

**blackmail**

1. ['blækmeɪl] *n*  
шантаж; вымогательство
2. ['blækmeɪl] *v*  
шантажировать; вымогать деньги

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**blackmail**

**black-mail** [blackmail blackmails blackmailed blackmailing] *noun, verb BrE*  
 ['blækmeɪl] *NAmE* ['blækmeɪl]

*noun uncountable*

1. the crime of demanding money from a person by threatening to tell sb else a secret about them
2. the act of putting pressure on a person or a group to do sth they do not want to do, for example by making threats or by making them feel guilty
  - **emotional /moral blackmail**

Word Origin:

mid 16th cent. (denoting protection money levied by Scottish chiefs): from **black** + obsolete mail 'tribute, rent', from Old Norse *mál* 'speech, agreement' .

Example Bank:

- We can't let them practise this emotional blackmail on us.

*verb*

- to force sb to give you money or do sth for you by threatening them, for example by saying you will tell people a secret about them
- ~ **sb** She blackmailed him for years by threatening to tell the newspapers about their affair.
  - ~ **sb into doing sth** The President said he wouldn't be blackmailed into agreeing to the terrorists' demands.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we /they	blackmail
	BrE / 'blækmeɪl/
	NAmE / 'blækmeɪl/
he / she /it	blackmails
	BrE / 'blækmeɪlz/
	NAmE / 'blækmeɪlz/
past simple, past participle	blackmailed
	BrE / 'blækmeɪld/
	NAmE / 'blækmeɪld/
-ing form	blackmailing
	BrE / 'blækmeɪlɪŋ/
	NAmE / 'blækmeɪlɪŋ/

Word Origin:

mid 16th cent. (denoting protection money levied by Scottish chiefs): from **black** + obsolete mail 'tribute, rent', from Old Norse *mál* 'speech, agreement' .

Example Bank:

- Don't let him emotionally blackmail you.
- She says she was virtually blackmailed into giving up her claim to the property.
- Voters were effectively blackmailed into voting 'Yes'.
- The President said he wouldn't be blackmailed into agreeing to the terrorists' demands.

**blackmail**

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **blackmail** <sup>1</sup> /'blækmeɪl/ *BrE* <sup>1</sup> *AmE* <sup>1</sup> *noun* [uncountable]

[Date: 1500-1600; Origin: black + mail 'payment' (11-20 centuries) (from Old Norse *mal* 'speech, agreement')]

1. when someone tries to get money from you or make you do what they want by threatening to tell other people your secrets
2. when someone tries to make you do what they want by making threats or by making you feel guilty if you do not do it:  
 She had already tried emotional blackmail (=tried to make him feel guilty) to stop him leaving.

II. **blackmail** <sup>2</sup> *BrE* <sup>2</sup> *AmE* <sup>2</sup> *verb* [transitive]

to use blackmail against someone:

He was jailed for four years for blackmailing gay businessmen.

**blackmail somebody into (doing) something**

I refuse to be blackmailed into making a quick decision.

—**blackmailer** *noun* [countable]

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**THESAURUS**

- **force** to make someone do something they do not want to do. Used when people or situations make you do something: They were beaten and forced to confess to crimes they had not committed. | The drought forced millions of farmers to sell their cattle.
- **make** to force someone to do something by using pressure, threats, or violence. **Make somebody do something** is more common than **force somebody to do something** in everyday English: Her parents disapproved of Alex and they made her stop seeing him. | Two men with guns made the staff hand over the money.

- **pressure** (also **pressurize** *British English*) to try to force someone to do something by making them feel that they should do it: Some employers pressure their staff into working very long hours. | She felt they were trying to pressurize her into getting married.
- **blackmail** to force someone to give you money or do what you want by threatening to tell embarrassing secrets about them: She tried to blackmail him with photographs of them together at the hotel.
- **compel** [usually passive] *formal* to force someone to do something using official power or authority. Also used when someone has to do something because of their situation: The town was surrounded and compelled to surrender. | I felt compelled to offer them some kind of explanation. | You are compelled by law to carry an ID card.
- **coerce** /kəʊ'ɜːs/ 'kɔːs/ *formal* to force someone to do something by threatening them: Local people were coerced into joining the rebel army.
- **be obliged to do something** *formal* if someone is obliged to do something, they must do it because it is the law or the rule, or because of the situation they are in: You are not obliged to say anything which may harm your defence in court. | They were obliged to sell the land.

## blackmail

Freakuency Pack

12500 **7453**<sup>MCW</sup>  
 15000 **8258**<sup>COCA</sup>  
 RANGE: **5k** **BLACKMAIL** <sup>1091</sup>  
 blackmail <sup>812</sup>  
 blackmailed <sup>140</sup>  
 blackmailer <sup>30</sup>  
 blackmailers <sup>22</sup>  
 blackmailing <sup>79</sup>  
 blackmails <sup>8</sup>  
 COCA 500k Unlemmatized  
 414 **31707**<sup>505</sup> *nn1*  
 193 **52505**<sup>203</sup> *vvi*  
 102 **74256**<sup>104</sup> *vv0*