



opening noun

open·ing 'ōp-niŋ, 'ō-pə-

[Synonyms of opening >](#)

- 1 **a** : an act or instance of making or becoming open
b : an act or instance of beginning : **COMMENCEMENT**
especially : a formal and usually public event by which something new is put officially into operation
- 2 : something that is open: such as
a (1) : **BREACH, APERTURE**
(2) : an open width : **SPAN**
b : an area without trees or with scattered usually mature trees that occurs as a break in a forest
c : two pages that face one another in a book
- 3 : something that constitutes a beginning: such as
a : a usually planned series of moves made at the beginning of a game of chess or checkers
→ compare **ENDGAME, MIDDLE GAME**
b : a first performance
- 4 **a** : **OCCASION, CHANCE**
b : an opportunity for employment



Definition

[Synonyms](#)[Example Sentences](#)[Word History](#)[Phrases Containing](#)[Rhy](#)

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the **opening** of a cave

They squeezed through a narrow **opening** between the fence and an oak tree.

The enemy's troops poured through an **opening** in our defenses.

We went to the play's **opening**.

Recent Examples on the Web

i Examples are automatically compiled from online sources to show current usage. [Read More](#)

However, on the eve of **opening** day, Devers told WEEI's Rob Bradford that everything is fine.

— Paul Du Quenoy, *MSNBC Newsweek*, 28 Mar. 2025

Continue reading here Lakers box score NBA scores NBA standings ANGELS Sean Burke pitched six sparkling innings and Will Venable got his first win as a big league manager Thursday, directing the Chicago White Sox to an 8-1 victory over the Angels on **opening** day.

— Houston Mitchell, *Los Angeles Times*, 28 Mar. 2025

As Major League Baseball teams around the country were preparing their fields for Thursday's **opening** day, the Kansas City Royals decided to call up SB Mowing.

— Will Ujek, *NBC news*, 28 Mar. 2025

The Royals put their **opening** day crowd of 39,393 through a ringer Thursday afternoon



Definition

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First Known Use

13th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *opening* was in the 13th century

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"Opening." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/opening>. Accessed 4 Apr. 2025.

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open·ing 'ōp-(ə-)niŋ 

1 : an act or instance of making or becoming open
the *opening* of a new store
welcome to our grand *opening*

2 : something that is open: as
a : **BREACH entry 1 sense 2b**
b : an open place
an *opening* in the woods

3 : **BEGINNING sense 2**
the *opening* of fishing season

4 a : **OCCASION entry 1 sense 1, CHANCE**
saw an *opening* to run with the ball
b : a job opportunity
openings for welders and machinists

opening noun

open·ing 'ōp-(ə-)niŋ 

1 : an act or instance of making or becoming open

2 : something (as an anatomical aperture) that is open or **opens**



Definition

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English: [Translation of *opening* for Spanish Speakers](#)

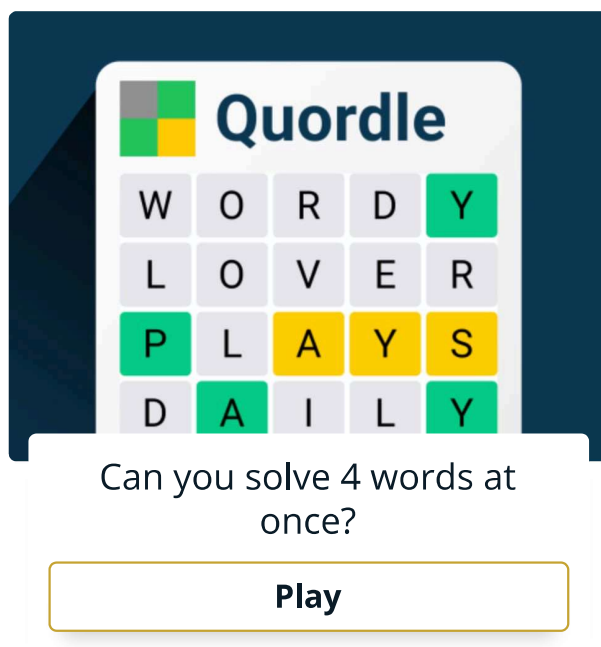
Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about *opening*](#)

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