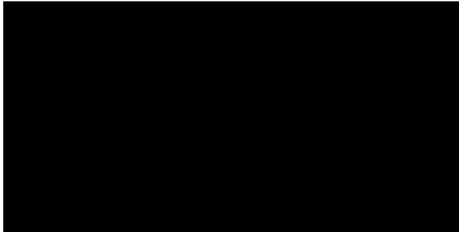# Blackout in New York

It was half past nine one hot evening in July 1977. The passengers on a plane flying into New York's Kennedy Airport were enjoying the sight of Manhattan below them. Suddenly the city disappeared. The sea of lights turned into darkness.

At the same time subways and elevators stopped, streetlights and traffic lights went out. Water pumps failed and left kitchens, bathrooms and toilets without water.



The lights of Manhattan by night without blackout.



Manhattan during the blackout. You can't see: the Empire State building, the Rockefeller Center and the Chrysler building.

The blackout lasted for 25 terrible hours. During that time almost nothing worked in New York except telephones and transistor radios. Buses and cars moved as long as they had gas. Cabs charged five times the normal fare. Banks, offices, factories, and most stores remained closed. Water became a luxury and air-conditioning a happy memory.

But in the ghettos, looting and burning started. Ten minutes after the lights went out, the city's poor were already breaking into stores. All in all, store owners lost about a billion dollars during the blackout.

In August 2003 the lights went out once more. Not only in New York, but also in other big US and Canadian cities.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **enjoy**: | genießen | **last**: | dauern | **remain**: | bleiben |
| **disappear**. | verschwinden | **terrible**: | schrecklich | **memory**: | Erinnerung |
| **darkness**: | Dunkelheit | **gas** (Am): | Benzin | **looting**: | Plündern |
| **subway (Am)**: | Untergrundbahn | **cab** (Am): | Taxi | **billion** (Am): | Milliarde |
| **elevator**: | Lift | **charge**: belasten,verlangen | | | |
| **fail**: | versagen | **fare**: | Fahrgeld | | |

## *Translate:*

Funktioniert das Telefon? ... *Does the telephone work?*..........................................................................

Kannst du die Lichter sehen? ......................................................................................................

Warum hält der Bus an? ...............................................................................................................

Hast du einen Transistor-Radio? ..................................................................................................

Wie lange dauerte das Blackout? .................................................................................................

Wo hast du das Geld verloren? ....................................................................................................

Wer brach in den Laden ein?........................................................................................................

Warum ging das Licht aus? ..........................................................................................................

Wo ist die Toilette? ......................................................................................................................

Wie viel ist das Fahrgeld?............................................................................................................

Ist das Büro geschossen? ...........................................................................................................