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crack 🗣️ (krăk)

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v. **cracked, crack·ing, cracks**

v.intr.

1.
 - a. To break without complete separation of parts: *The mirror cracked.*
 - b. To break or snap apart: *The branch cracked off and fell.*
2. To make a sharp snapping sound: *His knees cracked as he sat down.*
3.
 - a. To break down; fail: *The defendant's composure finally began to crack.*
 - b. To have a mental or physical breakdown: *cracked under the pressure.*
4. To change sharply in pitch or timbre, as from hoarseness or emotion. Used of the voice.
5. To move or go rapidly: *was cracking along at 70 miles an hour.*
6. *Chemistry* To break into simpler molecules, often by means of heat or a catalyst.

v.tr.

1.
 - a. To cause to break without complete separation of parts: *The pebble cracked the car's windshield.* See Synonyms at [break](#).
 - b. To cause to break with a sharp snapping sound: *crack nuts.*
 - c. To crush (corn or wheat, for example) into small pieces.
 2.
 - a. To strike, especially with a sharp sound: *cracked the intruder over the head with a lamp.*
 - b. To cause to come into forceful contact with something, especially with a sharp sound: *fell and cracked his head against the floor.*
 3. To open to a slight extent: *crack a window to let in some air.*
 4. *Informal*
 - a. To break open or into: *crack a safe.*
 - b. To open up for use or consumption: *crack a book; cracked a beer.*
 - c. To break through (an obstacle) in order to win acceptance or acknowledgment: *finally cracked the "men-only" rule at the club.*
 5. To discover the solution to, especially after considerable effort: *crack a code.*
 6. To cause (the voice) to crack.
 7. *Informal* To tell (a joke), especially on impulse or in an effective manner.
 8. To cause to have a mental or physical breakdown.
 9. To impair or destroy: *Their rude remarks cracked his equanimity.*
 10. To reduce (petroleum) to simpler compounds by cracking.
- n.
1.
 - a. A partial split or break; a fissure: *cracks in the basement wall.*
 - b. A slight narrow space: *The window was open a crack.*
 - c. *Informal* The fissure between the buttocks.
 2. A defect or flaw: *cracks in the argument; a crack in his composure.*
 3. A sharp snapping sound, such as the report of a firearm.
 4. A sharp resounding blow: *gave him a crack on the head.*
 5. A breaking, harshly dissonant vocal tone or sound, as in hoarseness.
 6. An attempt or try: *gave him a crack at the job; took a crack at photography.*

7. A witty or sarcastic remark. See Synonyms at [joke](#).

8. A moment; an instant: *at the crack of dawn*.

9. *Irish* Fun had when socializing; social amusement.

10. *Slang* Crack cocaine.

adj.

Excelling in skill or achievement; first-rate: *a crack shot*; *a crack tennis player*.

Phrasal Verbs:

crack down

To act more forcefully to regulate, repress, or restrain: *The police cracked down on speeding.*

crack up *Informal*

1. To praise highly: *He was simply not the genius he was cracked up to be.*

2.

a. To damage or wreck (a vehicle or vessel): *crack up a plane*; *crack up a boat*.

b. To wreck a vehicle in an accident: *cracked up on the expressway*.

3. To have a mental or physical breakdown: *crack up from overwork*.

4. To experience or cause to experience a great deal of amusement: *really cracked up when I heard that joke*.

Idiom:

crack the whip

To behave in a domineering manner; demand hard work and efficiency from those under one's control.

[Middle English *craken*, from Old English *cracian*; see [gera-](#)² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

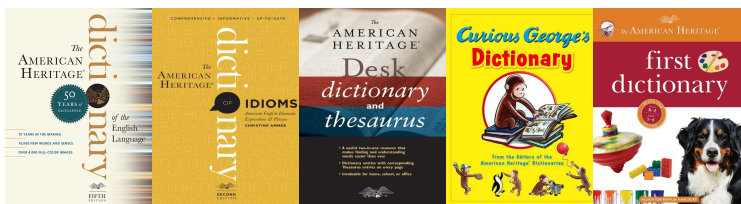
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