

soften

[ˈsɒf(ə)n] *v*

1. 1) успокаивать, умерять; облегчать
- 2) успокаиваться, утихать
2. 1) смягчать
 - to soften smb.'s heart - смягчить /тронуть/ чьё-л. сердце
 - to soften the harshness of the answer - смягчить резкость ответа
 - to soften one's attitude - смягчить своё отношение, занять более примирительную позицию
- 2) смягчаться
 - the voice softened - голос смягчился
 - my heart softened - моё сердце дрогнуло
3. 1) делать менее твёрдым, жёстким, уменьшать твёрдость, жёсткость; мягчить
 - to soften bread in milk - размачивать хлеб в молоке
- 2) становиться мягче; размякнуть
4. 1) топить, плавить
- 2) топиться, плавиться
5. *метал.* отжигать (*сталь*)

soften

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

soft-en [soften softens softened softening] *BrE* [ˈsɒfn] ^m *NAmE* [ˈsɒɹfn] ^m *verb*

1. **intransitive, transitive** to become, or to make sth softer
 - Fry the onions until they soften.
 - ~ **sth** a lotion to soften the skin
 - Linseed oil will soften stiff leather.
2. **intransitive, transitive** ~ (**sth**) to become or to make sth less bright, rough or strong
 - Trees soften the outline of the house.
3. **intransitive, transitive** to become or to make sb/sth more sympathetic and less severe or critical
 - She felt herself softening towards him.
 - His face softened as he looked at his son.
 - ~ **sb/sth** She softened her tone a little.
4. **transitive** ~ **sth** to reduce the force or the unpleasant effects of sth

Syn: ↑cushion

• Airbags are designed to soften the impact of a car crash.

see soften/cushion the blow **at** ↑blow *n.*

Derived ↑soften somebody up

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we /they	soften
	<i>BrE</i> / ˈsɒfn/
	<i>NAmE</i> / ˈsɒ:fn/
he / she /it	softens
	<i>BrE</i> / ˈsɒfnz/
	<i>NAmE</i> / ˈsɒ:fnz/
past simple, past participle	softened
	<i>BrE</i> / ˈsɒfnd/
	<i>NAmE</i> / ˈsɒ:fnɪd/
-ing form	softening
	<i>BrE</i> / ˈsɒfnɪŋ/
	<i>NAmE</i> / ˈsɒ:fnɪŋ/

Example Bank:

- Her face softened into a smile.
- His smile softened slightly.
- I should try to soften the blow of this news.
- I've softened somewhat in my advancing age.
- The chancellor may try to soften the blow somewhat with a cut in interest rates.

soften

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

soften /ˈsɒfən \$ ˈsɒɹn/ *BrE* ^m *AmE* ^m *verb* [intransitive and transitive]

[**Word Family:** **noun:** ↑softness, ↑softener, **SOFTIE/SOFTY**; **verb:** ↑soften; **adverb:** ↑softly; **adjective:** ↑soft]

1. (also **soften up**) to become less hard or rough, or make something less hard or rough **OPP harden**:
 - Use moisturizer to soften your skin.
 - Cook until the onion softens.
2. if your attitude softens, or if something softens it, it becomes less strict and more sympathetic **OPP harden**:
 - The government has softened its stance on public spending.

soften towards

• I felt that he was beginning to soften towards me.

3. to make the effect of something seem less unpleasant or severe, or to become less unpleasant or severe

soften the blow/impact

• The impact of the tax was softened by large tax-free allowances.

4. if your expression or voice softens, or if something softens it, you look or sound kinder and more gentle **OPP harden** :

His voice softened as he spoke to her.

5. to make the shape or colour of something look less severe:

Climbing plants soften the outline of a fence.

soften somebody/something ↔ **up** *phrasal verb*

1. *informal* to be nice to someone before you ask them to do something, so that they will agree to help you:

She was just softening me up.

2. to make an enemy weaker so that they are easier to attack:

Use artillery to soften up the enemy forces.

3. to make something less hard or rough

soften

Freakuency Pack

12500 **6274**^{MCW}

15000 **1058**^{COCA}

RANGE: **2k** **SOFT** 43982

soft 26742

soften 2026

softened 2992

softening 838

softens 495

softer 2105

softest 245

softly 7695

softness 844

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

1437 **16005**¹⁵⁴² *vvi*

446 **32746**⁴⁷⁷ *vv0*

6 **322194**⁷ *nn1*