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opening noun

open·ing ˈōp-niŋ, ˈō-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

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Synonyms

break | chance | occasion
opportunity | room | shot

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Examples of *opening* in a Sentence

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

Following a scoreless first half, Robinson scored his only six points of the game on back-to-back threes in the *opening* minutes of the third quarter.
– Anthony Chiang, *Miami Herald*, 1 Apr. 2024

The Royals took a 3-0 lead, their *opening* runs in an eventual 11-0 victory — KC's first in three games to start the year.
– Jaylon Thompson, *Kansas City Star*, 31 Mar. 2024

Users love how the particularly wide suction *opening* fits clits of all shapes and sizes without sacrificing suction power.
– Annie Blackman, *Allure*, 31 Mar. 2024

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These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'opening.' Any opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback about these examples.

Word History

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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Phrases Containing *opening*

cold opening | grand opening | opening gambit
opening night | opening hours | pre-opening

Dictionary Entries Near *opening*

open ice
opening
opening bid

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Kids Definition

opening noun

open·ing ˈōp-(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

Daily finds up to 40% off!
Shop now
Walmart

Medical Definition

opening noun

open·ing ˈōp-(ə-)niŋ

1 : an act or instance of making or becoming open

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

More from Merriam-Webster on *opening*

Nglish: Translation of *opening* for Spanish Speakers
Britannica English: Translation of *opening* for Arabic Speakers
Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about *opening*

Last Updated: 3 Apr 2024 - Updated example sentences

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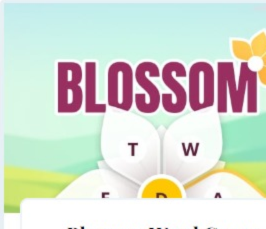

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Spelling Bee Quiz
Can you outdo past winners of the National Spelli...
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