

**precipice**['presɪpɪs] *n*

- 1) обрыв, пропасть
  - 2) опасное, рискованное положение
- to stand on the brink of a precipice - стоять на краю пропасти, быть в опасном положении  
on the precipice of war - на грани войны

**precipice****precipice** [precipice precipices] *BrE* ['presɪpɪs] <sup>m</sup> *NAmE* ['presɪpɪs] <sup>m</sup> **noun**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

a very steep side of a high ↑cliff, mountain or rock

(figurative)



- The country was now **on the edge of a precipice** (= very close to disaster) .

**see also** ↑precipitousWord Origin:late 16th cent. (denoting a headlong fall): from French *précipice* or Latin *praecipitium* 'abrupt descent', from *praeceps*, *praecip(it)-* 'steep, headlong' .Example Bank:

- She paused on the edge of the precipice for a moment, then drew back.
- The car was almost forced off a precipice.
- teetering on the precipice of political anarchy

**precipice**

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

**pre** **ci** **pice** /'presɪpɪs, 'presɪpɪs/ *BrE* <sup>m</sup> *AmE* <sup>m</sup> **noun** [countable][Date: 1500-1600; Language: French; Origin: Latin *praecipitium*, from *praeceps* 'headfirst', from *caput* 'head']

1. a very steep side of a high rock, mountain, or cliff:  
" A loose rock tumbled over the precipice.
2. a dangerous situation in which something very bad could happen:  
" The stock market is on the edge of a precipice.

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**THESAURUS**

- **mountain** a very high hill: the highest mountain in Austria
- **hill** an area of land that is higher than the land around it, which is like a mountain but smaller and usually has a rounded top: We went for a walk in the hills. | The house is surrounded by woods, farmland and gentle hills.
- **Mount** (also **Mt** *written abbreviation*) used in the names of mountains. Don't say 'Fuji Mountain' – say '**Mount Fuji**': Mount Everest
- **cliff** the steep side of an area of land, often next to the sea: the white cliffs of Dover
- **precipice** *especially literary* a very steep and dangerous cliff: They were standing on the edge of a precipice.
- **crag** a high steep rock or mountain: An eagle sailed over the high crags.
- **ridge** a long narrow area of high ground, especially at the top of a mountain: I could see a group of climbers high up on a ridge.
- **knoll** a small round hill: a grassy knoll
- **volcano** a mountain with a large hole at the top, through which ↑*lava* (=hot liquid rock) is sometimes forced out: the eruption of a volcano
- **summit** the very highest point of a mountain: the summit of Mt Everest
- **peak** *especially literary* the top of a mountain: the snow-covered peaks of the Himalayas | a distant peak
- **range/chain** a group of mountains or hills arranged in a line: the mountain range that is part of the border between Norway and Sweden
- **foothills** a group of smaller hills below a range of high mountains: the Sierra foothills

**precipice**

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