

blow¹

S2 W3

/bləʊ \$ blou/

verb

(past tense **blew** /blu:/, past participle **blown** /bləʊn \$ bloun/)

1 | wind moving [intransitive and transitive] WIND MOVING if the wind or a current of air blows, it moves:

*A cold breeze was **blowing hard**.*

It was blowing from an easterly direction.

*Outside, the weather was **blowing a gale**.*

2 | wind moving something WIND MOVING SOMETHING

[intransitive, transitive usually + adverb/preposition] to move, or to move something, by the force of the wind or a current of air:

Her hair was blowing in the breeze.

The wind blew the rain into our faces.

My ticket blew away.

blow (something) open/shut

*A sudden draught **blew the door shut**.*

3 | air from your mouth [intransitive, transitive always + adverb/preposition] AIR to send air out from your mouth:

blow (something) into/onto/out etc

She blew onto her coffee to cool it down.

He blew the smoke right in my face.

4 | make a noise [intransitive and transitive] to make a sound by passing air through a whistle, horn etc:

The whistle blew for half time.

A truck went by and blew its horn at her.

5 | violence [transitive always + adverb/preposition] DAMAGE to damage or destroy something violently with an explosion or by shooting:

blow something away/out/off something

Part of his leg had been blown off.

blow somebody/something to pieces/bits/smithereens

A bomb like that could blow you to bits.

- 6 | lose an opportunity** [transitive] (informal) MISTAKE to lose a good opportunity by making a mistake or by being careless:

*We've **blown** our **chances** of getting that contract.*

*You've got a great future ahead of you. Don't **blow** it.*

- 7 | waste money** [transitive] (informal) SPEND MONEY to spend a lot of money in a careless way, especially on one thing:

*I **blew** all the money I won on a trip to Hawaii.*

- 8 | blow your nose**

to clean your nose by forcing air through it into a cloth or a piece of soft paper

- 9 | blow somebody a kiss** KISS

to kiss your hand and then pretend to blow the kiss towards someone:

*She **leant out of the window and blew him a kiss.***

- 10 | electricity stops** [intransitive and transitive] if an electrical FUSE blows, or a piece of electrical equipment blows a fuse, the electricity suddenly stops working because a thin wire has melted:

*The floodlights **blew a fuse.***

- 11 | tyre** [intransitive and transitive] if a tyre blows, or if a car blows a tyre, it bursts

- 12 | make a shape** [transitive] BREATHE to make or shape something by sending air out from your mouth:

*The kids were **blowing bubbles** in the backyard.*

blow glass (= shape glass by blowing into it when it is very hot and soft)

- 13 | surprise/annoyance blow/blow me/blow it etc** SURPRISED (BrE) (spoken) said to show annoyance or surprise:

***Blow it!** I forgot to phone Jane.*

***Blow me down** if she didn't just run off!*

Well, I'm blown!

- 14** MAKE A SECRET KNOWN **tell a secret** [transitive] to make known something that

was meant to be a secret:

Your coming here has blown the whole operation.

blow somebody's cover (= make known what someone's real job or name is)

It would only take one phone call to blow his cover.

15 **blow somebody's mind** (spoken) SURPRISED

to make you feel very surprised and excited by something:

Seeing her again really blew my mind.

→ MIND-BLOWING

16 **blow your top/stack/cool** (also **blow a fuse/gasket**) (informal) ANGRY

to become extremely angry quickly or suddenly:

One day, I just blew my top and hit him.

17 **blow the whistle on somebody** (informal) TELL

to tell someone in authority about something wrong that someone is doing:

He blew the whistle on his colleagues.

→ WHISTLE-BLOWER

18 **blow something (up) out of (all) proportion** EXAGGERATE

to make something seem much more serious or important than it is

19 **blow your own trumpet** (especially BrE), **blow your own horn** (AmE) (informal) BOAST

to talk a lot about your own achievements – used to show disapproval:

Dave spent the whole evening blowing his own trumpet.

20 **blow somebody/something out of the water**

to defeat someone or something that you are competing with, or to achieve much more than they do:

Motown had blown all the other record companies out of the water.

21 **blow hot and cold** (BrE) (informal) CHANGE YOUR MIND

to keep changing your attitude towards someone or something

22 **blow something sky-high** (BrE)

to destroy an idea, plan etc by showing that it cannot be true or effective:

This new information blows his theory sky-high.

blow somebody ↔ away

phrasal verb

(especially AmE) (informal)

- 1** SURPRISED to make someone feel very surprised, especially about something they like or admire:

It just blows me away, the way everyone's so friendly round here.

- 2** KILL to kill someone by shooting them with a gun

- 3** BEAT/DEFEAT to defeat someone completely, especially in a game:

Nancy blew away the rest of the skaters.

blow down

phrasal verb

FALL if the wind blows something down, or if something blows down, the wind makes it fall:

The garden gate has blown down.

blow something ↔ down

Several trees were blown down in the night.

blow in

phrasal verb

- 1** (also **blow into something**) ARRIVE (informal) to arrive in a place, especially suddenly:

Jim blew in about an hour ago.

*Guess who's just **blown into town**?*

- 2** if a storm or bad weather blows in, it arrives and begins to affect a particular area:

The first snowstorm blew in from the north.

blow somebody/ something ↔ off

phrasal verb

(AmE) (informal)

- 1** UNIMPORTANT to treat someone or something as unimportant, for example by

not meeting someone or not going to an event:

Bud got into trouble for blowing off the meeting.

2 blow the lid off something

to make known something that was secret, especially something involving important or famous people:

Her book blew the lid off the Reagan years.

3 blow somebody's head off

to kill someone by shooting them in the head

4 blow off steam (AmE)

to get rid of anger or energy by doing something

SYN let off steam (BrE):

I went jogging to blow off some steam.

blow out

phrasal verb

1 STOP SOMETHING THAT IS HAPPENING if you blow a flame or a fire out, or if it blows out, it stops burning:

The match blew out in the wind.

blow something ↔ out

Blow out all the candles.

2 if a tyre blows out, it bursts

3 blow itself out FINISH/COME TO AN END

if a storm blows itself out, it ends

4 blow your/somebody's brains out

to kill yourself, or someone else, with a shot to the head

5 BEAT/DEFEAT **blow somebody ↔ out** (AmE) (spoken)

to easily defeat someone:

We blew them out 28–0.

6 (AmE) if you blow out your knee or another joint in your body, or if it blows out, you injure it badly

7 if an oil or gas WELL blows out, oil or gas suddenly escapes from it

8 blow somebody ↔ out

to stop having a friendship or relationship with someone

blow over

phrasal verb

- 1** FALL if the wind blows something over, or if something blows over, the wind makes it fall:

Our fence blew over in the storm.

blow something ↔ over

The hurricane blew some palm trees over.

- 2** FORGET if an argument or unpleasant situation blows over, it ends or is forgotten:

They weren't speaking to each other, but I think it's blown over now.

- 3** FINISH/COME TO AN END if a storm blows over, it goes away

blow up

phrasal verb

- 1** DESTROYEXPLODE to destroy something, or to be destroyed, by an explosion:

The plane blew up in midair.

blow something ↔ up

Rebels attempted to blow up the bridge.

- 2** AIR **blow something ↔ up**

to fill something with air or gas:

*Can you **blow up** this **balloon**?*

*We'll **blow** the **tyres up**.*

- 3** IMPORTANTDANGEROUS if a situation, argument etc blows up, it suddenly becomes important or dangerous:

A crisis had blown up over the peace talks.

- 4** **blow something ↔ up**

if you blow up a photograph, you make it larger

SYN enlarge

- 5** ANGRY (informal) to become very angry with someone:

Jenny's father blew up when she didn't come home last night.

blow up at

I was surprised at the way he blew up at Hardy.

6 WEATHER if bad weather blows up, it suddenly arrives:

It looks as if there's a storm blowing up.

7 **blow up in somebody's face**

if something you have done or planned to do blows up in your face, it suddenly goes wrong:

One of his deals had just blown up in his face.

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *blawan*

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