

I'm not a robot





























noun (1)bliss-fully ig-no-rant (blis, -f, uh, l-ee , ig, -ner-, uh, nt), adjectiveOrigin of blissful ignorance1First recorded in 1740–50Examples have not been reviewed.Prosecutor Richard Wright was incredulous at his claims, telling jurors: "According to Graham he didn't go out all night and Carruthers took his car and phone while he slept in blissful ignorance, and his large dog let out not so much as a growl."Only so mature, though; one theme of the novel is that some industries are determined to sustain a level of blissful ignorance and powerlessness.Our solution: I pay the bill, he never sees it, and he enjoys a blissful ignorance."I enjoy speaking in school and helping old people at the nursing home — it keeps me fit," Gorban said with a cheeky smile and in blissful ignorance of the fact that she's turning 90 in August."I enjoy speaking in school and helping old people at the nursing home - it keeps me fit," Gorban said with a cheeky smile and in blissful ignorance of the fact that she's turning 90 in August.blissfulblissfullyBrowse#abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC →blissfully unaware exp.→ignorance is bliss exp.→fool's paradise exp.state, ignorance=are not aware exp.→blissfully→blissfully ignorant exp.→cannot understand exp.→happily ignorant exp.→ignorance is a blessing exp.→in blissful ignorance→in blissful unawareness→knowledge is misery→not comprise exp.→not cover exp.→not get exp.→not include exp.→not understand exp.→unaware→unconscious→excludePage 2 According to Your Dictionary and other sources like the American Heritage Dictionary of the English language, the idiom ignorance is bliss means that sometimes it is better to not know the truth because you would be horrified at the reality of a situation. It can mean that sometimes, not knowing the whole story is a blessing in disguise. The discovery of the truth of any situation can be scary. While this universal truth does not mean that wisdom is bad, it does assert that it is blissful. Imagine being in heaven, without a care in the world and in sheer bliss or utter bliss, or in a hot bath, relaxed in a state of complete happiness and eternal bliss. This is a common association. Ignorance is a word that means a lack of comprehension. You might also hear this individual word in the form of a catchy cliché on a given subject, like "ignorance of the law is no excuse." You might see more idioms like this in the Bible in the Book of Proverbs, or elsewhere. What is the origin of ignorance is bliss? While the sentiment of the phrase has been around since ancient times, such as from Greek playwright Sophocles and the scholar Erasmus in the 16th century, the actual wording was first used by eighteenth-century English poet Thomas Gray. According to Phrases UK, the term ignorance is bliss was first used in the beautiful poem "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College" in 1742 written by Thomas Gray. Thomas Gray's poem reads as follows: Yet ah! Why should they know their fate? Since sorrow never comes too late, And happiness too swiftly flies, Thought would destroy their paradise. No more; where ignorance is bliss, 'Tis folly to be wise. Here, English poet Gray unintentionally created a proverb. While he did not mean that it is better to be ignorant than wise at all times, he means that it is better to be blissfully ignorant of your fate or future than to worry about what is to come. Some of this information comes from the Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins by Robert Hendrickson. According to Word Histories, this phrase was also used in the following poems and publications. First, it was used in May 1765 in "An Epistle to a Friend, from St Andrews"; 'Twas peace, 'twas ease, 'twas love, 'twas happiness; Where is that bliss, that happiness refin'd, That chain'd, enchanted, rivetted, the mind? As fair the narciss in the garden blows, As smooth the stream of silver Eden flows, As sweet the thrush repeats her tender tale, As soft the zephyr travels o'er the vale, As bright the hallow'd hand of young-ey'd Spring, The lucid dewdrops o'er the fields does fling; Yet peace, yet bliss, yet love, is wanting here; And discontent still drops th' unwilling tear. Oh! can it be that ignorance is bliss? Next, it was used in a poem entitled "The Social Fire" from the Thursday 23rd March 1786 The British Chronicle. Oh! grant kind Heav'n a state like this, Where simple ignorance is bliss, 'Tis all that I require; Then, then—to share the joys of life, I'd seek a kind indulgent wife, And bless my Social Fire. Finally, this last early example comes from the English author and translator Anne Plumtre's 1798 novel Volume III of The Rector's Son: "Villainy, too prosperous villainy, has led them into a fatal delusion; nor are they less deserving of compassion than myself—but they are less miserable, for they know not the occasion they have for remorse;—to them, ignorance is bliss; to me, knowledge is distraction!" What are synonyms and antonyms of ignorance is bliss? SYNONYMS: blissfully ignorant ignorance is pleasure lack of knowledge results in happiness ignorance is good happiness in ignorance unawareness of bad things familiarity breeds contempt ignorance is delight blissful ignorance happy to stay in the dark ignorance is happiness live in the unknown lack of knowledge in blissful unawareness happy and oblivious ignorant men being unaware of bad things what you don't know can't hurt you he that knows nothing doubts nothing he happily unaware of the fact out of sight out of mind it's comfortable not to know certain things ignorance is a blessing ignorant people lack of knowledge of unpleasant fact in blissful ignorance ANTONYMS: know a good deal be familiar with awareness is the key information is power have cognizance of something have personal knowledge of something knowledge is power scientia potestas ignis scientia est potentia scientia potentia est be aware that How can ignorance is bliss be used in a sentence? After only two months of marriage, the London, England couple was in a scene of such domestic bliss. However, the wife did not know her husband had been cheating on her for years every time he went to the Bahamas. Ignorance is bliss, I suppose. Her work phone may have been ringing off the hook, but she refused to answer on her day off. Reece had a cold pool on a hot day in New York, and determined that ignorance was bliss. The general public could wait – nothing was such sensitive material that it couldn't wait, and her assistant could do a little digging. Overall, the phrase ignorance is bliss means that it is better not to know about some things. The origin of the phrase was first used in the closing lines of Thomas Gray's famous poem "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College." This is when the precise wording of the cliché was used, though similar phrases were used in the early sixteenth century. Sources: 幸福的无知 1,325 millions of speakers feliz ignorancia 570 millions of speakers blissful ignorance 510 millions of speakers 盲目无知 380 millions of speakers 280 millions of speakers блаженное неведение 278 millions of speakers feliz ignorancia 270 millions of speakers 盲目无知 260 millions of speakers ignorance béate 220 millions of speakers Kebodohan sejati 190 millions of speakers seliger Unwissenheit 180 millions of speakers 幸せな無知 130 millions of speakers 85 millions of speakers Ora kepenak 85 millions of speakers sự thiếu hiểu biết hạnh phúc 80 millions of speakers 盲目无知 75 millions of speakers 盲目无知 75 millions of speakers Mutu chealet 70 millions of speakers beata ignoranza 65 millions of speakers błogiej niewiadomości 50 millions of speakers блаженне невідання 40 millions of speakers ignorantá 30 millions of speakers ใจกว้าง 15 millions of speakers salige onkunde 14 millions of speakers lykligt ovetande 10 millions of speakers lykkelig uvitenhet 5 millions of speakers To uncover the meaning of ignorance is bliss, let's first look at the individual words that comprise this saying. Ignorance (noun): Ignorance is the state of being ignorant, or without knowledge, education, comprehension, or awareness. Synonyms for the adjective ignorant include unaware, uninformed, and uneducated. Bliss (noun): Bliss is defined as complete and perfect happiness, an immense, utter joy and contentment that typically means also being oblivious to anything other than that delight. Synonyms for bliss include paradise, euphoria, heaven, rapture, and ecstasy. Ignorance is bliss (idiom, proverb, more in a minute): Taken together then, the phrase ignorance is bliss means that a lack of knowledge equates to or results in happiness—or at least that it can. The expression is used to say that sometimes it may be better not to know all the facts about a situation; that without all the information, you may feel happier or more comfortable, especially because you may not feel inclined to worry or fret. Similar phrases to ignorance is bliss include what you don't know can't hurt you; out of sight, out of mind; and knowledge is suffering. You may also hear the similar phrases blissful ignorance and willful ignorance. You can achieve bliss through ignorance by either being uninformed or uneducated or being willfully ignorant, i.e. ignorant on purpose and of your own accord and doing. Origins of the Popular Expression The phrase ignorance is bliss comes from the very end of the last stanza of the poem Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College penned by the poet Thomas Gray in 1742: To each his sufferings: all are men, Condemn'd alike to groan, The tender for another's pain; Th' unfeeling for his own. Yet ah! why should they know their fate? Since sorrow never comes too late, And happiness too swiftly flies, Thought would destroy their paradise. No more; where ignorance is bliss, 'Tis folly to be wise. The idea presented by Thomas Gray and expressed in the stanza of the poem containing ignorance is bliss—chiefly that it's sometimes better not to know one's fate or the outcome of a given scenario—certainly wasn't new at the time the work was written. It had been stated around 409 BC by the Greek playwright Sophocles and even quoted by the scholar Erasmus in the 16th century. What's more, the similar saying what you don't know can't hurt you dates to around 1576. However, the first use of the precise wording ignorance is bliss can be traced to Thomas Gray's poem. It has been used as a common phrase in the English language since then. It's important to note that literary scholars stress that Gray didn't mean it is always better to be ignorant versus well-informed, pointing to his use of the word where preceding the phrase. They say that this suggests he only meant that there are particular times in which ignorance may be more desirable than knowledge. To Know or Not to Know—is Ignorance Really Bliss? Indeed, in the poem, Gray is nostalgic about his childhood and looks back fondly on the carefree, blissful days of his youth, which stand, to him, in stark contrast to the realities and responsibilities of his adulthood. Childhood is often used to illustrate why ignorance is, in fact, bliss—an argument that the statement is true and has merit. For example, parents often feel the need to protect their children from an overabundance of knowledge and information, thinking it can be too much for their young, developing minds to process or bear. They believe ignorance can keep children from experiencing anything unpleasant and allow them to have a stress-free childhood. What are some other instances in which ignorance may truly be bliss and a blessing in disguise? Not knowing the odds stacked against you in a competition, so that you give your very best performance instead of potentially letting the pressure get to you.Not knowing that people are sharing untrue gossip about you, so that your self-esteem doesn't plummet and you aren't made unnecessarily sad and hurt.Not knowing about the literary critics' reviews of your new book, so that you can feel proud of your accomplishment without feeling judged or put down.Not knowing the nutrition information about a slice of cake, so that you can really enjoy a well-deserved delicious treat.Not knowing about a recent sad and horrific news story right away, so that you can enjoy a happy moment with your family who is visiting from out of town. In psychological consumer behavior studies, there is also what is known as the "blissful ignorance effect." It turns out, consumers who know a great deal of information about a product aren't usually as happy with it as people who have less knowledge about it. Experts say this is because the more information a consumer has, the greater their expectations and the more likely they are to be let down. If a person already knows how a product works, they might easily dismiss it if it has any problems or feel as if they didn't buy the right thing. Of course, there is a flip side, meaning instances where ignorance isn't bliss at all. Let's say you don't research all the facts and figures when shopping for a new cell phone plan; you may end up paying way more than you need to and hurting your wallet. While that's not a huge deal in the grand scheme of things, there are also times when ignorance is downright dangerous. For example, not knowing all the potential pitfalls involved in a stunt or trick could leave you seriously injured. Or, not knowing about a potential threat could leave you at risk. What Type of Phrase Is Ignorance Is Bliss? Ignorance is bliss is both an idiom and a proverb. An idiom is an expression that's intended meaning can't fully be deduced just by looking at the words that comprise it. These words and phrases have a figurative rather than literal meaning. Even if you've never heard the term idiom, you have most likely heard many idiomatic expressions. Here are just a few of the most common idioms used today: You're in hot water. His boss gave him the ax. It's time to face the music. You've hit the nail on the head. If you took the first example literally, you'd think it was describing a person standing in a bathtub full of hot water, perhaps. But the expression is actually used to describe a person who's in trouble. Likewise, rather than literally being handed a tool for chopping wood, if you get the ax from your boss, it means you're getting fired. It's time to face the music means that it's time to come to terms with the consequences of your actions. And when someone has hit the nail on the head, they've gotten an answer exactly right or done something exactly as it should have been done. Although the figurative meaning of ignorance is bliss is much easier to deduce at a glance than the other example phrases above, it still isn't intended to mean that the path to happiness is very clearly and always ignorance. Rather, it's meant that sometimes you can be happier without knowing all of the information about a given thing or scenario. But, in general, knowledge is power. Ignorance is bliss is also a proverb. A proverb is a short, common phrase or expression that imparts wisdom and advice or shares a universal truth. Synonyms of the term proverb include adage and aphorism. Here are some additional examples of well-known proverbs: Actions speak louder than words. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.A picture is worth a thousand words.Don't judge a book by its cover. Word Counter can help you understand the meaning behind many of today's most common idiomatic phrases, like off the hook, money talks, hang in there, carte blanche, and more. Blissful Ignorance: The state of being oblivious to certain facts or information, often resulting in a state of happiness, contentment, or peace. Although the term may imply a lack of awareness, it can sometimes protect individuals from acknowledging harsh realities that could disrupt their state of happiness. Etymology The phrase "Blissful Ignorance" combines two words: Blissful: An extreme state of happiness or joy. The word "bliss" originated from the Old English word "bliths," meaning "joy" or "cheerfulness." Ignorance: The state of being unaware or uninformed. Derived from the Latin word "ignorantia," which means "lack of knowledge." The concept of "ignorance is bliss" was popularized by Thomas Gray in his 1742 poem "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College," where he wrote, "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise." Usage Notes "Blissful Ignorance" is often used to describe a situation where an individual remains happy and carefree due to their unawareness of certain facts. This can apply to various life scenarios, including: Personal relationships Workplace dynamics Global issues or news events Synonyms Ignorant happiness Unaware contentment Oblivious joy Antonyms Painful awareness Enlightened distress Knowledge-induced anxiety Cognitive Dissonance: The mental discomfort experienced by a person who simultaneously holds contradictory beliefs, ideas, or values. Denial: A defense mechanism in which a person refuses to acknowledge the reality of a situation to protect themselves from associated negative emotions. Nescience: The lack of knowledge or awareness, more neutral than ignorance. Exciting Facts The term "ignorance is bliss" predates modern psychology but has found relevance within the field, especially concerning mental health and coping mechanisms. Blissful ignorance is a common theme in literature, as it often examines the human tendency to avoid distressing knowledge to maintain happiness. Quotations from Notable Writers "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise." - Thomas Gray "Ignorance is the softest pillow on which a man can rest his head." - Michel de Montaigne Usage Paragraphs In everyday life, blissful ignorance can manifest when individuals choose to remain unaware of specific issues to maintain a semblance of peace. For example, a person might avoid watching distressing news reports to preserve their mental well-being. While this can offer short-term happiness, it may also have long-term consequences if critical information is consistently ignored. Suggested Literature "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley: A novel that explores the concept of manufactured happiness through societal control and the suppression of knowledge. "1984" by George Orwell: A dystopian novel that examines how ignorance is enforced by totalitarian regimes to maintain power and control. "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College" by Thomas Gray: The poem that popularized the phrase "ignorance is bliss." ## What does "Blissful Ignorance" typically denote? - [x] A state of happiness due to lack of knowledge - [ ] A highly stressful state - [ ] Complete awareness of all surrounding facts - [ ] An ordinary day without any dramatic events > \*\*Explanation:\*\* "Blissful Ignorance" denotes a state where happiness arises from not knowing, remaining unaware of potentially distressing information. ## Which literary work helped popularize the phrase "ignorance is bliss"? - [x] "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College" - [ ] "Heart of Darkness" - [ ] "War and Peace" - [ ] "Leaves of Grass" > \*\*Explanation:\*\* The phrase "ignorance is bliss" was popularized by Thomas Gray's poem "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College." ## What does "Cognitive Dissonance" refer to? - [ ] Blissful ignorance - [ ] A state of complete ignorance - [x] Mental discomfort from holding contradictory beliefs - [ ] Total awareness of situational facts > \*\*Explanation:\*\* "Cognitive Dissonance" refers to the psychological stress experienced when a person holds two or more contradictory beliefs. ## In what type of scenario might someone prefer to maintain "Blissful Ignorance"? - [x] Avoiding distressing news reports for mental well-being - [ ] Completely immersing oneself in all possible information - [ ] Actively seeking out more distressing facts - [ ] Pursuing awareness for empowerment > \*\*Explanation:\*\* In a scenario where mental well-being is prioritized, such as avoiding distressing news reports, someone might prefer to maintain "Blissful Ignorance." Don't forget to engage responsibly with the concept of blissful ignorance as it provides a careful balance between mental peace and necessary awareness. Generated by OpenAI gpt-4o model • Temperature 1.10 • June 2024