

Bloviate (American), a made up or "factitious" word, which has been used since 1850, and is perhaps older. It is irregularly used to signify verbosity, wandering from the subject, and idle or inflated oratory or blowing, by which word it was probably suggested, being partially influenced by "deviate."

Blow (university), a drunken frolic; an old slang phrase formerly much in vogue at both Oxford and Cambridge, but not much used now, such words as "spree," "tight," &c., having superseded it. Also, "to blow," and "to go on the blow." (Old cant), "He has hit the blow," *i.e.*, he has stolen the goods, or done the deed. (Common), a shilling.

For this I went to the Steel (Bastille—Cold Bath Fields Prison), having a new suit of clobber on me, and about fifty *blow* in my brigh (pocket). When I came out I went at the same old game.—*J. Horsley: Prison Jottings.*

Blow, blow it (American thieves' slang), to be silent, be quiet! hold your chatter! This is quite the opposite of the English slang "to blow," which means to inform on, or the common American "to blow," *i.e.*, to talk loudly and emptily.

Mac Clarty objected; giving the young man a warning look, he said, "Nixey Toohey, get out flash—*blow it*, man, *blow it!*" which meant that Mr. Mac Clarty thought that Mr. Toohey ought not to talk so much.—*Philadelphia Press*, Dec. 3, 1887.

Blow, blow on, upon (common), to expose, inform.

And she ain't got nobody but me to keep a secret for her, and I've been and *blowed* on her.—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

You wouldn't *blow* an old chum among his friends, would you?—*Sam Slick: The Clockmaker.*

Depend upon it that they're on the scent down here, and that if he moved, he'd *blow upon* the thing at once.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

But I will *blow* her, he said, I will *blow* her ladyship's conduct in the business.—*Sir Walter Scott: St. Ronan's Well.*

Derived from the primary meaning to *blow*, to spread by report as if with a trumpet, to publish; or from *to blow upon*, to taint, to blast, to bring into disfavour or discredit.

Happily for him, he was not put to the bar till the first burst of popular rage had spent itself, and till the credit of the false witnesses had been *blown upon*.—*Macaulay.*

In Dutch an ear-blower, *oor-blaazer*, means an instigator, informer, or sycophant; the French *siffler dans l'oreille* seems to be closely allied to it. (Winchester), *to blow* signifies to blush, like a rose in full bloom. (American), *to blow*, to brag, or "gas" unduly. (Old slang), "to blow the groundsels," using the floor for the purpose of sexual intercourse. (Common), "*to blow the gaff*," to reveal the secret, to "peach," to inform. The old form still in use is "to blow the gab," *i.e.*, to utter the discourse, which has more meaning in it.