

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.*

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

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

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



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)

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

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

