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blow ¹ (blō)

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v. **blew** (bl), **blown** (blōn), **blow·ing**, **blows**

v.intr.

1.

- a. To be in a state of motion. Used of the air or of wind.
- b. To move along or be carried by the wind: *Her hat blew away.*
- c. To move with or have strong winds: *The storm blew all night.*

2.

- a. To expel a current of air, as from the mouth or from a bellows.
- b. To produce a sound by expelling a current of air, as in sounding a wind instrument or a whistle.
- c. To breathe hard; pant.
- d. To release air or gas suddenly; burst or explode: *The tire blew when it hit the pothole.*
- e. To spout moist air from the blowhole. Used of a whale.

3.

- a. To fail or break down, as from being operated under extreme or improper conditions: *The furnace blew during the cold snap.*
- b. To melt or otherwise become disabled. Used of a fuse.

4.

- a. *Informal* To move very fast in relation to something: *The boy blew past the stands on his bike.*
- b. *Slang* To go away; depart: *It's time to blow.*

5. *Informal* To boast.

6. *Vulgar Slang* To be disgustingly disagreeable or offensive: *This movie blows.*

v.tr.

1.

- a. To cause to move by means of a current of air: *The wind blew the boat out to sea.*
- b. To drive a current of air on, in, or through: *blew my hair dry after I shampooed it.*
- c. To clear out or make free of obstruction by forcing air through: *blew his nose all through allergy season.*
- d. To shape or form (glass, for example) by forcing air or gas through at the end of a pipe.

2.

- a. To expel (air) from the mouth.
- b. To cause air or gas to be expelled suddenly from: *We blew a tire when we drove over the rock.*

3. *Music*

- a. To cause (a wind instrument) to sound.
- b. To sound: *a bugle blowing taps.*

4.

- a. To cause to be out of breath.
- b. To allow (a winded horse) to regain its breath.
- 5. To demolish by the force of an explosion: *An artillery shell blew our headquarters apart.*
- 6. To lay or deposit eggs in. Used of certain insects.

7.

- a. To cause to fail or break down, as by operating at extreme or improper conditions: *blew the engine on the last lap.*
- b. To cause (a fuse) to melt or become disabled.

8. *Slang*

- a. To spend (money) freely and rashly. See Synonyms at [waste](#).
- b. To spend money freely on; treat: *blew me to a sumptuous dinner.*

9.

a. *Slang* To spoil or lose through ineptitude: *blew the audition; blew a three-goal lead*. See Synonyms at [botch](#).

b. To cause (a covert intelligence operation or operative) to be revealed and thereby jeopardized: *a story in the press that blew their cover; an agent who was blown by the opposition*.

10.

a. *Slang* To depart (a place) in a great hurry: *Let's blow this city no later than noon*.

b. *Baseball* To throw (a pitch) so fast that a batter cannot swing fast enough to hit it: *blew a fastball by the batter for the strikeout*.

11. *Vulgar Slang* To perform fellatio on.

n.

1. The act or an instance of blowing.

2.

a. A blast of air or wind.

b. A storm.

3. *Informal* An act of bragging.

4. *Slang* Cocaine.

Phrasal Verbs:

blow away *Slang*

1. To kill by shooting, especially with a firearm.

2. To defeat decisively.

3. To affect intensely; overwhelm: *That concert blew me away*.

blow in *Slang*

To arrive, especially when unexpected.

blow off

1. To relieve or release (pressure); let off.

2. *Slang* To choose not to attend or accompany: *They wanted us to come along, but we blew them off*.

blow out

1. To extinguish or be extinguished by a gust of air: *blow out a candle*.

2. To fail, as an electrical apparatus.

3. To erupt in an uncontrolled manner. Used of a gas or oil well.

4. To defeat decisively, as in a sport.

blow over

To subside, wane, or pass over with little lasting effect: *The storm blew over quickly. The scandal will soon blow over*.

blow up

1. To come into being: *A storm blew up*.

2. To fill with air; inflate: *blow up a tire*.

3. To enlarge (a photographic image or print).

4. To explode: *bombs blowing up*.

5. To lose one's temper.

Idioms:

blow a fuse/gasket *Slang*

To explode with anger.

blow hot and cold

To change one's opinion often on a matter; vacillate.

blow off steam

To give vent to pent-up emotion.

blow (one's) cool *Slang*

To lose one's composure.

blow (one's) mind *Slang*

To affect with intense emotion, such as amazement, excitement, or shock.

blow (one's) top/stack *Informal*

To lose one's temper.

blow/break open

To get a sudden, insurmountable lead in (an athletic contest).

blow out of proportion

To make more of than is reasonable; exaggerate.

blow smoke

1. To speak deceptively.

2. To brag or exaggerate.

[Middle English *blowen*, from Old English *blāwan*; see **bhlē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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blow²  (blō)

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n.

1. A sudden hard stroke or hit, as with the fist or an object.
2. An unexpected shock or calamity.
3. An unexpected attack; an assault.

[Middle English *blaw*.]

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blow³  (blō)

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intr. & tr.v. **blew** (bl), **blown** (blōn), **blow·ing**, **blows**

To bloom or cause to bloom.

n.

1. A mass of blossoms: *peach blow*.
2. The state of blossoming: *tulips in full blow*.

[From Middle English *blowen*, to bloom, from Old English *blōwan*; see **bhel-**³ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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