



Advanced Language Study

In the Lead-in section, you came across the following:

...wildfire tore **through** Briceburg two years ago... / a short circuit caused by mice chewing **through** wires...

As is the case with all prepositions/adverbs, **through** has a variety of meanings, as you can see below:

Major meanings of through	Expressions & phrasal verbs with through
a) Penetrate and erode completely (e.g., <i>the acid ate through the metal</i>) b) From the beginning to the end c) By means of, as a result of d) By way of / via a medium e) Because of f) From one end to the other/all the way g) At the end of; having completed sth successfully h) Read or search (a text or sth that contains many things) in a careful way	• <i>Go through the motions</i> (do things robot-like, without real interest) • <i>Walk sb through sth</i> (explain to sb a process step by step); <i>walkthrough</i> (n. detailed instructions, e.g., on how a system works) • <i>Talk sb through sth</i> (explain, give guidance about a process) • <i>Tear through</i> (tear with force, move or do sth very rapidly; used for natural disasters such as fires, tornadoes etc. that may cause destruction in their path) • <i>Follow through</i> (carry to completion sth you started or promised to do)

► Activity 1: Match the sentences with the meanings of **through** listed above (one occurs twice)

1. Electric current running through an iron wire generates a magnetic field.	
2. Search through reference materials and write a short report.	
3. A short circuit can be caused by mice chewing through wires.	
4. I am through with the report.	
5. We had to slog away (<i>work hard</i>) through the old records to find material for the report.	
6. You won't believe it! George slept through the lecture.	
7. Evolution shaped life through a process of trial-and-error.	
8. We don't know yet whether the accident was caused through negligence or human error.	

► Activity 2: Fill in the gaps with the missing words or phrases. Choose from the list:

her promises / a circuit / the work / the area / spread / telephone wires / tore / walk / the centuries / network interface / the motions / the weekend

- Viruses can easily _____ through email attachments.
- Computers are connected to a network through a _____ card (NIC).
- The sculpture has survived intact through _____.
- The current travels through _____.
- He worked on the project through _____.
- Don't worry. We will _____ you through the steps of the procedure and you'll understand everything.
- She was not interested in the subject. She just went through _____ of participating.
- A bullet _____ through the wall.
- We managed to get through _____ in two hours.
- It is more efficient for telephone calls to be transmitted digitally over the Internet, rather than as analog signals through _____.
- She always follows through on _____.
- Major wind storms have recently torn through the _____ affecting thousands of electric panels.

Help! Get me off the grid!

