

blue¹

S1 W2

/bluː/

adjective

1 COLOUR having the colour of the sky or the sea on a fine day → **navy,**

navy blue:

the blue waters of the lake

dark/light/pale/bright blue

a dark blue raincoat

2 SAD [not before noun] (informal) SAD/UNHAPPY sad and without hope

SYN depressed

*I've been **feeling** kind of **blue**.*

3 SEXY (informal) blue jokes, stories etc are about sex, in a way that might offend some people

→ BLUE MOVIE

4 argue/talk etc till you're blue in the face (informal)

LOT/LARGE NUMBER OR AMOUNT

to argue, talk etc about something a lot, but without achieving what you want:

You can tell them till you're blue in the face, but they'll still do what they want.

5 blue with cold (especially BrE)^{COLD}

someone who is blue with cold looks extremely cold

6 go blue (BrE)^{COLD}

if someone goes blue, their skin becomes blue because they are cold or cannot breathe properly

7 talk a blue streak TALK TO SOMEBODY (AmE) (informal)

to talk very quickly without stopping

— **blueness** noun [uncountable]

→ BLACK AND BLUE,

→ **once in a blue moon** AT ONCE¹ (15),

→ **scream blue murder** [AT SCREAM](#)¹ (1)

Word origin

Date: 1200–1300

Language: Old French

Origin: *blou*

blue²

noun

1 [uncountable and countable] the colour of the sky or the sea on a fine day:

She nearly always dresses in blue.

the rich greens and blues of the tapestry

2 blues (*also the blues*) [uncountable]

a slow sad style of music that came from the southern US:

a blues singer

→ [RHYTHM AND BLUES](#)

3 the blues [plural] (*informal*) SAD/UNHAPPY

feelings of sadness:

*A lot of women **get the blues** after the baby is born.*

4 out of the blue (*informal*) EXPECT

if something happens out of the blue, it is very unexpected

→ **a bolt from/out of the blue** [AT BOLT](#)¹ (3)

5 Blue [countable] (*BrE*)

someone who has represented Oxford or Cambridge University at a sport, or the title given to such a person

6 the blue (*literary*)

the sea or the sky

→ **boys in blue** [AT BOY](#)¹ (9)

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