

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.*

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>

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>

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)

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>

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.*

