

# black<sup>1</sup>

S1 W1

/blæk/

adjective

(comparative **blacker**, superlative **blackest**)

**1** COLOUR **colour** having the darkest colour, like coal or night:

*a black evening dress*

**jet/inky black** (= very dark)

*jet black hair*

**2** **no light** very dark because there is no light:

*It was still **pitch black** (= very dark) out.*

**3** PEOPLE **people** (also / **Black**)

a)

belonging to the race of people who originally came from Africa and who have dark brown skin

→ **white:**

*Over half the students are black.*

b) [only before noun]

relating to black people:

*politics from a black perspective*

*Black and Asian music*

**4** TEA/COFFEE **drink** [only before noun] black coffee or tea does not have milk in it

OPP

*Black coffee, no sugar, please.*

**5** DIRTY **dirty** (informal) very dirty:

**be black with soot/dirt/age etc**

**6** WITHOUT HOPESAD/UNHAPPY **without hope** sad and without hope for the future:

*the blackest period of European history*

*a mood of black despair*

*It's been another **black day** for the car industry, with more job*

*losses announced.*

**7** **humour** making jokes about serious subjects, especially death:  
*a very **black** joke*

**8** ANGRY **angry** [only before noun] full of feelings of anger or hate → **blackly**:  
*Denise gave me a **black** look.*

**9** **a black mark (against somebody)**  
 if there is a black mark against you, someone has a bad opinion of you because of something you have done

**10** **not be as black as you are painted** BAD PERSON  
 not to be as bad as people say you are

**11** **bad** BAD(literary) very bad:  
*black deeds*

— **blackness** noun

#### Word origin

**Language:** Old English

**Origin:** *blæc*

## black<sup>2</sup>

noun

**1** [uncountable] the dark colour of coal or night:  
*You look good wearing **black**.*

→ [COAL-BLACK](#)

**2** (*also* / **Black**) [countable] someone who belongs to the race of people who originally came from Africa and who have dark brown skin → **white**:  
*laws that discriminated against **blacks***

**3** **be in the black**  
 to have money in your bank account

**OPP**

## black<sup>3</sup>

verb

[transitive]

- 1** (BrE) if a TRADE UNION blacks goods or a company, it refuses to work with them:

*The union has blacked all non-urgent work.*

- 2** (old-fashioned) to make something black

## black out

phrasal verb

- 1** to become UNCONSCIOUS

**SYN** faint,  
pass out

*For a few seconds, he thought he was going to black out.*

- 2** MARK **black something ↔ out**

to put a dark mark over something so that it cannot be seen:

*The censors had blacked out several words.*

- 3** LIGHT **black something ↔ out**

to hide or turn off all the lights in a town or city, especially during war

→ **blackout**

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

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