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# disable

Apple 1131



PIII

disabled; disabling\ -b(ə-)lin \

## **Definition of** disable

#### transitive verb

la: to make ineffective or inoperative disable a bomb For victims of smartphone theft, the ultimate justice is hitting a button that disables the device, turning it into a worthless rectangular paperweight.— Heather Kelley ... gene editing makes it possible to change or disable a single gene without changing the "meaning" of the rest of the genome.— Kat McGowan

b: to impair physically or mentally: to cause <u>disability</u> in Automobile accidents kill nearly 50,000 people each year. ... Accidents maim or disable another 80,000.— Matt Clark and Mary Hager Diet-related Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease disable and kill people ...— Mark Bittman

2: to deprive of legal right, qualification, or capacity ... the injured party was released from the bonds of marriage; but the offender, during life, or a term of years, was disabled from the repetition of nuptials.— Edward Gibbon

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# Other Words from disable

disablement \ -bəl-mənt 🔍 \ noun

physical disablement Nor does it tackle the disablement of any North Korean program to enrich uranium. — Thomas Omestad

disabling adjective

Bipolar disorder is one of the world's 10 most disabling conditions, taking away years of healthy functioning from individuals who have the illness. — David J. Kupfer This is a rare, disabling pain disorder in which ordinary sensation such as touch, warmth and coolness are perceived as painful and minor knocks are agonizing. — Maia Szalavitz

# Synonyms for disable

Synonyms

cripple, incapacitate, lame, maim, mutilate

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# Choose the Right Synonym for disable

weaken, enfeeble, debilitate, undermine, sap, cripple, disable mean to lose or cause to lose strength or vigor. weaken may imply loss of physical strength, health, soundness, or stability or of quality, intensity, or effective power. a disease that weakens the body's defenses enfeeble implies a condition of marked weakness and helplessness. enfeebled by starvation debilitate suggests a less marked or more temporary impairment of strength or vitality. the debilitating effects of surgery undermine and sap suggest a weakening by something working surreptitiously and insidiously. a poor diet undermines your health drugs had sapped his ability to think cripple implies causing a serious loss of functioning power through damaging or removing an essential part or element.



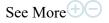
# Examples of disable in a Sentence

a promising athlete who was severely disabled in a plane crash disabled the controls for unauthorized users

Recent Examples on the Web

Google will allow the option to *disable* it, or only keep it on when connected to Wi-Fi, but the company appears convinced that Autoplay on Home is a better way to experience and browse YouTube on the move. — <u>Casey Newton, The Verge, "Google's appearance before Congress will mark a turning point for its CEO," 5 Dec. 2018 But that approach doesn't work with the new 737 MAX system—the pilots have to *disable* the stabilizer. — <u>Sean Gallagher, Ars Technica, "Black box data shows pilots fought control system in Indonesia crash," 28 Nov. 2018</u></u>

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'disable.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback.



## First Known Use of disable

15th century, in the meaning defined at sense 2

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disable

verb

disable | \ dis- 'ā-bəl \ disabled; disabling

### **Kids Definition of disable**

: to make unable or incapable He *disabled* the computer system.

disable

transitive verb

## Medical Definition of disable

: to deprive of a mental or physical capacity

disable

transitive verb

dis·able



# Legal Definition of disable

1: to deprive of legal right, qualification, or capacity

2: to make incapable or ineffective specifically: to cause to have a disability

Other Words from disable

disablement noun

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a minor work (as of literature)

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