

Lesson 3: Multiple meanings of BREAK

Exercise 1:

Complete each sentence with the correct expression. Careful – three aren't used!

big break	break the habit	breaks a promise	storm broke
break a 50	break the news	breaks my heart	story broke
break free from	break the power	broken	take a break
break my resolve	break the silence	made a break for	voice broke
break of dawn	break the TV	make a clean break	water break

- After a very intense first year of college, I wanted to _____ so I took a semester off.
- As soon as the 3-hour meeting was over, I _____ the bathroom.
- Her _____ as she expressed deep gratitude to all the people who had believed in her and helped her succeed.
- I don't try to stay friends with my ex-boyfriends; I prefer to _____.
- The factory tried to hide the enormous amount of pollution it was generating, but there were lots of protests after the _____.
- If someone _____ to me, I have a very hard time trusting them again.
- I'm determined to lose weight, so I never buy cookies because seeing them in the house would _____.
- My parents always put a lot of pressure on me; it took me a long time to _____ their expectations.

9. Sorry, we can't _____. But you could pay by credit card.
10. Stop throwing that football around the living room - you might _____.
11. The doctor had to _____ to the patient that he would most likely never walk again.
12. He worked in low-paying journalism jobs for many years, and his _____ came when he got hired by the BBC.
13. The soccer coach called for a _____ after 30 minutes of practice.
14. Ugh, chewing on your nails is so gross. You really need to _____.
15. When we go camping, the birds always wake me up at the _____.
16. I raised my son to be an honest person, but he was arrested for stealing from his company. It _____.
17. This video camera is _____ - it's recording video, but no sound.

Exercise 2:

Complete each sentence with the correct expression. Careful, two are not used!

breakthrough	broke out	didn't break the bank
broke away	broke rank	gave me a break
broke down	broke up	was broke
broke into		

1. I was having a hard time concentrating at work while my mother was in the hospital, so my boss _____ and let me take the week off.
2. She _____ with her fiancé after catching him kissing another woman.
3. My son had a fever for two days, and then I called the pediatrician when a rash _____ on his chest.
4. Sarah was raised in a very religious family, in which no one ever questioned the traditions or _____.
5. I'm so happy with this guitar I got. It's well-made, it has a great sound, and it _____.
6. Someone _____ my car and stole my wallet last night.
7. The discovery of these artifacts was a real _____ in understanding the ancient Chinese culture.
8. I was working 80 hours a week for months on end - eventually I _____ because I couldn't take it anymore.

Answers – Exercise 1:

1. take a break
2. made a break for
3. voice broke
4. make a clean break
5. story broke
6. breaks a promise
7. break my resolve
8. break free from
9. break a 50
10. break the TV
11. break the news
12. big break
13. water break
14. break the habit
15. break of dawn
16. breaks my heart
17. broken

Answers – Exercise 2:

1. gave me a break
2. broke up
3. broke out
4. broke rank
5. didn't break the bank
6. broke into
7. breakthrough
8. broke down