

"Break" Phrasal Verbs: Definitions

break down: 1) to stop working properly

2) to start crying, usually because of a very painful situation

- *My car broke down on the highway, so I had to call a tow truck.*
 - *Julie broke down when she heard that her grandmother had died.*
-

break in: to go into a building, usually in order to steal something

break (x) in: to use something new (shoes, baseball glove, etc.) and make it fit better

- *A burglar broke into my apartment and stole my new computer!*
 - *I know these shoes are a little stiff, but once you break them in they will be more comfortable.*
-

break (x) off: to end an engagement

- *Melissa broke off the engagement with Richard after she caught him cheating on her.*
-

break out of: to escape

- *Three prisoners broke out of prison last night. Two of them were caught by police after they broke into a house and tried to steal a car.*
-

break up: 1) to end a relationship

2) (on the phone): to become difficult to hear, usually because of bad phone reception

- *Jeff broke down crying after his girlfriend broke up with him.*
 - *"What? What did you say? Hello? I can't hear you. You're breaking up. I'll call you back in a few minutes."*
-

“Break” Phrasal Verbs: Review

Fill in the blanks with the correct words to complete these “break” phrasal verbs.

1. Rita _____ in tears after her fiancé _____ their engagement and canceled the wedding.
2. The police arrested the thief who _____ our neighbor’s home last night.
3. I had to take a taxi to work because my motorcycle _____ when I was driving to work.
4. “Sorry, I’m driving through a tunnel and I can’t hear you. You’re _____. I’ll call you back when I’m out of the tunnel.
5. This leather jacket is a little stiff, but after you wear it for awhile and _____ it _____ it will be more comfortable.
6. My girlfriend _____ with me last night because she said I never listen to her.
7. The prisoners dug an underground tunnel in an attempt to _____ of prison.