

Need another word that means the same as “arbitrary”? Find 20 synonyms and 30 related words for “arbitrary” in this overview.

Table Of Contents:

- [Arbitrary as an Adjective](#)
- [Definitions of "Arbitrary" as an adjective](#)
- [Synonyms of "Arbitrary" as an adjective \(20 Words\)](#)
- [Usage Examples of "Arbitrary" as an adjective](#)
- [Associations of "Arbitrary" \(30 Words\)](#)

**The synonyms of “Arbitrary” are: capricious, whimsical, random, chance, erratic, unpredictable, inconsistent, wild, haphazard, casual, despotic, tyrannical, tyrannous, peremptory, summary, autocratic, dictatorial, authoritarian, draconian, autarchic**

## Arbitrary as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Arbitrary" as an adjective

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), “arbitrary” as an adjective can have the following definitions:

- *Based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system.*
- *(of power or a ruling body) unrestrained and autocratic in the use of authority.*
- *Based on or subject to individual discretion or preference or sometimes impulse or caprice.*
- *(of a constant or other quantity) of unspecified value.*



## Synonyms of "Arbitrary" as an adjective (20 Words)

- autarchic** Of or relating to or characterized by autarchy.  
Characteristic of an absolute ruler or absolute rule; having absolute sovereignty.
- authoritarian** *He had an **authoritarian** and at times belligerent manner.*
- autocratic** Offensively self-assured or given to exercising usually unwarranted power.  
*An **autocratic** person.*
- capricious** Determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason.  
*A **capricious** refusal.*
- casual** Occurring from time to time.  
*A **casual** short sleeved shirt.*
- chance** Occurring or appearing or singled out by chance.  
*A **chance** meeting.*

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| <b>despotic</b>             | Ruled by or characteristic of a despot.<br><i>His administration was arrogant and <b>despotic</b>.</i>   |
| <b>dictatorial</b>          | Characteristic of an absolute ruler or absolute rule; having absolute sovereignty.<br><i>His mother in law was somewhat <b>dictatorial</b>.</i>                |
| <b>draconian</b>            | (of laws or their application) excessively harsh and severe.<br><i>The Nazis destroyed the independence of the press by a series of <b>draconian</b> laws.</i> |
| <u><b>erratic</b></u>       | Likely to perform unpredictably.<br><i><b>Erratic</b> winds are the bane of a sailor.</i>  |
| <u><b>haphazard</b></u>     | Dependent upon or characterized by chance.<br><i>A most <b>haphazard</b> system of record keeping.</i>   |
| <b>inconsistent</b>         | Displaying a lack of consistency.<br><i>He had done nothing <b>inconsistent</b> with his morality.</i>   |
| <b>peremptory</b>           | Not allowing contradiction or refusal.<br><i>Spoke in <b>peremptory</b> tones.</i>   |
| <b>random</b>               | Unfamiliar or unspecified.<br><i>The class was hard but he was so <b>random</b> that it was always fun.</i>  |
| <b>summary</b>              | Not including needless details or formalities; brief.<br><i><b>Summary</b> arrest.</i>   |
| <u><b>tyrannical</b></u>    | Characteristic of tyranny; oppressive and controlling.<br><i>A <b>tyrannical</b> parent.</i>   |
| <b>tyrannous</b>            | Marked by unjust severity or arbitrary behavior.<br><i>A <b>tyrannous</b> disregard for the welfare of the workers.</i>  |
| <u><b>unpredictable</b></u> | Unknown in advance.<br><i>An <b>unpredictable</b> or indeterminable future.</i>  |
| <u><b>whimsical</b></u>     | Determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason.<br><i>The victim of <b>whimsical</b> persecutions.</i>                             |
| <b>wild</b>                 | Produced from wild animals or plants without cultivation.<br><i><b>Wild</b> tribes.</i>  |

## Usage Examples of "Arbitrary" as an adjective

- *Arbitrary division of the group into halves.*
- *An arbitrary choice.*
- *Of arbitrary size and shape.*
- *The arbitrary rule of a dictator.*

- An arbitrary decision.
- An arbitrary penalty.
- A country under arbitrary government.

## Associations of "Arbitrary" (30 Words)

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>arbitrarily</b>      | In a random manner.<br><i>Everyone has the right not to be <b>arbitrarily</b> detained.</i>   |
| <b>arrhythmic</b>       | Not rhythmic; without rhythm or regularity.<br><i>An <b>arrhythmic</b> heartbeat.</i>   |
| <b>assigned</b>         | Appointed to a post or duty.<br><i><b>Assigned</b> duties.</i>  |
| <b><u>careless</u></b>  | Without due thought or consideration.<br><i><b>Careless</b> proofreading.</i>   |
| <b>cursor</b>           | Hasty and without attention to detail; not thorough.<br><i>A <b>cursor</b> glance at the figures.</i>   |
| <b>discretionary</b>    | Denoting or relating to investment funds placed with a broker or manager who has discretion to invest them on the client's behalf.<br><i><b>Discretionary</b> income.</i> |
| <b><u>haphazard</u></b> | Marked by great carelessness.<br><i>A most <b>haphazard</b> system of record keeping.</i>   |
| <b>haphazardly</b>      | Without care; in a slapdash manner.<br><i>A hodgepodge of family photos <b>haphazardly</b> arranged on a table.</i>   |
| <b>hasty</b>            | Excessively quick.<br><i><b>Hasty</b> decisions.</i>  |
| <b>headlong</b>         | Extremely or recklessly hasty.<br><i>A <b>headlong</b> rush to sell.</i>  |
| <b>hurried</b>          | Done in a hurry; rushed.<br><i>A <b>hurried</b> job.</i>  |
| <b>impetuosity</b>      | Rash impulsiveness.   |
| <b><u>impetuous</u></b> | Moving forcefully or rapidly.<br><i><b>Impetuous</b> heaving waves.</i>   |
| <b>impulsive</b>        | Acting as an impulse.<br><i>Liable to such <b>impulsive</b> acts as hugging strangers.</i>  |
| <b>indiscriminate</b>   | Done at random or without careful judgement.<br><i>The <b>indiscriminate</b> use of antibiotics can cause problems.</i>   |

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| <b><u>indiscriminately</u></b> | In a random manner.<br><i>People who are sedentary and who eat <b>indiscriminately</b>.</i>  |
| <b>madcap</b>                  | Amusingly eccentric.<br><i><b>Madcap</b> escapades.</i>  |
| <b>perfunctorily</b>           | In a set manner without serious attention.<br><i>He kissed her cheek <b>perfunctorily</b>.</i>   |
| <b>precipitant</b>             | A cause or stimulus which precipitates a particular condition.<br><i>The immediate <b>precipitants</b> of the conflict.</i>  |
| <b>random</b>                  | (of masonry) with stones of irregular size and shape.<br><i>Some <b>randoms</b> in the crowd asked Ivan Ljubicic to take a photo for them.</i>   |
| <b>randomize</b>               | Arrange in random order.<br><i>You can <b>randomize</b> the ingredients with the tap of a button.</i>  |
| <b>randomly</b>                | In a random manner.<br><i>I <b>randomly</b> split the ironing into two piles.</i>  |
| <b>rashly</b>                  | Without careful consideration of the possible consequences; impetuously.<br><i>He <b>rashly</b> promised crime would fall sharply by September.</i>                                    |
| <b>rushed</b>                  | Done or completed too hurriedly; hasty.<br><i>A <b>rushed</b> job.</i>   |
| <b>slapdash</b>                | Hurriedly and carelessly.<br><i><b>Slapdash</b> work.</i>  |
| <b>slipshod</b>                | Marked by great carelessness.<br><i><b>Slipshod</b> spelling.</i>  |
| <b>spasmodic</b>               | Occurring or done in brief, irregular bursts.<br><i><b>Spasmodic</b> fighting continued.</i>   |
| <b><u>swift</u></b>            | A swift flying insectivorous bird with long slender wings and a superficial resemblance to a swallow spending most of its life on the wing.<br><i>The water was very <b>swift</b>.</i> |
| <b><u>unjustified</u></b>      | Not shown to be right or reasonable.<br><i><b>Unjustified</b> price increases.</i>   |
| <b><u>unpredictable</u></b>    | Not capable of being foretold.<br><i>The <b>unpredictable</b> weather of the Scottish islands.</i>   |