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CONNECTING THE WORLD

Merriam-Webster's
Advanced
LEARNER'S
ENGLISH DICTIONARY



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Pronunciation

black market *noun* [count] : something bad that has happened • Don't blame me. You are responsible for your own problems. • Don't blame me for your problems. = Don't blame your problems on me. • The company *blames* the poor economy for its financial losses. = The company *blames* its financial losses on the poor economy. • My father always *blames* everything on me. • I *blame* the poor harvest on the weather.
blame the messenger *see* MESSENGER
have yourself to blame ⇨ If you *have only yourself to blame* or *have no one to blame but yourself*, then something is your fault and nobody else's. • She *has only herself to blame* for her money problems.
not blame ⇨ If you say that you *wouldn't/don't/can't blame* someone or *can hardly blame* someone, you think that person has a good reason for doing something. • After the way he treated you, I *wouldn't blame* you [=I would completely understand] if you never spoke to him again. • You *can hardly blame* her for being angry.
to blame : responsible for something bad : deserving to be blamed for something. • Who's *to blame* for these problems? • He says he's *not to blame* for the delays. [=he did not cause the delays] • Poor communication is at least partly *to blame*. [=at fault]
blame *noun* [noncount] : responsibility for something that fails or is wrong • It's not entirely his fault, but he's not completely free of *blame*, either. • He deserves *blame* [=deserves to be blamed] for his careless behavior. — usually used with *the* • *The blame* lies with me. [=I am at fault; I am to blame] • It's not fair—she gets the credit when things go well, and I *get the blame* when they fail. • Don't try to put/lay/pin *the blame* for your problems on me. • The coach *took the blame* for the defeat. [=the coach said he was responsible for the defeat] — see also *the finger of blame* at FINGER
blame-less /'bleɪmləs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : not responsible for a problem, bad situation, etc. : free from blame or fault • The school is *not blameless* for the children's poor skills. • An investigation showed that police were *blameless* in the man's death. • a *blameless* [=innocent] life
— blame-less-ly adv
blame-wor-thy /'bleɪm,wɜði/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : deserving blame : bad or wrong • His conduct was judged (to be) *blameworthy*. • Their failure to adequately inform participants of the risks was morally/ethically *blameworthy*.
blanch /'blæntʃ, Brit 'blɑːntʃ/ *verb* **blanch-es; blanched; blanch-ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to put (food items) in boiling water or steam for a short time • *Blanch* the potatoes before slicing them. • a cup of *blanched* almonds
2 [no *obj*] : to suddenly have less color in your face because you are afraid, embarrassed, etc. • She *blanched* and remained silent when the store owner accused her of taking the money. — often used figuratively • Military leaders *blanched* at the thought of being asked to accept further funding cuts. [=they reacted in a way that showed they did not want to accept further cuts]
blanche *see* CARTE BLANCHE
blanc-mange /blɑː'mɑːndʒ/ *noun* [count, noncount] *Brit* : a cold, sweet dessert that looks like jelly formed into a shape
bland /'blænd/ *adj* **bland-er; -est**
1 : not interesting or exciting • a *bland* [=dull, boring] film • *bland* [=uninteresting] architecture
2 : lacking strong flavor • The vegetable soup was rather *bland*. • a *bland* diet = a diet of *bland* foods [=foods that are not spicy]
3 : showing no emotion, concern, etc. • a *bland* expression/face • The diplomat's *bland* statement did nothing to calm the situation.
— bland-ly adv — bland-ness noun [noncount] • the *bland-ness* of the film/food
blan-dish-ments /'blændɪʃmənts/ *noun* [plural] *formal* : nice things that you say or do to convince someone to do something • He found it hard to resist her *blandishments* and almost always ended up doing as she wished.
blank /'blæŋk/ *adj* **blank-er; -est**
1 *a* : without any writing, marks, or pictures • a *blank* sheet of paper • Leave that line *blank*. [=don't write on that line] • a book with *blank* pages • a *blank* wall — see also BLANK SLATE **b** : having empty spaces to be filled in with information : not yet written in or filled out • a *blank* passport appli-