

Need another word that means the same as “counterproductive”? Find 24 synonyms and 30 related words for “counterproductive” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Counterproductive” are: harmful, damaging, injurious, hurtful, inimical, deleterious, dangerous, destructive, ruinous, calamitous, disastrous, pernicious, ill, bad, evil, baleful, malign, corrupting, malignant, adverse, undesirable, prejudicial, unfavourable, unfortunate**

## Counterproductive as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Counterproductive" as an adjective

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

- *Tending to hinder the achievement of a goal.*
- *Having the opposite of the desired effect.*



## Synonyms of "Counterproductive" as an adjective (24 Words)

<b><u>adverse</u></b>	Preventing success or development; harmful; unfavourable. <i><b>Adverse</b> currents.</i>
<b>bad</b>	Feeling physical discomfort or pain though is occasionally used colloquially for bad. <i>It was a <b>bad</b> light for reading.</i>
<b>baleful</b>	Threatening or foreshadowing evil or tragic developments. <i>Bill shot a <b>baleful</b> glance in her direction.</i>
<b>calamitous</b>	Involving calamity; catastrophic or disastrous. <i>Such <b>calamitous</b> events as fires hurricanes and floods.</i>
<b>corrupting</b>	Harmful to the mind or morals. <i>Corrupt judges and their <b>corrupting</b> influence.</i>
<b>damaging</b>	Designed or tending to discredit, especially without positive or helpful suggestions. <i><b>Damaging</b> to career and reputation.</i>
<b>dangerous</b>	Involving or causing danger or risk; liable to hurt or harm. <i>Unemployment reached <b>dangerous</b> proportions.</i>

<b>deleterious</b>	Causing harm or damage. <i>Divorce is assumed to have <b>deleterious</b> effects on children.</i>
<b><u>destructive</u></b>	Causing great and irreparable damage. <i>The <b>destructive</b> power of weapons.</i>
<b><u>disastrous</u></b>	Causing great damage. <i>A <b>disastrous</b> fire swept through the museum.</i>
<b>evil</b>	Of a force or spirit embodying or associated with the forces of the devil. <i>Stories about the <b>evil</b> effects of television on children make good copy.</i>
<b><u>harmful</u></b>	Causing or capable of causing harm. <i>The ozone layer blocks the <b>harmful</b> rays from the sun.</i>
<b>hurtful</b>	Causing distress to someone's feelings. <i>His <b>hurtful</b> remarks.</i>
<b><u>ill</u></b>	Presaging ill fortune P B Shelley. <i><b>Ill</b> from the monotony of his suffering.</i>
<b>inimical</b>	Tending to obstruct or harm. <i>An <b>inimical</b> critic.</i>
<b>injurious</b>	Causing or likely to cause damage or harm. <i>Food which is <b>injurious</b> to health.</i>
<b>malign</b>	Having or exerting a malignant influence. <i>Gave him a <b>malign</b> look.</i>
<b>malignant</b>	Evil in nature or effect; malevolent. <i>In the hands of <b>malignant</b> fate.</i>
<b><u>pernicious</u></b>	Working or spreading in a hidden and usually injurious way. <i>The <b>pernicious</b> influences of the mass media.</i>
<b>prejudicial</b>	Causing harm or injury. <i>The proposals were considered <b>prejudicial</b> to the city centre.</i>
<b>ruinous</b>	Costing far more than can be afforded. <i>A <b>ruinous</b> war.</i>
<b><u>undesirable</u></b>	Not wanted or desirable because harmful, objectionable, or unpleasant. <i>The drug s <b>undesirable</b> side effects.</i>
<b>unfavourable</b>	Likely to lead to an adverse outcome. <i><b>Unfavourable</b> economic conditions.</i>
<b><u>unfortunate</u></b>	Not indicating a good chance of success; inauspicious. <i><b>Unfortunate</b> investments.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Counterproductive" as an adjective

- *Child experts fear the Executive's plans may prove counterproductive.*

## Associations of "Counterproductive" (30 Words)

<b>bootless</b>	Unproductive of success. <i>Remonstrating with him seems ever to have been a <b>bootless</b> task.</i>
<b><u>dated</u></b>	Marked by features of the immediate and usually discounted past. <i>A <b>dated</b> expression.</i>
<b>fruitless</b>	Unproductive of success. <i>A <b>fruitless</b> search.</i>
<b><u>futile</u></b>	Incapable of producing any useful result; pointless. <i>A <b>futile</b> attempt to keep fans from mounting the stage.</i>
<b><u>harmful</u></b>	Causing or likely to cause harm. <i><b>Harmful</b> effects of smoking.</i>



<b><u>incapable</u></b>	(followed by `of') lacking capacity or ability. <i><b>Incapable</b> of carrying a tune.</i>
<b>incompetence</b>	Inability of a part or organ to function properly. <i>Allegations of professional <b>incompetence</b>.</i>
<b>incompetent</b>	An incompetent person. <i>A forgetful and utterly <b>incompetent</b> assistant.</i>
<b><u>ineffective</u></b>	Not producing any significant or desired effect. <i>The legal sanctions against oil spills are virtually <b>ineffective</b>.</i>
<b><u>ineffectual</u></b>	(of a person) lacking the ability or qualities to fulfil a role or handle a situation. <i>The therapy was <b>ineffectual</b>.</i>
<b>inept</b>	Having or showing no skill; clumsy. <i>The referee s <b>inept</b> handling of the match.</i>
<b>infertile</b>	Incapable of reproducing. <i><b>Infertile</b> couples are offered specialist advice.</i>
<b><u>invalid</u></b>	Having no cogency or legal force. <i>She spent the rest of her life as an <b>invalid</b>.</i>
<b>noxious</b>	Harmful, poisonous, or very unpleasant. <i><b>Noxious</b> ideas.</i>
<b>nugatory</b>	Of no real value. <i>A <b>nugatory</b> and pointless observation.</i>
<b><u>pernicious</u></b>	Exceedingly harmful. <i>The <b>pernicious</b> influences of the mass media.</i>
<b>poisonous</b>	Not safe to eat. <i>A <b>poisonous</b> snake.</i>
<b>powerless</b>	Lacking power. <i>Troops were <b>powerless</b> to stop last night s shooting.</i>
<b>retreat</b>	Make a retreat from an earlier commitment or activity. <i>A speedy <b>retreat</b>.</i>
<b>retrograde</b>	Show retrograde motion. <i>The glacier <b>retrogrades</b>.</i>
<b>retrogression</b>	The process of returning to an earlier state, typically a worse one. <i>A <b>retrogression</b> to 19th century attitudes.</i>
<b><u>unable</u></b>	(usually followed by `to') lacking necessary physical or mental ability. <i>Dyslexics are <b>unable</b> to learn to read adequately.</i>
<b>unavailing</b>	Achieving little or nothing; ineffective. <i>Their efforts were <b>unavailing</b>.</i>

<b><u>unhealthy</u></b>	Not conducive to good health. <i>An <b>unhealthy</b> diet of fast foods.</i>
<b><u>unproductive</u></b>	Not producing or capable of producing. <i><b>Unproductive</b> land must be reforested.</i>
<b><u>useless</u></b>	Having no ability or skill in a specified activity or area. <i>A kitchen full of <b>useless</b> gadgets.</i>
<b>vain</b>	Unproductive of success. <i>The <b>vain</b> hope of finding work.</i>
<b>virulence</b>	Bitter hostility; rancour. <i>The proportion of birds which die depends on the <b>virulence</b> of the virus.</i>
<b><u>wasteful</u></b>	Laying waste- Shakespeare. <i>When <b>wasteful</b> war shall statues overturn.</i>
<b>worthless</b>	Having no real value or use. <i>Joan had been deserted by a <b>worthless</b> husband.</i>