

Need another word that means the same as “cantankerous”? Find 37 synonyms and 30 related words for “cantankerous” in this overview.

Table Of Contents:

- [Cantankerous as an Adjective](#)
- [Definitions of "Cantankerous" as an adjective](#)
- [Synonyms of "Cantankerous" as an adjective \(37 Words\)](#)
- [Usage Examples of "Cantankerous" as an adjective](#)
- [Associations of "Cantankerous" \(30 Words\)](#)

The synonyms of “Cantankerous” are: bloody-minded, crotchety, ornery, bad-tempered, irascible, irritable, grumpy, grouchy, tetchy, testy, crusty, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, ill-natured, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, fractious, disagreeable, pettish, crabbed, crabby, waspish, prickly, peppery, touchy, scratchy, splenetic, shrewish, short-tempered, hot-tempered, quick-tempered, dyspeptic, choleric, bilious, liverish, cross-grained

Cantankerous as an Adjective

Definitions of "Cantankerous" as an adjective

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

- *Stubbornly obstructive and unwilling to cooperate.*
- *Having a difficult and contrary disposition.*
- *Stubbornly obstructive and unwilling to cooperate- Spectator.*
- *Having a difficult and contrary disposition- Dorothy Sayers.*
- *Bad-tempered, argumentative, and uncooperative.*

Synonyms of "Cantankerous" as an adjective (37 Words)

- bad-tempered** Annoyed and irritable.
- bilious** Suffering from or suggesting a liver disorder or gastric distress.
A **bilious** attack.
- bloody-minded** Stubbornly obstructive and unwilling to cooperate- Spectator.

choleric	Easily moved to anger- H.G.Wells. <i>Men of the choleric type take to kicking and smashing.</i>
crabbed	(of handwriting) very small and difficult to decipher. <i>His handwriting is crabbed and hideous.</i>
crabby	Irritable. <i>He was crabby at having his siesta interrupted.</i>
cross	Extending or lying across in a crosswise direction at right angles to the long axis. <i>Cross members should be all steel.</i>
cross-grained	Difficult to deal with.
crotchety	Irritable. <i>He was tired and crotchety.</i>
crusty	Brusque and surly and forbidding. <i>Lake Manyara was ringed by crusty salt deposits.</i>
curmudgeonly	Brusque and surly and forbidding. <i>His curmudgeonly temper.</i>
disagreeable	Not agreeing with your tastes or expectations. <i>Aspects of his work are disagreeable to him.</i>
dyspeptic	Having indigestion or a consequent air of irritable bad temper.
fractious	Unpredictably difficult in operation; likely to be troublesome. <i>King Malcolm struggled to unite his fractious kingdom.</i>
grouchy	Annoyed and irritable. <i>The old man grew sulky and grouchy.</i>
grumpy	Annoyed and irritable. <i>He s grumpy because he hasn t heard from you.</i>
hot-tempered	Quickly aroused to anger.
ill-humoured	Brusque and surly and forbidding.
ill-natured	Having an irritable and unpleasant disposition.
ill-tempered	Annoyed and irritable.
irascible	Characterized by anger. <i>An irascible and difficult man.</i>
irritable	Capable of responding to stimuli. <i>The seeds have been reputed to help conditions such as irritable bladder.</i>
liverish	Resembling liver in colour. <i>A liverish red.</i>

ornery	Having a difficult and contrary disposition. <i>An ornery old military man.</i>
peevish	Having or showing an irritable disposition. <i>A thin peevish voice.</i>
peppery	Having a flavour or scent like that of pepper. <i>A hot peppery dish.</i>
pettish	(of a person or their behaviour) childishly bad-tempered and petulant. <i>He comes across in his journal entries as spoiled and pettish.</i>
prickly	Covered in prickles. <i>This is a prickly subject.</i>
quick-tempered	Quickly aroused to anger.
scratchy	Bad-tempered or irritable. <i>Loudspeakers blaring a scratchy record.</i>
short-tempered	Quickly aroused to anger.
shrewish	Bad-tempered or aggressively assertive (typically used of a woman). <i>A shrewish wife.</i>
splenetic	Bad-tempered; spiteful. <i>A splenetic rant.</i>
testy	Easily irritated or annoyed. <i>His testy disapproving father.</i>
tetchy	Easily irritated or annoyed. <i>She had always been tetchy and impatient with him.</i>
touchy	Easily upset or offended; oversensitive. <i>The monarchy has become a touchy topic.</i>
waspish	Readily expressing anger or irritation. <i>He had a waspish tongue.</i>

Usage Examples of "Cantankerous" as an adjective

- *He can be a cantankerous old fossil at times.*
- *A cantankerous and venomous-tongued old lady.*

Associations of "Cantankerous" (30 Words)

angry	Feeling or showing strong annoyance, displeasure, or hostility; full of anger. <i>Angry customers.</i>
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choleric	Easily moved to anger- H.G.Wells. <i>Men of the choleric type take to kicking and smashing.</i>
complaining	Expressing pain or dissatisfaction of resentment. <i>A complaining boss.</i>
crotchety	Having a difficult and contrary disposition- Dorothy Sayers. <i>He was tired and crotchety.</i>
dogged	Stubbornly unyielding- T.S.Eliot. <i>Success required dogged determination.</i>
fiery	Consisting of fire or burning strongly and brightly. <i>The sun was a fiery ball low on the hills.</i>
fractious	Easily irritated or annoyed. <i>An incorrigibly fractious young man.</i>
froward	(of a person) difficult to deal with; contrary.
hardheaded	Unreasonably rigid in the face of argument or entreaty or attack. <i>A hardheaded appraisal of our position.</i>
headstrong	Energetically wilful and determined. <i>The headstrong impulsiveness of youth.</i>
hidebound	Stubbornly conservative and narrow-minded. <i>They are working to change hidebound corporate cultures.</i>
intransigent	An intransigent person. <i>An intransigent conservative opposed to every liberal tendency.</i>
irascible	Having or showing a tendency to be easily angered. <i>An irascible and difficult man.</i>
obduracy	Resoluteness by virtue of being unyielding and inflexible.
obdurate	Showing unfeeling resistance to tender feelings. <i>The child s misery would move even the most obdurate heart.</i>
obstinacy	Resolute adherence to your own ideas or desires. <i>His reputation for obstinacy.</i>
obstinate	Tenaciously unwilling or marked by tenacious unwillingness to yield. <i>Her obstinate determination to pursue a career in radio.</i>
ornery	Having a difficult and contrary disposition- Dorothy Sayers. <i>An ornery old military man.</i>
peevish	Easily irritated or annoyed. <i>A thin peevish voice.</i>
pertinacious	Stubbornly unyielding. <i>He worked with a pertinacious resistance to interruptions.</i>
pertinacity	Persistent determination.

pigheaded	Obstinate and stupid.
querulous	Complaining in a rather petulant or whining manner. <i>She became querulous and demanding.</i>
recalcitrance	The trait of being unmanageable.
recalcitrant	Stubbornly resistant to authority or control. <i>The University suspended the most recalcitrant demonstrators.</i>
stubborn	Difficult to move, remove, or cure. <i>A stubborn refusal to learn from experience.</i>
<u>temper</u>	Make more temperate acceptable or suitable by adding something else. <i>Whether he praised or cursed me depended on his temper at the time.</i>
tenacious	Not readily relinquishing a position, principle, or course of action; determined. <i>A mind not gifted to discover truth but tenacious to hold it.</i>
<u>tense</u>	Pronounced with relatively tense tongue muscles e.g. the vowel sound in beat. <i>The bodybuilder's neck muscles tensed.</i>
testy	Easily irritated; impatient and somewhat bad-tempered. <i>She could see him growing quite testy beneath that polished urbanity.</i>