



SINCE 1828

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disable

verb

Apple 1131
Apple v. ISP

disabled; disabling \ -b(ə-)liŋ  \

Definition of *disable*

transitive verb

1a : 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 [disability](#) 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. — [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. — [Sean Gallagher, *Ars Technica*, "Black box data shows pilots fought control system in Indonesia crash," 28 Nov. 2018](#)

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First Known Use of *disable*

15th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 2](#)

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disable

[verb](#)



dis·able | \ dis-'ā-bəl  \
disabled; disabling

Kids Definition of *disable*

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

disable

[transitive verb](#)

dis·able | \ dis-'ā-bəl, diz-  \
disabled; disabling \ -b(ə-)liŋ  \

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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opusculum 

a minor work (as of literature)

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