

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)

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

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



Usage Examples of "Counterproductive" as an adjective

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

Associations of "Counterproductive" (30 Words)

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

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

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