

The saddest words Favorite Button /// CITE /// Translate /// Facebook /// Share /// Twitter /// Tweet /// Google+ /// Share black [blak] Spell Syllables /// Synonyms Examples Word Origin /// See more synonyms on Thesaurus.com /// adjective, blacker, blackest. /// 1. lacking hue and brightness; absorbing light without reflecting any of the rays composing it. /// 2. characterized by absence of light; enveloped in darkness: a black night. /// 3. (sometimes initial capital letter) pertaining or belonging to any of the various populations characterized by dark skin pigmentation, specifically the dark-skinned peoples of Africa, Oceania, and Australia. African American. Explore Dictionary.com What's the word for how it smells after it rains? The saddest words in English 4. soiled or stained with dirt: That shirt was black within an hour. /// 5. gloomy; pessimistic; dismal: a black outlook. /// 6. deliberately; harmful; inexcusable: a black lie. /// 7. boding ill; sullen or hostile; threatening: black words; black looks. /// noun /// 20. the color at one extreme end of the scale of grays, opposite to white, absorbing all light incident upon it. /// Compare white (def 19). /// 21. (sometimes initial capital letter) a member of any of various dark-skinned peoples, especially those of Africa, Oceania, and Australia. Often Offensive. African American. /// 22. black clothing, especially as a sign of mourning: He wore black at the funeral. /// 23. Chess, Checkers. the dark-colored men or pieces or squares. /// 24. black pigment: lamp black. /// 25. Slang. black beauty. /// 26. a horse or other animal that is entirely black. /// verb (used with object) /// 30. to become black; take on a black color; blacken. /// 28. British. to boycott or ban. /// 29. to polish (shoes, boots, etc.) with blacking. /// verb (used without object) /// 30. to become black; take on a black color; blacken. /// adverb /// 31. (of coffee or tea) served without milk or cream. Verb phrases /// 32. black out, to lose consciousness: He blacked out at the

Theater. to extinguish all of the stage lights. to make or become inoperable: to black out the radio broadcasts from the U.S. Military. to obscure by concealing all light in defense against air raids. Radio and Television. to impose a broadcast blackout on (an area). to withdraw or cancel (a special fare, sale, discount, etc.) for a designated period: The special air fare discount will be blacked out by the airlines over the holiday weekend. /// Idioms /// 33. black and white, /// print or writing: I want that agreement in black and white. /// a monochromatic picture done with black and white only. /// a chocolate soda containing vanilla ice cream. /// Slang, a highly recognizable police car, used to patrol a community. /// 34. black or white, completely either one way or another, without any intermediate state. /// 35. in the black, operating at a profit or being out of debt (opposed to in the red): New production methods put the company in the black. Origin of black Expand /// Middle EnglishOld English /// 900before 900; Middle English blak, Old English blæc; cognate with Old High German blah-; akin to Old Norse blakkr black, blek ink /// Related forms Expand /// blackish, adjective /// blackishly, adverb /// blackishness, noun /// nonblack, adjective, noun /// unblacked, adjective /// Synonyms Expand /// See more synonyms on Thesaurus.com /// 1. dark, dusky; sooty, inky; swart, swarthy; sable, ebony. 4. dirty, dingy. 5. sad, depressing, somber, doleful, mournful, funereal. 7. disastrous, calamitous. 9. sinful, inhuman, fiendish, devilish, infernal, monstrous; atrocious, horrible; nefarious, treacherous, traitorous, villainous. Antonyms Expand 1. white. 4. clean. 5. hopeful, cheerful. /// Usage note Expand 3, 21. Black, colored, and Negro —words that describe or name the dark-skinned peoples of sub-Saharan Africa and their descendants—have had a complex social history in the United States. A term that was once acceptable may now be offensive, and one that was once offensive may now be acceptable. Colored, for example, first used in colonial North America, was an appropriate referential term until the 1920s, when it was supplanted by Negro. Now colored is perceived not only as old-fashioned but offensive. It survives primarily in the name of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), an organization formed when the word was not considered derogatory. Describing someone as "a person of color," however, is not offensive. That term, an inclusive one that can refer to anyone who is not white, is frequently used by members of the African American community. Negro remained the overwhelming term of choice until the mid-1960s. That decade saw a burgeoning civil-rights movement, which furthered a sense that Negro was contaminated by its long association with discrimination as well as its closeness to the disparaging and deeply offensive nword. The emergence of the black power movement fostered the emergence of black as a primary descriptive term, as in "black pride." By the mid-1970s black had become common within and outside the black community. But Negro has not entirely disappeared. It remains in the names of such organizations as the United Negro College Fund, people still refer to Negro spirituals, and some older people of color continue to identify with the term they have known since childhood. Negro then, while not offensive in established or historical contexts, is now looked upon in contemporary speech and writing as not only antiquated but highly likely to offend. Black remains perhaps the single most widely used term today. It has outlived the briefly popular Afro-American and, when used as an adjective, is unlikely to cause negative reactions. As a noun, however, when referring to African Americans, it does often offend—perhaps because references to "the blacks" or "a black" lead easily to misguided generalizations. But note the newer term. The 1990s saw black leaders like Jesse Jackson promote African American, which he said had "cultural integrity," in that it refers to ethnic origins rather than to skin color. While African American has not replaced black in common parlance, it works both as a noun and as an adjective. This shifting from term to term has not been smooth or linear, and periods of change like the late

1960s were often marked by confusion as to which term was appropriate. The 1967 groundbreaking film Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, about a young interracial couple hoping that both sets of parents will accept their plans to marry, reflects the abundance of terminological choices available at the time. Various characters talk of a "colored girl," a "colored man," a "Negro," and "black people." Even the n-word appears once, used disparagingly by one black character to another. African American had not yet made it into the mix. /// Black [blak] /// Spell Syllables /// noun /// 1. Hugo Lafayette, 1886–1971, U.S. political official: associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court 1937–71. /// 2. (Sir) James Whyte [hwahyt,, wahyt] (Show IPA), 1924–2010, English pharmacologist: Nobel prize 1988. /// 3. Joseph, 1728–99, Scottish physician and chemist. /// 4. Shirley Temple, Temple, Shirley. /// Dictionary.com Unabridged /// Based on the Random House Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2017. /// Cite This Source /// Examples from the Web for black Expand /// Contemporary Examples /// He sports all black, including a cape and helmet, and has an imposing baritone voice, courtesy of James Earl Jones. /// The 13 Coolest Movie Dads: 'Taken,' 'Star Wars,' 'Die Hard,' and More /// Marlow Stern /// June 14, 2014 The tangle of groups, funders, and leaders in the black anti-immigration effort—as in the broader movement—can be hard to follow. /// The Shady Group Behind the African-American Anti-Immigration Rally /// Michelle Cottle /// July 11, 2013 Drury is also the author of Hunts in Dreams, The Driftless Area, and The black Brook. /// The National Book Awards Longlist for Fiction /// September 18, 2013 black community leaders picketed the office of then-Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau. /// Before Eric Garner, There Was Michael Stewart: The Tragic Story of the Real-Life Radio Raheem /// Marlow Stern /// December 3, 2014 But in the face of defeat, all that black looked rather depressing on stage. /// Election Night 2012: Fashion of Jubilation And Mourning /// Robin Givhan /// November 6, 2012 /// Historical Examples The cock was down, the pan and muzzle were black with the smoke; it had been that instant fired. /// Waverley /// Sir Walter Scott His dress of ceremony was black, with a tie-wig and a little sword /// The Works of Samuel Johnson, LL.D. in Nine Volumes /// Samuel Johnson And when they had all gone I opened my window wide and breathed in the black dark night. /// Man and Maid /// Elinor Glyn /// They walked on, forgetting in conversation all about the gig and black servant. /// Deerbrook /// Harriet Martineau What errand summoned these men in red robes to this man in a black coat? /// Napoleon the Little /// Victor Hugo /// British Dictionary definitions for black Expand /// black/blæk/adjective /// 1. of the colour of jet or carbon black, having no hue due to the absorption of all or nearly all incident light Compare white (sense 1) /// 2. without light; completely dark /// 3. without hope or alleviation; gloomy: the future looked black /// 4. very dirty or soiled: black factory chimneys /// 5. angry or resentful: she gave him black looks /// 6. (of a play or other work) dealing with the unpleasant realities of life, esp in a pessimistic or macabre manner: black comedy /// 7. (of coffee or tea) without milk or cream /// 8. causing, resulting from, or showing great misfortune: black areas of unemployment /// 9. wicked or harmful: a black lie (in combination): black-hearted /// 10. causing or deserving dishonour or censure: a black crime /// 11. (of the face) purple, as from suffocation /// 12. (Brit) (of goods, jobs, works, etc) being subject to boycott by trade unionists, esp in support of industrial action elsewhere /// noun /// 13. a black colour /// 14. a dye or pigment of or producing this colour /// 15. black clothing, worn esp as a sign of mourning /// 16.(chess, draughts) a black or dark-coloured piece or square (usually capital) the player playing with such pieces /// 17. complete darkness: the black of the **night** /// 18. a black ball in snooker, etc /// 19. (in roulette and other gambling games) one of two colours on which players may place even bets, the other being red /// 20. in the black, in credit or without debt /// 21. (archery) a black ring on a target, between the outer and the blue, scoring three points /// verb /// 22. another word for blacken /// 23. (transitive) to polish (shoes, etc) with blacking /// 24. (transitive) to bruise so as to make black: he blacked her eye /// 25. (transitive) (Brit & Austral, NZ) (of trade unionists) to organize a boycott of (specified goods, jobs, work, etc), esp in support of industrial action elsewhere /// See also blackout /// Derived Forms blackish, adjective /// blackishly, adverb /// blackly, adverb /// blackness, noun /// Word Origin /// Old English blæc; related to Old Saxon blak ink, Old High German blakra to blink /// Black1 /blæk/ noun 1.a member of a human population having dark pigmentation of the skin /// adjective 2. of or relating to a Black person or Black people: a Black neighbourhood /// Usage note /// Talking about a Black or Blacks is considered offensive and it is better to talk about a Black person, Black people /// Black2 /blæk/ noun 1. Sir James (Whyte). 1924–2010, British biochemist. He discovered beta-blockers and drugs for peptic ulcers: Nobel prize for physiology or medicine 1988 /// 2. Joseph. 1728-99, Scottish physician and chemist, noted for his pioneering work on carbon dioxide and heat /// Collins English Dictionary - Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition /// © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins /// Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012 /// Cite This Source /// Word Origin and History for black Expand adj. /// Old English blæc "dark," from Proto-Germanic *blakaz "burned" (cf. Old Norse blakkr "dark," Old High German blah "black," Swedish bläck "ink," Dutch blaken "to burn"), from PIE *bhleg- "to burn, gleam, shine, flash" (cf. Greek phlegein "to burn, scorch," Latin flagrare "to blaze, glow, burn"), from root *bhel- (1) "to shine, flash, burn;" see bleach (v.). /// The same root produced Old English blac "bright, shining, glittering, pale;" the connecting notions being, perhaps, "fire" (bright) and "burned" (dark). The usual Old English word for "black" was sweart (see swart). According to OED: "In ME. it is often doubtful whether blac, blak, blake, means 'black, dark,' or 'pale, colourless, wan, livid.' "Used of dark-skinned people in Old English. /// Of coffee, first attested 1796. Meaning "fierce, terrible, wicked" is late 14c. The color of sin and sorrow since at least c.1300; sense of "with dark purposes, malignant" emerged 1580s (e.g. black magic). Black face in reference to a performance style originated in U.S., is from 1868. Black flag, flown (especially by pirates) as a signal of "no mercy," from 1590s. Black dog "melancholy" attested from 1826. Black belt is from 1875 in reference to districts of the U.S. South with heaviest African population; 1870 with reference to fertility of soil; 1913 in judo sense. Black power is from 1966, associated with **Stokely Carmichael.** v. c.1200, "to become black;" early 14c., "to make black, darken;" from black (adj.). Related: Blacked; blacking. n. /// Old English blæc "the color black," also "ink," from noun use of black (adj.). From late 14c. as "dark spot in the pupil of the eve." The meaning "black person, African" is from 1620s (perhaps late 13c., and blackamoor is from 1540s). To be in the black (1922) is from the accounting practice of recording credits and balances in black ink. /// For years it has been a common practice to use red ink instead of black

in showing a loss or deficit on corporate books, but not until the heavy losses of 1921 did the contrast in colors come to have a widely understood meaning.

["Saturday Evening Post," July 22, 1922] v. c.1200, "to become black;" early 14c., "to make black, darken;" from black (adj.). Related: Blacked; blacking. /// n. Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2010 Douglas Harper /// Cite This Source /// black in Medicine Expand /// Black (blāk), Sir James Whyte. Born 1924. British pharmacologist. He shared a 1988 Nobel Prize for developing drugs to treat heart disease and stomach and duodenal ulcers. The American Heritage® Stedman's Medical Dictionary Copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. /// Cite This Source /// black in Science Expand /// Black (blāk) /// Black, Joseph 1728-1799. British chemist who in 1756 discovered carbon dioxide, which he called "**fixed air**." In addition to further studies of carbon dioxide, Black formulated the concepts of latent heat and heat capacity. /// The American Heritage® Science Dictionary /// Copyright © 2002. Published by Houghton Mifflin. All rights reserved. /// Cite This Source /// Slang definitions & phrases for black Expand /// black /// adjective /// Secret: The plans for the Stealth bomber were kept in the military's black budget (1960s+) /// Of coffee, without cream or milk /// Related Terms /// in the black /// The Dictionary of American Slang, Fourth Edition by Barbara Ann Kipfer, PhD. and Robert L. Chapman, Ph.D. /// Copyright (C) 2007 by HarperCollins Publishers. /// Cite This Source /// Idioms and Phrases with black Expand /// black /// black and blue /// black and white /// black as night /// black book /// black eye /// Black Friday /// black hole /// black list /// black look /// black mark /// black out /// black sheep /// also see: dirty (black) look /// in the red (black) /// look black /// paint black /// pot calling the kettle black The American Heritage® Idioms Dictionary /// Copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. /// Cite This Source /// Word of the Day /// kerfuffle /// Difficulty index for black /// All English speakers likely know this word /// Word Value for black: 13 16 /// Scrabble Words With Friends /// Related Words /// Black English /// black op /// blackamoor /// colored /// Aunt Jemima /// black-marketeer /// Nearby words for black

blabbed
blabbering
blabbermouth
blabbing
black
black acacia
black alder
black and blue
black and tan coonhound
black and tans

Wacky weather

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