

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

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The synonyms of “Contrary” are: adverse, obstinate, perverse, wayward, opposite, opposing, opposed, contradictory, clashing, conflicting, antithetical, incompatible, irreconcilable, awkward, difficult, uncooperative, unhelpful, obstructive, disobliging, unaccommodating, unreasonable, troublesome, tiresome, annoying, vexatious, disobedient, recalcitrant, refractory, wilful, headstrong, self-willed, capricious, cross-grained, reverse, converse, antithesis

Contrary as a Noun

Definitions of "Contrary" as a noun

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

- *The opposite.*
- *A contrary proposition.*
- *A relation of direct opposition.*
- *Exact opposition.*
- *A logical relation such that two propositions are contraries if both cannot be true but both can be false.*



Synonyms of "Contrary" as a noun (4 Words)

antithesis A contrast or opposition between two things.
*The **antithesis** between occult and rational mentalities.*

converse A proposition obtained by conversion.
*It will be difficult in these **converses** not to talk of secular matter.*

opposite A word that expresses a meaning opposed to the meaning of another word, in which case the two words are antonyms of each other.
*We were **opposites** in temperament.*

reverse The gears by which the motion of a machine can be reversed.
*He didn't feel homesick quite the **reverse**.*



Usage Examples of "Contrary" as a noun

- *Public opinion to the contrary he is not guilty.*
- *An Act applies only to the United Kingdom unless the contrary is expressed.*



Contrary as an Adjective

Definitions of "Contrary" as an adjective

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

- *Perversely inclined to disagree or to do the opposite of what is expected or desired.*
- *In an opposing direction.*
- *Resistant to guidance or discipline.*
- *(of two or more statements, beliefs, etc.) opposed to one another.*
- *(of a wind) blowing in the opposite direction to one's course; unfavourable.*
- *(of two propositions) so related that one or neither but not both must be true.*
- *Very opposed in nature or character or purpose.*
- *Opposite in nature, direction, or meaning.*
- *Of words or propositions so related that both cannot be true but both may be false.*



Synonyms of "Contrary" as an adjective (33 Words)

adverse	Contrary to your interests or welfare. <i>Adverse weather conditions.</i>
annoying	Causing irritation or annoyance. <i>Tapping an annoying rhythm on his glass with his fork.</i>
antithetical	Sharply contrasted in character or purpose. <i>People whose religious beliefs are antithetical to mine.</i>
awkward	Not smooth or graceful; ungainly. <i>An awkward gesture.</i>
capricious	Determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason. <i>A capricious climate.</i>
clashing	Sharply and harshly discordant. <i>Suits in clashing colours.</i>

conflicting	In disagreement. <i>Conflicting opinions.</i>
<u>contradictory</u>	Unable to be both true at the same time. <i>Politically he exhibited contradictory behaviour.</i>
cross-grained	Difficult to deal with.
difficult	(of a person) not easy to please or satisfy; awkward. <i>Nesting places on the cliffs are difficult of access.</i>
<u>disobedient</u>	Unwilling to submit to authority. <i>Disobedient children.</i>
disobliging	Unkind. <i>Disobliging remarks about colleagues.</i>
headstrong	Energetically wilful and determined. <i>The headstrong impulsiveness of youth.</i>
<u>incompatible</u>	(of one thing or person) not consistent or able to coexist with (another). <i>Incompatible personalities.</i>
irreconcilable	Incapable of being resolved. <i>These two views of the economy are irreconcilable.</i>
obstinate	Stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or chosen course of action, despite attempts to persuade one to do so. <i>An obstinate child with a violent temper.</i>
obstructive	Preventing movement. <i>All tubing should be cleared of obstructive algae and detritus.</i>
opposed	(of two or more things) contrasting or conflicting with each other. <i>The agency is being asked to do two diametrically opposed things.</i>
opposing	(of two or more subjects) differing from or in conflict with each other. <i>The opposing team.</i>
opposite	Characterized by opposite extremes completely opposed. <i>They went in opposite directions.</i>
perverse	Marked by a disposition to oppose and contradict. <i>A perverse mood.</i>
recalcitrant	Marked by stubborn resistance to authority. <i>A class of recalcitrant fifteen year olds.</i>
refractory	Resistant to a process or stimulus. <i>Turkeys can be infected when young but are refractory as adults.</i>
self-willed	Habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition.

<u>tiresome</u>	Causing one to feel bored or annoyed. <i>The tiresome chirping of a cricket.</i>
<u>troublesome</u>	Causing difficulty or annoyance. <i>Schools are removing troublesome pupils.</i>
unaccommodating	Not accommodating. <i>The unaccommodating bus driver pulled out while she was banging on the door.</i>
uncooperative	Intentionally unaccommodating. <i>An uncooperative witness.</i>
<u>unhelpful</u>	Not helpful. <i>Several complained that the staff were unhelpful.</i>
<u>unreasonable</u>	Beyond the limits of acceptability or fairness. <i>She knew she was being unreasonable but she resented his domesticity.</i>
<u>vexatious</u>	Causing irritation or annoyance. <i>A frivolous or vexatious litigant.</i>
wayward	Resistant to guidance or discipline. <i>Wayward behavior.</i>
wilful	Having or showing a stubborn and determined intention to do as one wants, regardless of the consequences. <i>Wilful acts of damage.</i>



Usage Examples of "Contrary" as an adjective

- *His mother had given him contrary messages.*
- *Acts contrary to our code of ethics.*
- *The facts point to a contrary conclusion.*
- *A contrary wind.*
- *He ignored contrary advice and agreed on the deal.*
- *Mary Mary quite contrary.*
- *She is sulky and contrary where her work is concerned.*
- *'hot' and 'cold' are contrary terms.*



Associations of "Contrary" (30 Words)

- ambivalence** Mixed feelings or emotions.
*Government **ambivalence** towards the arts.*
- anachronism** A thing belonging or appropriate to a period other than that in which it exists, especially a thing that is conspicuously old-fashioned.
*The town is a throwback to medieval times an **anachronism** that has survived the passing years.*
- antithesis** (in Hegelian philosophy) the negation of the thesis as the second stage in the process of dialectical reasoning.
*Love is the **antithesis** of selfishness.*
- conflicting** Incompatible or at variance; contradictory.
*There are **conflicting** accounts of what occurred.*
- contradiction** A statement that is necessarily false.
*The statement he is brave and he is not brave is a **contradiction**.*

<u>contradictory</u>	A contradictory proposition. <i>Politically he exhibited contradictory behaviour.</i>
<u>converse</u>	A proposition obtained by conversion. <i>It will be difficult in these converses not to talk of secular matter.</i>
discrepant	Not in agreement. <i>Widely discrepant statements.</i>
<u>disobedient</u>	Unwilling to submit to authority. <i>Disobedient children.</i>
dissentient	Refusing to attend services of the Church of England. <i>Dissentient voices were castigated as hopeless bureaucrats.</i>
dissonant	Lacking in harmony. <i>Jackson employs both harmonious and dissonant colour choices.</i>
<u>enemy</u>	A personal enemy. <i>This man was her sworn enemy.</i>
<u>incompatible</u>	(of equipment, computer programs, etc.) not capable of being used in combination. <i>All four prototype camcorders used special tapes and were incompatible with each other.</i>
<u>inconsistency</u>	The relation between propositions that cannot both be true at the same time. <i>The inconsistency between his expressed attitudes and his actual behaviour.</i>
<u>inexplicable</u>	Incapable of being explained or accounted for. <i>Left the house at three in the morning for inexplicable reasons.</i>
inharmonious	Lacking in harmony of parts. <i>An inharmonious negative state of mind.</i>
<u>ironic</u>	Humorously sarcastic or mocking. <i>An ironical smile.</i>
<u>irony</u>	Incongruity between what might be expected and what actually occurs. <i>The irony is that I thought he could help me.</i>
oppose	Fight against or resist strongly. <i>A majority of the electorate opposed EC membership.</i>
opposing	Facing; opposite. <i>The brothers fought on opposing sides in the war.</i>
opposite	Of leaves or shoots arising in pairs at the same level on opposite sides of the stem. <i>Opposite meanings.</i>

outmaneuver	Defeat by more skillful maneuvering. <i>My new supervisor knows how to outmaneuver the boss in most situations.</i>
oxymoron	Conjoining contradictory terms (as in `deafening silence).
paradox	A seemingly absurd or contradictory statement or proposition which when investigated may prove to be well founded or true. <i>Cathedrals face the paradox of having enormous wealth in treasures but huge annual expenses.</i>
paradoxical	Seemingly contradictory but nonetheless possibly true. <i>It is paradoxical that standing is more tiring than walking.</i>
perverse	(of a verdict) against the weight of evidence or the direction of the judge on a point of law. <i>Took perverse satisfaction in foiling her plans.</i>
refractive	Capable of changing the direction (of a light or sound wave). <i>The refractive characteristics of the eye.</i>
refractory	Temporarily unresponsive or not fully responsive to nervous or sexual stimuli. <i>Healing of previously refractory ulcers.</i>
sarcasm	The use of irony to mock or convey contempt. <i>She didn't like the note of sarcasm in his voice.</i>
wayward	Resistant to guidance or discipline. <i>A wayward adolescent.</i>

