

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·ness *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](#)

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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. [¹*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

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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](#), [undeceive](#)

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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"](#)

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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)

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