

Need another word that means the same as “bleak”? Find 44 synonyms and 30 related words for “bleak” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Bleak” are: bare, barren, desolate, stark, black, dim, cutting, raw, exposed, arid, denuded, lunar, open, empty, windswept, cold, keen, harsh, wintry, unpromising, unfavourable, unpropitious, inauspicious, adverse, disadvantageous, uninviting, discouraging, disheartening, depressing, cheerless, joyless, gloomy, sombre, dreary, dismal, wretched, miserable, dark, grim, drab, portentous, foreboding, hopeless, ominous**

## **Bleak as an Adjective**

### **Definitions of "Bleak" as an adjective**

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), “bleak” as an adjective can have the following definitions:

- *(of an area of land) lacking vegetation and exposed to the elements.*
- *(of a situation) not hopeful or encouraging; unlikely to have a favourable outcome.*
- *Offering little or no hope.*
- *Offering little or no hope- J.M.Synge.*
- *(of the weather) cold and miserable.*
- *(of a building or room) charmless and inhospitable; dreary.*
- *Unpleasantly cold and damp.*
- *Providing no shelter or sustenance.*
- *(of a person's expression) cold and forbidding.*



## Synonyms of "Bleak" as an adjective (44 Words)

### adverse

In an opposing direction.  
*Adverse weather conditions.*

### arid

(of land or a climate) having little or no rain; too dry or barren to support vegetation.  
*The arid plains north of Cape Town.*

### bare

Just barely adequate or within a lower limit.  
*An ordeal that would lay bare a troubled family background.*

### **barren**

(of a tree or plant) not producing fruit or seed.  
*The barren fig tree.*

### **black**

Of a ski run of the highest level of difficulty as indicated by black markers positioned along it.  
*A black moonless night.*

### **cheerless**

Causing sad feelings of gloom and inadequacy.  
*Something cheerless about the room.*

### **cold**

Having a low or inadequate temperature or feeling a sensation of coldness or having been made cold by e.g. ice or refrigeration.  
*A cold and unaffectionate person.*

<b>cutting</b>	Capable of cutting something. <i>The <b>cutting</b> blades of the hedge trimmer.</i>
<b>dark</b>	Having a dark hue. <i>A <b>dark</b> gloomy day.</i>
<b>denuded</b>	Without the natural or usual covering.
<b>depressing</b>	Causing or resulting in a feeling of miserable dejection. <i>That thought is too <b>depressing</b> for words.</i>
<b>desolate</b>	(of a place) uninhabited and giving an impression of bleak emptiness. <i>A <b>desolate</b> Pennine moor.</i>
<b><u>dim</u></b>	Made dim or less bright. <i>The <b>dimmed</b> houselights brought a hush of anticipation.</i>
<b>disadvantageous</b>	Involving or creating circumstances detrimental to success or effectiveness. <i>The new employment scheme is <b>disadvantageous</b> to women.</i>
<b><u>discouraging</u></b>	Expressing disapproval in order to dissuade. <i>Where never is heard a <b>discouraging</b> word.</i>
<b><u>disheartening</u></b>	Destructive of morale and self-reliance. <i>Her death is particularly <b>disheartening</b> because it was preventable.</i>
<b>dismal</b>	Causing a mood of gloom or depression. <i>The first <b>dismal</b> dispiriting days of November.</i>
<b><u>drab</u></b>	Lacking in liveliness or charm or surprise. <i>Her <b>drab</b> personality.</i>
<b>dreary</b>	Lacking in liveliness or charm or surprise. <i>The <b>dreary</b> round of working eating and trying to sleep.</i>
<b><u>empty</u></b>	Devoid of significance or force. <i>Their promises were <b>empty</b> words.</i>
<b>exposed</b>	Not sheltered or protected from the weather. <i>Some areas of <b>exposed</b> coastline could see gusts of wind of more than 80 mph.</i>
<b><u>foreboding</u></b>	Implying that something bad is going to happen. <i>When the Doctor spoke his voice was dark and <b>foreboding</b>.</i>
<b><u>gloomy</u></b>	Dark or poorly lit, especially so as to appear depressing or frightening. <i>A <b>gloomy</b> silence.</i>
<b><u>grim</u></b>	Very serious or gloomy. <i>A <b>grim</b> goalless draw in appalling weather.</i>
<b>harsh</b>	Unpleasantly rough or jarring to the senses. <i>The <b>harsh</b> facts of court delays.</i>

<b>hopeless</b>	Without hope because there seems to be no possibility of comfort or success. <i>The situation is <b>hopeless</b>.</i>
<b>inauspicious</b>	Unlucky. <i>Following this <b>inauspicious</b> start the British outnumbered withdrew.</i>
<b>joyless</b>	Not giving or feeling any pleasure or satisfaction; grim or dismal. <i>A <b>joyless</b> occasion.</i>
<b>keen</b>	Interested in or attracted by (someone or something). <i><b>Keen</b> winds.</i>
<b>lunar</b>	Of, determined by, or resembling the moon. <i>A <b>lunar</b> eclipse.</i>
<b><u>miserable</u></b>	(of a person) wretchedly unhappy or uncomfortable. <i>Almost depleted his <b>miserable</b> store of dried beans.</i>
<b>ominous</b>	Giving the worrying impression that something bad is going to happen; threateningly inauspicious. <i>There were <b>ominous</b> dark clouds gathering overhead.</i>
<b>open</b>	Open and observable not secret or hidden. <i>The plans allow increasing numbers of new houses in <b>open</b> countryside.</i>
<b>portentous</b>	Puffed up with vanity. <i>This <b>portentous</b> year in Canadian history.</i>
<b>raw</b>	(of language) coarse or crude, typically in relation to sexual matters. <i>You may kill someone someday with your <b>raw</b> power.</i>
<b>sombre</b>	Lacking brightness or color; dull. <i>The night skies were <b>sombre</b> and starless.</i>
<b><u>stark</u></b>	Providing no shelter or sustenance. <i><b>Stark</b> poverty.</i>
<b>unfavourable</b>	Involving or creating circumstances detrimental to success or effectiveness. <i>Single mothers are often the target of <b>unfavourable</b> press attention.</i>
<b><u>uninviting</u></b>	(especially of a place or prospect) not attractive. <i>The house was dark and <b>uninviting</b>.</i>
<b>unpromising</b>	Not giving hope of future success or good results. <i>The boy's natural intellect had survived in <b>unpromising</b> circumstances.</i>
<b>unpropitious</b>	(of a circumstance) not giving or indicating a good chance of success; unfavourable. <i>His reports were submitted at a financially <b>unpropitious</b> time.</i>

<b>windswept</b>	Untidy in appearance after being exposed to the wind. <b>Windswept</b> headlands.
<b>wintry</b>	Characteristic of or occurring in winter. Brown <b>wintry</b> grasses.
<b>wretched</b>	Of very poor quality or condition. She disliked the <b>wretched</b> man intensely.



## Usage Examples of "Bleak" as an adjective

- *The future looks bleak.*
- *He looked round the bleak little room in despair.*
- *A bleak and barren moor.*
- *Bleak winds of the North Atlantic.*
- *He paints a bleak picture of a company that has lost its way.*
- *A bleak midwinter's day.*
- *His mouth was set and his eyes were bleak.*
- *Life in the Aran Islands has always been bleak and difficult.*
- *Prospects were bleak.*
- *The bleak treeless regions of the high Andes.*



## Associations of "Bleak" (30 Words)

<b>barren</b>	A barren tract or tracts of land. <i>The room was <b>barren</b> of furniture.</i>
<b>crestfallen</b>	Sad and disappointed. <i>He came back empty handed and <b>crestfallen</b>.</i>
<b>dejected</b>	Affected or marked by low spirits. <i>He stood in the street looking <b>dejected</b>.</i>
<b>depressed</b>	Lower than previously. <i>The market is <b>depressed</b>.</i>
<b>despair</b>	A state in which all hope is lost or absent. <i>In <b>despair</b> I hit the bottle.</i>

<b>despairing</b>	Showing the loss of all hope. <i>He gave a <b>despairing</b> little shrug.</i>
<b>desperate</b>	Desperately determined. <i>Felt a <b>desperate</b> urge to confess.</i>
<b>despondent</b>	Without or almost without hope. <i><b>Despondent</b> about his failure.</i>
<b>dingy</b>	Discolored by impurities; not bright and clear is often used in combination. <i>A <b>dingy</b> room.</i>
<b>disappointed</b>	Disappointingly unsuccessful. <i>Thousands of <b>disappointed</b> customers were kept waiting.</i>
<b>disconsolate</b>	Very unhappy and unable to be comforted. <i>She left Fritz looking <b>disconsolate</b>.</i>
<b>discouraged</b>	Lacking in resolution. <i>Felt <b>discouraged</b> by the magnitude of the problem.</i>
<b>dismal</b>	Causing dejection. <i>The <b>dismal</b> weather made the late afternoon seem like evening.</i>
<b>dispirited</b>	Having lost enthusiasm and hope; disheartened. <i>A <b>dispirited</b> and divided Party.</i>
<b>drab</b>	Clothes especially trousers made of drab. <i>A young man dressed in <b>drabs</b>.</i>
<b>dreary</b>	Lacking in liveliness or charm or surprise. <i>A series of <b>dreary</b> dinner parties.</i>
<b>forbidden</b>	Not allowed; banned. <i>A list of <b>forbidden</b> books.</i>
<b>gloomy</b>	Causing dejection. <i>A dark <b>gloomy</b> day.</i>
<b>hangdog</b>	Showing a sense of guilt- Eric Linklater. <i>The <b>hangdog</b> and shamefaced air of the retreating enemy.</i>
<b>heartsick</b>	Full of sorrow. <i>Weary and <b>heartsick</b> she forced herself to search throughout the remains of the village.</i>
<b>helpless</b>	Unable to defend oneself or to act without help. <i>Lying ill and <b>helpless</b>.</i>
<b>hopeless</b>	Beyond hope of management or reform. <i>She handed me a <b>hopeless</b> jumble of papers.</i>
<b>inhospitable</b>	(of an environment) harsh and difficult to live in. <i>They are extremely <b>inhospitable</b> these days.</i>

- melancholy** Having a feeling of melancholy sad and pensive.  
*She felt a little **melancholy**.*
- pessimistic** Expecting the worst possible outcome.  
*He was **pessimistic** about the prospects.*
- prohibit** (of a fact or situation) make (something) impossible; prevent.  
*All ivory trafficking between nations is **prohibited**.*
- relentlessly** In an unceasingly intense or harsh way.  
*Joseph worked **relentlessly**.*
- sad** Of things that make you feel sad Christina Rossetti.  
*He told her the **sad** story of his life.*
- stark** Severe or bare in appearance or outline.  
*His position is in **stark** contrast to that of Curran.*
- unmitigated** Not diminished or moderated in intensity or severity; sometimes used as an intensifier.  
*The tour had been an **unmitigated** disaster.*

