

1. [pleɪn] *n*

1. равнина

in the open plain - в открытом поле

Salisbury Plain - равнина Солсбери

2. *обыкн. pl амер., австрал.* безлесные равнины; прерии3. *поэт.* поле брани4. (the Plain) *ист.* «болото» (во французском национальном конвенте)

5. прямая петля (в вязанье)

plain and purl - прямая и обратная петля

◇ Cities of the Plain - *библ.* Содом и Гоморра

2. [pleɪn] *a*

1. 1) ясный; отчётливый

plain view /sight/ - открытый вид

plain articulation - отчётливая артикуляция

plain writing - разборчивый почерк

all was plain to see - всё было ясно видно

the rippling of the brook was plain to be heard - журчание ручейка было отчётливо слышно

2) явный, очевидный

it is your plain duty - это ваш прямой долг

it was plain that he did not wish to do it - было очевидно /ясно/, что он не хотел этого делать

3) полный, совершенный, абсолютный

plain folly - чистое безумие

plain nonsense - полнейшая бессмыслица, абсолютная чепуха

plain stupidity - непробиваемая тупость

2. 1) простой, понятный

to explain smth. in plain and precise terms - объяснить что-л. ясно и точно

to make smth. plain to smb. - разъяснить что-л. кому-л.

tell her what you want in plain words - объясните ей членораздельно, что вы хотите

the meaning is quite plain - значение совершенно ясно /понятно/

in plain English - ясно, членораздельно

he can't understand plain English - он не понимает простых слов

2) незашифрованный

plain language - *воен.* открытый/незашифрованный текст [*см. тж.* 6]

in plain - *воен.* открыт, открытым текстом (о радиограмме, донесении)

3. 1) простой, незамысловатый, обыкновенный

plain dress [furniture] - простое платье [-ая мебель]

plain style - простой /незамысловатый/ стиль

plain unvarnished tale - бесхитростный рассказ; рассказ без всяких прикрас

plain food - простая пища

plain water - простая /обыкновенная/ вода

plain bread and butter - просто хлеб с маслом

plain living - простой /скромный/ образ жизни

plain dive - простой прыжок (*прыжки в воду*)

plain sewing - простое шитьё (в отличие от вышивки)

plain stitch - чулочная вязка

he was called plain John - его звали просто Джоном

I like my cooking plain - я люблю готовить просто, я не люблю всякие разносолы

2) чистый, несмешанный, без добавок

plain boiled beef - варёное мясо (*из бульона*)

a cup of plain black coffee - чашечка чёрного кофе без сахара

plain tea - чай (только) с хлебом и маслом

plain cigarettes - сигареты без фильтра

3) гладкий (о волосах)

4) обычный

plain card - а) нефигурная игральная карта; б) некозырная карта

plain steel - *метал.* нелегированная сталь

plain concrete - *стр.* неармированный бетон

it's plain common sense - это обычный /всего лишь/ здравый смысл

4. одноцветный, без узора или рисунка

plain drawing - нецветной рисунок

plain blue material - гладкий синий материал

plain silk [velvet] - гладкий шёлк [бархат]

plain wallpaper - гладкие обои (*без рисунка*)

5. простой, незнатный

plain man - простой человек

plain countryfolk - простые /бесхитростные/ деревенские люди, простонародье

6. прямой, откровенный

plain statement - откровенное заявление

plain answer - прямой ответ

plain language - а) прямая /откровенная/ речь; б) особая, откровенная манера речи квакеров [см. тж. 2, 2]

plain talk - прямой разговор

the plain truth - а) настоящая /чистая/ правда; б) неприятная/печальная/ правда, правда без прикрас

the plain truth /fact/ is ... - дело просто в том, что ...

to make one's meaning perfectly plain - говорить откровенно /прямо/; ≅ поставить все точки над «i»

to be plain with smb. - быть откровенным с кем-л.; ≅ говорить кому-л. правду в глаза

to stick to the plain facts - придерживаться (только) фактов

7. невзрачный, некрасивый

plain face - некрасивое лицо

plain Jane - некрасивая девушка

a pity the girl is so plain - жаль, что девочка так некрасива

8. гладкий, ровный (о местности)

plain ground - плоский рельеф

plain surface - ровная поверхность

◇ (as) plain as a pikestaff /as the nose on your face, as the day, as daylight, as the sun at noonday/ - ясный как день, очевидный; ≅ совершенно ясно

3. [pleɪn] adv

1) ясно, разборчиво, отчётливо

I made them speak the word plain - я заставил их произносить это слово отчётливо

2) откровенно

others spoke plainer than he - другие говорили более откровенно, чем он

talk /speak/ plain so that I can understand you - говори прямо, чтобы я тебя понял

3) просто, совершенно, абсолютно

he is just plain stupid [tired] - он просто глуп [устал]

II

[pleɪn] v арх.

жаловаться, плакаться, сетовать

plain

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

plain [pleɪn pleɪns plainer plainest] adjective, noun, adverb BrE [pleɪn] * NAmE

[pleɪn]

adjective (plain-er, plain-est)

1. easy to see or understand

Syn: ↑clear

- He **made it plain that** we should leave.
- She made her annoyance plain.
- The facts were **plain to see**.
- It was a rip-off, **plain and simple**.

2. not trying to trick anyone; honest and direct

- **The plain fact is** that nobody really knows.
- a politician with a reputation for **plain speaking**
- (especially NAmE) a plain, straightforward sort of man

3. not decorated or complicated; simple

- a plain but elegant dress
- plain food
- The interior of the church was plain and simple.
- plain yogurt (= without sugar or fruit)

compare ↑fancy

4. without marks or a pattern on it

- covers in plain or printed cotton
- Write on plain paper (= without lines).

5. only before noun used to emphasize that sth is very ordinary, not special in any way

Syn: ↑everyday

- You don't need any special skills for this job, just plain common sense.

6. (especially of a woman) not beautiful or attractive

7. describing a simple ↑stitch used in knitting

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French **plain**, from Latin **planus**, from a base meaning 'flat'.

Thesaurus:

plain adj.

1.

- He made it very plain that he wanted us to leave.

clear • • **obvious** • • **apparent** • • **evident** • • **self-evident** • • **explicit** •

plain/clear/obvious/apparent/evident/self-evident to sb/sth

plain/clear/obvious/apparent/evident/self-evident from/in sb/sth

make sth plain/clear/obvious/apparent/evident/explicit

Plain, clear or obvious? If you **make sth clear/plain**, you do so deliberately, but if you **make sth obvious**, you do so without meaning to:

• I hope I make myself clear/plain.

✗ I hope I make myself obvious:

• Try not to make your dislike so obvious.

✗ Try not to make it so clear/plain.

2.

• The plain fact is that nobody really knows.

simple • **bare** • **bald** • |**formal unequivocal** • |**usually disapproving stark** •

the plain/simple/bare/bald/unequivocal/stark **truth**

a/an plain/simple/bare/bald/unequivocal/stark **fact/statement**

a/an plain/simple/unequivocal **answer**

3.

• Let's be plain about this: we will need to make some cuts.

honest • **direct** • **blunt** • **forthright** • |**approving open** • • **straight** • • **straightforward** •

plain/honest/direct/blunt/forthright/open/straight/straightforward **about** sth

plain/honest/direct/blunt/open/straight/straightforward **with** sb

To be/Let's be plain/honest/blunt...

4.

• a plain white shirt

bare • |**usually approving simple** • • **austere** • |**often disapproving severe** • • **stark** •

Opp: fancy

a/an plain/simple/austere **design**

a plain/bare/simple **interior**

a plain/bare/simple/stark **white...**

a plain/simple/severe/stark **black...**

Synonyms:

clear

obvious • **apparent** • **evident** • **plain**

These words all describe sth that is easy to see or understand and leaves no doubts or confusion.

clear • easy to see or understand and leaving no doubts: ▫ It was quite clear to me that she was lying.

obvious • easy to see or understand: ▫ It's obvious from what he said that something is wrong.

apparent • [not usually before noun] (**rather formal**) easy to see or understand: ▫ It was apparent from her face that she was really upset.

evident • (**rather formal**) easy to see or understand: ▫ The orchestra played with evident enjoyment.

plain • easy to see or understand: ▫ He ▫ made it ▫ very ▫ plain ▫ that he wanted us to leave.

which word?

These words all have almost exactly the same meaning. There are slight differences in register and patterns of use. If you **make sth clear/plain**, you do so deliberately because you want people to understand sth; if you **make sth obvious**, you usually do it without meaning to: I hope I make myself obvious. ◊ Try not to make it so clear/plain. In the expressions **clear majority**, **for obvious reasons**, **for no apparent reason** and **plain to see**, none of the other words can be used instead. You can have a **clear/an obvious/a plain case of sth** but not: an evident case of sth.

clear/obvious/apparent/evident/plain **to** sb/sth

clear/obvious/apparent/evident/plain **that/what/who/how/where/why...**

to **seem/become/make sth** clear/obvious/apparent/evident/plain

perfectly/quite/very clear/obvious/apparent/evident/plain

Synonyms:

plain

simple • **stark** • **bare** • **unequivocal**

These words all describe statements, often about sth unpleasant, that are very clear, not trying to hide anything, and not using more words than necessary.

plain • used for talking about a fact that other people may not like to hear; honest and direct in way that other people may not like: ▫ The plain fact is that nobody really knows.

simple • [only before noun] used for talking about a fact that other people may not like to hear; very obvious and not complicated by anything else: ▫ The simple truth is that we just can't afford it.

plain or simple?

When it is being used to emphasize facts that other people may not like to hear, **plain** is usually used in the expression **the plain fact/truth is that...** **Simple** can be used in this way too, but it can also be used in a wider variety of structures and collocations (such as **reason** and **matter**): ▫ The problem was due to the simple fact that... ◊ The problem was due to the plain fact that... ◊ for the plain reason that... ◊ It's a plain matter of... Expressions with **simple** often suggest impatience with other people's behaviour.

stark • (**rather formal**) used for describing an unpleasant fact or difference that is very obvious: ▫ The stark truth is that there is not enough money left.

The **simple/plain truth** may be sth that some people do not want to hear, but it may be good for them to hear it anyway. The **stark truth** is sth particularly unpleasant and has no good side to it at all.

bare • [only before noun] the most basic or simple, with nothing extra: ▫ She gave me only the bare facts of the case.

unequivocal • (**formal**) expressing your opinion or intention very clearly and firmly: ▫ The reply was an unequivocal 'no'.

the plain/simple/stark/bare/unequivocal **truth**
a(n) plain/simple/stark/bare/unequivocal **fact/statement**
a(n) plain/simple/unequivocal **answer**

Example Bank:

- It is all very plain to me.
- She looked very plain and dowdy.
- The dress was absolutely plain, but quite stunning.
- The food was fairly plain, but well cooked.
- They made it plain that they were against the idea.
- Within weeks, it became perfectly plain that we were in the grip of a tyrant.
- a plain white shirt
- a rather plain woman
- As a child she was rather plain.
- Do you want plain or lined paper?
- He made it very plain that he wanted us to leave.
- He prided himself on being a plain, honest man with no nonsense about him.
- He was a plain, straightforward sort of man.
- He's a politician with a reputation for plain speaking.
- Her intentions were plain enough.
- I prefer plain, simple things.
- It doesn't require special skills, just plain common sense.
- It was plain to us that they had left fairly recently.
- Let's be plain about this: we will need to make some difficult choices.
- Patterned carpet shows the dirt less than a plain colour.
- Teachers should encourage students to write in plain English.
- The facts were plain to see.
- The plain fact is that nobody really knows.
- The situation thrives on half-truths and plain ignorance.
- a range of plain and printed linens
- plain food/cooking
- plain yogurt

Idioms: ↑in plain English ▪ ↑plain as a pikestaff ▪ ↑plain as day ▪ ↑plain as the nose on your face ▪ ↑plain sailing

Derived Word ↑plainness

noun (also **plains plural**)

a large area of flat land

- the flat coastal plain of Thassos
- the Great Plains

see also ↑floodplain

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French **plain**, from Latin **planus**, from a base meaning **'flat'**.

Thesaurus:

plain noun C

- the flat coastal plain of the Yucatan peninsular

grassland •• **plateau** •• **lowland** •• **prairie** •• **savannah** •• **steppe** •• **pampas** •

on the plains/grasslands/plateau/prairie/savannah/steppes/pampas

the **open** plain/grasslands/plateau/prairie/savannah

the **rolling** plain/grasslands/plateau/prairie

Example Bank:

- Cattle move freely across the grassy plain.
- Herds of buffalo roamed these plains.
- Nothing grew on the plain.
- The horses galloped across the open plains.
- fertile plains suitable for farming
- miles of rolling plain, made fertile by the river
- the Olduvai Gorge in the vast plain of Tanzania
- Millions of buffalo used to roam freely across the Great Plains.
- To the east lies the flat coastal plain of the Yucatan peninsula.

adverb (informal) used to emphasize how bad, stupid, etc. sth is

- plain stupid/wrong

Word Origin:

See also: ↑clear sailing

plain

I. **plain**¹ **S2 W3** /pleɪn/ *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ *adjective*

[Date: 1200-1300; Language: Old French; Origin: Latin *planus* 'flat, level, clear']

1. **CLEAR** very clear, and easy to understand or recognize **SYN** obvious

it is plain (that)

- ˈ It was plain that Giles was not going to agree.
- ˈ The advantages were plain to see.
- ˈ You have made your feelings plain enough.
- ˈ Let me make it plain (=state it clearly). We do not want you here.

make yourself plain (=make what you are saying clear)

- ˈ If you do that again you will be severely punished. Do I make myself plain?

as plain as day/the nose on your face (=very clear)

2. **in plain English/language** in clear and simple words, without using technical language:

- ˈ The document, written in plain English, tells you about your new policy.

3. **SIMPLE** without anything added or without decoration **SYN** simple:

- ˈ a plain white blouse
- ˈ a plain wooden table
- ˈ plain yoghurt
- ˈ a plain gold wedding ring
- ˈ Your essay should be written on plain paper (=paper with no lines on it).

4. **HONEST** showing clearly and honestly what is true or what you think about something **SYN** frank, candid:

- ˈ Let's have some plain, truthful answers.
- ˈ I don't know, and that's the plain truth.
- ˈ The plain fact is people still buy books.

5. **EMPHASIS** [only before noun] *spoken* used to emphasize that a particular type of behaviour, attitude etc is involved, usually a bad one:

- ˈ His motive was plain greed.
- ˈ When you told him his house was too cold that was just plain bad manners.

6. **NOT BEAUTIFUL** not beautiful or attractive – often used because you want to avoid saying this directly:

- ˈ Mrs Cookson was a rather plain woman.

plain Jane (=used to talk about a woman who is not beautiful)

7. **in plain clothes** police officers in plain clothes are not wearing uniform ⇒ ↑plain-clothes

8. **(just) plain Mr/Mrs etc spoken** used to show that someone does not have or use a special title:

- ˈ I don't call him Uncle – just plain Bill.

9. **be plain sailing** to be very easy to do or achieve:

- ˈ If you can answer the first question, the rest of the test should be plain sailing.

10. **in plain sight** *American English* if something is in plain sight, it is easy to see or notice, especially when it should be hidden:

- ˈ Don't leave your valuables in plain sight.

—plainness *noun* [uncountable]

• • •

THESAURUS

- **plain** without anything added, or without decoration: a plain shirt | The fireplace was plain apart from a small design at the top.
- **simple** not having a lot of decoration or unnecessary things, but attractive: She was wearing a simple black dress. | The accommodation is simple but clean.
- **austere** very plain and with very little decoration, or very little in it – used about a room or place that does not make you feel welcome: He dreaded having dinner in that austere dining room. | The building was grey and a little austere. | the austere beauty and grandeur of mountain scenery
- **spartan** plain and without anything that would make life easier or more comfortable – used especially about rooms, conditions, or ways of living: Her apartment is quite spartan. | They had a very spartan life.
- **stark** very plain in a surprising way, with very little colour or decoration – used about rooms and places: Sam sat looking at the stark white walls. | It is a landscape of stark beauty.
- **bare** empty, or not covered by any decorations: Her office seemed very bare now that her desk had gone. | He was tired of looking at the bare walls of his prison cell.

II. **plain**² *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ *noun*

1. (also **plains**) [countable] a large area of flat dry land ⇒ **prairie** :

- ˈ The grassy plain gave way to an extensive swamp.
- ˈ the vast plains of central China

2. [uncountable] the ordinary stitch in ↑knitting

• • •

COLLOCATIONS

■ adjectives

- **the open plain(s)** On the open plains of east Africa are zebras, antelopes, and gazelles.
- **the vast/great plain(s)** Beyond lay the vast plains of the Central Valley.
- **a flat plain** Here a group of small hills rises unexpectedly out of the flat plain.
- **a grassy plain** The village is situated on the high grassy plains at the foot of the Sierra.

▪ **a fertile plain** The rains washed soil down to create fertile plains.

III. **plain**³ *BrE* ² *AmE* ¹ *adverb*

informal used to emphasize an adjective, usually one referring to a bad quality:

▪ It's just plain crazy to spend all your pay as soon as you get it.

plain

Freakuency Pack

12500 **3122**^{MCW}

15000 **2271**^{COCA}

RANGE: **2k** **PLAIN** 13980

plain 12201

plainer 102

plainest 32

plainly 1645

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

6675 **4702**⁸³³³ *jj*

2351 **9373**³³⁷⁹ *nn1*

452 **32263**⁴⁸⁹ *rr*
