

blank¹

S3

/blæŋk/

adjective

1 NONE/NOTHING without any writing, print, or recorded sound:

*Leave the last page **blank**.*

a blank cassette

2 EXPRESSION ON SOMEBODY'S FACE a blank face or look shows no emotion, understanding, or interest → **blankly**:

blank face/look/expression/eyes

Zoe looked at me with a blank expression.

She gazed at him in blank astonishment.

3 go blank

a) FORGET

if your mind goes blank, or if you go blank, you are suddenly unable to remember something:

My heart began to race and my mind went blank.

b) NONE/NOTHING

to stop showing any images, writing etc:

Suddenly the screen went blank.

— **blankness** noun [uncountable]

→ BLANK VERSE

Word origin

Date: 1200–1300

Language: Old French

Origin: *blanc*; → BLANCH

blank²

noun

[countable]

- 1** WRITE an empty space on a piece of paper, where you are supposed to write a word or letter:

*When you've **filled in the blanks**, hand the form back to me.*

- 2 my mind's a blank** (spoken) FORGET

used to say that you cannot remember something:

I'm trying to think of his name, but my mind's a complete blank.

- 3** SHOOT a CARTRIDGE (= container for a bullet in a gun) that contains an explosive but no bullet:

*Soldiers **fired blanks** into the crowd.*

- 4 be shooting/firing blanks** (informal)

if a man is shooting blanks or firing blanks, his SPERM is not able to make a woman PREGNANT

→ **draw a blank** AT DRAW¹ (32)

blank³

verb

- 1** (also / **blank out**) [intransitive] (informal) FORGET if you blank, or if your mind blanks, you are suddenly unable to remember something:

I just blanked in the oral exam.

- 2** [transitive] (BrE) (informal) TALK TO SOMEBODY to ignore someone who you would usually greet or speak to:

Last time I saw Mike Adams he completely blanked me.

blank something ↔ out

phrasal verb

- 1** COVER to cover something so that it cannot be seen:

The actual names had been blanked out.

- 2** FORGET to completely forget something, especially deliberately:

I tried to blank out everything he had said.