

# undermine

[ˌʌndəˈmaɪn] v

1. подкапывать, делать подкоп  
to undermine a wall - делать подкоп под стеной
2. подмывать  
the sea is undermining the cliffs - море подмывает скалы
3. разрушать взрывом, подрывать
4. подрывать, расшатывать  
to undermine smb.'s authority - подрывать чей-л. авторитет
5. разрушать, подтачивать  
prolonged overwork had undermined his health - постоянная перегрузка работой подорвала /подточила/ его здоровье

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

## undermine

**under-mine** [undermine undermines undermined undermining] BrE

[ˌʌndəˈmaɪn] NAmE [ˌʌndəˈmaɪn] verb

1. ~ sth to make sth, especially sb's confidence or authority, gradually weaker or less effective
  - Our confidence in the team has been seriously undermined by their recent defeats.
  - This crisis has undermined his position.
  - Recent changes have undermined teachers' morale.
2. ~ sth to make sth weaker at the base, for example by digging under it

Verb forms: verb forms

present simple	
I / you / we / they	undermine
	BrE /ˌʌndəˈmaɪn/
	NAmE /ˌʌndərˈmaɪn/
he / she / it	undermines
	BrE /ˌʌndəˈmaɪnz/
	NAmE /ˌʌndərˈmaɪnz/
past simple, past participle	undermined
	BrE /ˌʌndəˈmaɪnd/
	NAmE /ˌʌndərˈmaɪnd/
-ing form	undermining
	BrE /ˌʌndəˈmaɪnɪŋ/
	NAmE /ˌʌndərˈmaɪnɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Middle English: from **under-** + the verb **mine**, probably suggested by Middle Dutch **ondermineren**.

Example Bank:

- It ultimately undermined his ability to play.
- a terror attack intended to undermine the morale of citizens
- Recent changes have undermined teachers' morale.
- The director saw this move as an attempt to undermine his authority.
- This crisis threatens to undermine the very foundations of social life.

# undermine

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

**un-der-mine** /ˌʌndəˈmaɪn \$ -ər-/ BrE " AmE " verb [transitive]

to gradually make someone or something less strong or effective:

economic policies that threaten to undermine the health care system

**undermine sb's confidence/authority/position/credibility etc**

The constant criticism was beginning to undermine her confidence.

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## THESAURUS

- **spoil** to have a bad effect on something so that it is much less attractive, enjoyable etc: New housing developments are spoiling the countryside. | The bad weather completely spoiled our holiday.
- **ruin** to spoil something completely and permanently: Using harsh soap to wash your face can ruin your skin. | The argument ruined the evening for me.
- **mar** *written* to spoil something by making it less attractive or enjoyable: His handsome Arab features were marred by a long scar across his face. | Outbreaks of fighting marred the New Year celebrations.
- **detract from something** to slightly spoil something that is generally very good, beautiful, or impressive: The huge number of tourists rather detracts from the city's appeal. | There were a few minor irritations, but this did not detract from our enjoyment of the holiday.
- **undermine** to spoil something that you have been trying to achieve: The bombings undermined several months of careful negotiations.
- **sour** to spoil a friendly relationship between people or countries: The affair has soured relations between the UK and Russia.
- **poison** to spoil a close relationship completely, so that people can no longer trust each other: Their marriage was poisoned by a terrible dark secret.
- **mess something up** *informal* to spoil something important or something that has been carefully planned: If there's any delay, it will mess up our whole schedule.

**undermine**

12500 **3531**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **3020**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **4k** UNDERMINE 8409

undermine 3655

undermined 2130

undermines 1102

undermining 1522

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

2456 **10527**<sup>2865</sup> *vvi*

724 **24390**<sup>790</sup> *vv0*

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