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blank  (blāŋk)

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adj. **blank·er, blank·est**

1.

a. Devoid of writing, images, or marks: *a blank wall; a blank screen.*

b. Containing no information; unrecorded or erased: *a blank tape; a blank diskette.* See Synonyms at [empty](#).

c. Having spaces for information to be provided; not completed or filled in: *a blank questionnaire.*

2. Not having received final processing; unfinished: *a blank key.*

3.

a. Devoid of thought or impression: *a blank mind.*

b. Showing no expression, interest, or understanding; expressionless: *a blank stare.*

4. Devoid of activity or distinctive character; empty: *tried to fill the blank hours of the day.*

5. Absolute; complete: *a blank refusal.*

n.

1.

a. An empty space or place, especially an empty space on a document to be filled in.

b. A document with one or more such spaces.

2.

a. Something without information or thought: *When I read that question on the test, my mind was a blank.*

b. Something showing no expression or understanding: *When he told his mother what happened, her face was a blank.*

3. A manufactured article of a standard shape or form that is ready for final processing, as by stamping or cutting: *a key blank.*

4. A blank cartridge.

5. Something worthless, such as a losing lottery ticket.

6. A mark, usually a dash (—), indicating the omission of a word or of a letter or letters.

7. The white circle in the center of a target; a bull's-eye.

8. *Games* An unmarked piece or portion of a piece, as a domino tile, whose value may be determined by the holder.

v. **blanked, blank·ing, blanks**

v.tr.

1. To remove, as from view; obliterate: *"At times the strong glare of the sun blanked it from sight" (Richard Wright).*

2. To block access to: *blank off a subway tunnel.*

3. *Sports* To prevent (an opponent) from scoring.

4. To punch or stamp from flat stock, especially with a die.

v.intr.

1. To become abstracted. Often used with *out*: *My mind blanked out for a few seconds.*

2. To fail to find or remember something: *I blanked when asked the name of our mayor.*

3. To fade away: *The music gradually blanked out.*

[Middle English, white, having spaces to be filled in, from Old French *blanc*, white, of Germanic origin; see [bhel-¹](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

blank **ly** *adv.*

blank **ness** *n.*

Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

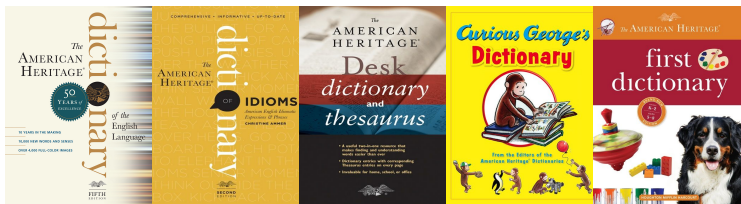
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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