain of his friends'

+ More example sentences

Origin

up (because the refrain 'broke' the sequence).

Pronunciation

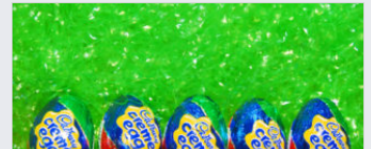
refrain /rɪˈfreɪn/

WORD OF THE DAY

hadal



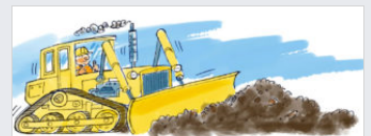
FIND OUT WHAT IT MEANS



Weekly Word Watch: crisis actor, Mad Max, and creme



Famous First Words: can you decipher these five famous novel openings?



What in the Word?! The racist roots of 'bulldozer'



Why we should start using 'thou', 'yea', and 'nay' again



What is 'white fragility'?