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# 1 block

*noun, often attributive* | \`bläk\

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Tip: Synonym Guide

Examples: block in a Sentence

## Definition of BLOCK

- 1 : a compact usually solid piece of substantial material especially when worked or altered to serve a particular purpose • a *block* of ice • *blocks* of cheese : such as
  - a : the piece of wood on which the neck of a person condemned to be beheaded is laid for execution • put her neck on the *block*
  - b : a mold or form on which articles are shaped or displayed • a wooden hat *block*
  - c : a hollow rectangular building unit usually of artificial material • a wall of concrete *blocks*
  - d : a lightweight usually cubical and solid wooden or plastic building toy that is usually provided in sets • children playing with *blocks*
  - e : the *casting* that contains the cylinders of an [internal combustion engine](#) • engine *block*
- f sports* : [STARTING BLOCK](#) • the first swimmer off the *blocks* • a slow start out of the *blocks*
- 2
  - a : [OBSTACLE](#) • putting a *block* on any future development
  - b *sports* : an obstruction of an opponent's play; *especially, football* : a halting or impeding of the progress or movement of an opponent by use of the body • a *block* by the right tackle
  - c *medical*
    - (1) : interruption of normal physiological function (as of a tissue or organ); *especially* : [HEART BLOCK](#) • The patient presented with a *block*.
    - (2) : local [anesthesia](#) (as by injection) produced by interruption of the flow of impulses along a nerve
  - d *psychology* : interruption or cessation especially of train of thought by competing thoughts or psychological suppression • a mental *block* • an emotional *block* — compare [WRITER'S BLOCK](#)
- 3 *slang* : [HEAD 1](#) • threatened to knock his *block* off
- 4 : a wooden or metal case enclosing one or more [pulleys](#) and having a hook, eye, or strap by which it may be attached
- 5 : a piece of material (such as wood or linoleum) having on its surface a hand-cut design from which impressions are to be printed • wooden *blocks* used for printing books
- 6
  - a (1) : a usually rectangular space (as in a city) enclosed by streets and occupied by or intended for buildings • She lived on our *block*.
  - (2) : the distance along one of the sides of such a block • The store is two *blocks* down on the right. • lived a *block* away from the school
  - b (1) : a large building divided into separate functional units • an apartment *block*
  - (2) : a line of [row houses](#)
  - (3) : a distinctive part of a building or integrated group of buildings • a *block* of classrooms
- 7 : a platform from which property is sold at auction • went on the *block* and sold for nearly three million dollars
- 8
  - a : a quantity, number, or section of things dealt with as a unit • bought a large *block* of shares • a half-hour *block* of music • a *block* of text
  - b : [BLOC 2](#) • popular among several voting *blocks*

### —around the block

: through many experiences —used especially to say that someone is no longer young or has become knowledgeable, capable, or mature because of past experience

- ... it seemed possible that to fall for a woman who had **been around the block** a few times might

be to rob himself of much of the purely ornamental elements ... of first love. —Michael Chabon

—on the block

: for sale • The business is now *on the block*.

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See [block defined for English-language learners](#)

See [block defined for kids](#)

### Examples of BLOCK in a Sentence

a wall built out of concrete *blocks*

We took a walk around the *block*.

She lived on our *block*.

The store is three *blocks* down on the right.

Our hotel is a *block* from the ocean.