

Need another word that means the same as “attrition”? Find 23 synonyms and 30 related words for “attrition” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Attrition” are: abrasion, corrasion, detrition, contriteness, contrition, grinding, wearing down, wearing away, weakening, debilitation, sapping, attenuation, friction, rubbing, chafing, corroding, corrosion, erosion, eating away, scraping, wearing, excoriation, deterioration**

## Attrition as a Noun

### Definitions of "Attrition" as a noun

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), “attrition” as a noun can have the following definitions:

- *Erosion by friction.*
- *The wearing down of rock particles by friction due to water or wind or ice.*
- *Wearing away by friction; abrasion.*
- *A wearing down to weaken or destroy.*
- *The gradual reduction of a workforce by employees leaving and not being replaced rather than by redundancy.*
- *Sorrow for sin arising from fear of damnation.*
- *(in scholastic theology) sorrow for sin, falling short of contrition.*
- *The act of rubbing together; wearing something down by friction.*
- *The process of reducing something's strength or effectiveness through sustained attack or pressure.*

## Synonyms of "Attrition" as a noun (23 Words)

<b>abrasion</b>	Erosion by friction. <i>The metal is resistant to <b>abrasion</b>.</i>
<b>attenuation</b>	The property of something that has been weakened or reduced in thickness or density. <i>Human security required the <b>attenuation</b> of a wide range of threats to people.</i>
<b>chafing</b>	Anger produced by some annoying irritation.
<b>contriteness</b>	The faculty of contriving; inventive skill. (in the Roman Catholic Church) the repentance of past sins during or after confession.
<b>contrition</b>	<i>Prayers of <b>contrition</b>.</i>
<b>corrasion</b>	Erosion by friction.
<b>corroding</b>	Erosion by chemical action.
<b>corrosion</b>	Damage caused to metal stone or other materials by corrosion. <i>Engineers found the <b>corrosion</b> when checking the bridge.</i>
<b>debilitation</b>	Serious weakening and loss of energy.
<b>deterioration</b>	A symptom of reduced quality or strength. <i>A <b>deterioration</b> in the condition of the patient.</i>
<b>detrition</b>	The action of wearing something away by friction.
<b>eating away</b>	The act of consuming food.
<b>erosion</b>	Erosion by chemical action. <i>The problem of soil <b>erosion</b>.</i>
<b>excoriation</b>	Severe censure.
<b>friction</b>	A state of conflict between persons. <i>A considerable amount of <b>friction</b> between father and son.</i>
<b>grinding</b>	A harsh and strident sound as of the grinding of gears. <i>The roasting and <b>grinding</b> of grain usually barley for use in brewing.</i>
<b>rubbing</b>	The action of rubbing something. <i>Dab at the stain vigorous <b>rubbing</b> could damage the carpet.</i>
<b>sapping</b>	A watery solution of sugars, salts, and minerals that circulates through the vascular system of a plant.
<b>scraping</b>	A small amount of something that has been obtained by scraping it from a surface. <i>All that bowing and <b>scraping</b> did not impress him.</i>
<b>weakening</b>	Becoming weaker.

- wearing** Geology the mechanical process of wearing or grinding something down as by particles washing over it.
- wearing away** The act of having on your person as a covering or adornment.
- wearing down** The mechanical process of wearing or grinding something down (as by particles washing over it).

## Usage Examples of "Attrition" as a noun

- *The squadron suffered severe attrition of its bombers.*
- *A war of attrition.*
- *The skull shows attrition of the edges of the teeth.*
- *The company said that it will reduce its worldwide employment by about 10% through attrition.*
- *The council is trying to wear down the opposition by attrition.*

## Associations of "Attrition" (30 Words)

- abrade** Rub hard or scrub.  
*It was a landscape slowly **abraded** by a fine stinging dust.*
- abrasion** The process of scraping or wearing something away.  
*There were cuts and **abrasions** to the lips and jaw.*
- abrasive** (of a substance or material) capable of polishing or cleaning a hard surface by rubbing or grinding.  
*The wood should be rubbed down with fine **abrasive** paper.*
- aphasia** Inability to use or understand language (spoken or written) because of a brain lesion.
- bleed** An instance of bleeding.  
*The cut was **bleeding** steadily.*
- bruise** Inflict a bruise or bruises on a part of the body.  
*Potatoes **bruise** easily so treat them with care.*
- concussion** Temporary unconsciousness or confusion caused by a blow on the head.  
*He was carried off the pitch with **concussion**.*
- continue** Continue a certain state condition or activity.  
*He was unable to **continue** with his job.*
- contusion** An injury that doesn't break the skin but results in some discoloration.  
*A dark **contusion** on his cheek was beginning to swell.*

<b>endless</b>	Having no known beginning and presumably no end. <i><b>Endless</b> waves.</i>
<b>fireproof</b>	Make something fireproof. <i>A <b>fireproof</b> dish.</i>
<b>grinding</b>	Material resulting from the process of grinding. <i>Crush it and add it to the honey with a <b>grinding</b> of pepper and salt.</i>
<b>handicap</b>	A race or contest in which a handicap is imposed. <i>Lack of funding has <b>handicapped</b> the development of research.</i>
<b>hemophilia</b>	Congenital tendency to uncontrolled bleeding; usually affects males and is transmitted from mother to son.
<b>hemorrhage</b>	Lose blood from one's body.
<b>hurt</b>	Hurt the feelings of. <i>She didn't want to <b>hurt</b> his feelings.</i>
<b>incombustible</b>	Not capable of igniting and burning. <i>An <b>incombustible</b> floor construction.</i>
<b>injury</b>	An instance of being injured. <i>She suffered an <b>injury</b> to her back.</i>
<b>lacerate</b>	Criticize forcefully or severely. <i>Her true venom seems reserved for the media itself as she <b>lacerates</b> our obsession with celebrity.</i>
<b>loss</b>	Military personnel lost by death or capture. <i><b>Loss</b> making industries.</i>
<b>maintainable</b>	Capable of being maintained.
<b>pain</b>	Cause mental or physical pain to. <i>As the intensity increased the sensation changed from tickle to <b>pain</b>.</i>
<b>permanent</b>	Not capable of being reversed or returned to the original condition. <i>Damage was not thought to be <b>permanent</b>.</i>
<b>resistant</b>	Denoting starch that is not easily broken down by enzymes within the body and is therefore minimally absorbed during digestion. <i>A water <b>resistant</b> adhesive.</i>
<b>scar</b>	Mark with a scar or scars. <i>High limestone <b>scars</b> bordered the road.</i>
<b>scrape</b>	A place where soil has been scraped away especially a shallow hollow formed in the ground by a bird during a courtship display or for nesting. <i>We <b>scraped</b> the dishes clean.</i>
<b>scratch</b>	An act or spell of scratching oneself to relieve itching. <i><b>Scratch</b> that remark.</i>

<b>ulcer</b>	A moral blemish or corrupting influence. <i>He s a conman with an incurable <b>ulcer</b> called gambling.</i>
<b>welt</b>	Put a welt on. <i>His lip was beginning to thicken and <b>welt</b> from the blow.</i>
<b>wound</b>	The act of inflicting a wound. <i>The right reader of a good poem can tell the moment it strikes him that he has taken an immortal <b>wound</b> that he will never get over it.</i>