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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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be·tray  (bĭ-trā)

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tr.v. **be·trayed**, **be·tray·ing**, **be·trays**

1.

a. To give aid or information to an enemy of; commit treason against: *betray one's country*.

b. To inform upon or deliver into the hands of an enemy in violation of a trust or allegiance: *"City investigators betrayed him to his bosses as a whistle-blower" (Selwyn Raab)*.

2. To be false or disloyal to: *betrayed a cause; betray one's spouse*.

3. To divulge in a breach of confidence: *betray a secret*.

4. To make known unintentionally: *Her hollow laugh betrayed her contempt for the idea*.

5. To lead astray; deceive: *"She felt somewhat like a woman who in a moment of passion is betrayed into an act of infidelity" (Kate Chopin)*.

[Middle English *bitraien* : *bi-*, *be-* + *traien*, to betray (from Old French *trair*, from Latin *trādere*, to hand over; see [TRADITION](#)).]

be·tray **al** *n.*

be·tray **er** *n.*

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