

# bless <sup>s3</sup>

/bles/

verb [transitive]

## 1 bless you! (spoken)

a)

what you say when someone SNEEZES

b) THANK

used to thank someone for doing something for you

## 2 bless (him/her etc) (spoken) ENJOY/LIKE DOING SOMETHING

used to show that you are fond of someone, amused by them, or pleased by something they have done:

*He's always willing to help. Bless him!*

*'Jess made this card for me.' 'Bless!'*

## 3 be blessed with something HAVE

to have a special ability, good quality etc:

*We're both blessed with good health.*

## 4 if God blesses someone or something, he helps and protects them:

*May God bless you.*

## 5 to ask God to protect someone or something:

*The couple later **had their marriage blessed** in their local parish church.*

## 6 to make something holy:

*Then the priest blesses the bread and wine.*

## 7 bless my soul/I'll be blessed! (old-fashioned) (spoken) SURPRISED

used to express surprise

### Word origin

**Language:** Old English

**Origin:** *bletsian*, from *blod* 'blood'; because blood was used in religious ceremonies