

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.

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

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

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

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