

Need another word that means the same as “cunning”? Find 56 synonyms and 30 related words for “cunning” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Cunning” are: clever, ingenious, crafty, dodgy, foxy, guileful, knavish, slick, sly, tricky, wily, cute, artful, devious, knowing, scheming, designing, slippery, manipulative, machiavellian, deceitful, deceptive, duplicitous, janus-faced, skilful, adroit, picturesque, charming, sweet, attractive, pleasantly old-fashioned, old-fashioned, old-world, toytown, craft, craftiness, foxiness, guile, slyness, wiliness, artfulness, deviousness, trickery, trickiness, duplicity, deceitfulness, deceit, chicanery, shrewdness, astuteness, sharpness, acuteness, acumen, acuity, intelligence**

## Cunning as a Noun

### Definitions of "Cunning" as a noun

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

- *Ingenuity.*
- *Skill in achieving one's ends by deceit.*
- *Crafty artfulness (especially in deception).*
- *Shrewdness as demonstrated by being skilled in deception.*



## Synonyms of "Cunning" as a noun (21 Words)

<a href="#">acuity</a>	Sharpness of vision; the visual ability to resolve fine detail (usually measured by a Snellen chart). <i>Visual <b>acuity</b>.</i>
<b>acumen</b>	The ability to make good judgements and take quick decisions. <i>She hides a shrewd business <b>acumen</b>.</i>
<b>acuteness</b>	A sensitivity that is keen and highly developed. <i>Dogs have a remarkable <b>acuteness</b> of smell.</i>
<b>artfulness</b>	The quality of being adroit in taking unfair advantage.
<b>astuteness</b>	Intelligence manifested by being astute (as in business dealings).
<a href="#">chicanery</a>	The use of deception or subterfuge to achieve one's purpose. <i>Storylines packed with political <b>chicanery</b>.</i>
<a href="#">craft</a>	An aircraft or spaceship. <i>He represented the <b>craft</b> of brewers.</i>

<b>craftiness</b>	A steep rugged rock or cliff.
<b><u>deceit</u></b>	The quality of being fraudulent. <i>A web of <b>deceit</b>.</i>
<b>deceitfulness</b>	The quality of being crafty.
<b>deviousness</b>	The quality of being deceitful and underhanded.
<b><u>duplicity</u></b>	A fraudulent or duplicitous representation. <i>The president was accused of <b>duplicity</b> in his dealings with Congress.</i>
<b>foxiness</b>	Shrewdness as demonstrated by being skilled in deception.
<b>guile</b>	Sly or cunning intelligence. <i>He used all his <b>guile</b> and guts to free himself from the muddle he was in.</i>
<b>intelligence</b>	The collection of information of military or political value. <i>The chief of military <b>intelligence</b>.</i>
<b>sharpness</b>	The attribute of urgency in tone of voice. <i>The <b>sharpness</b> of strange spices.</i>
<b>shrewdness</b>	The quality of having or showing good powers of judgement. <i>He is a man of some tactical <b>shrewdness</b>.</i>
<b>slyness</b>	Shrewdness as demonstrated by being skilled in deception.
<b><u>trickery</u></b>	The use of tricks to deceive someone (usually to extract money from them). <i>The dealer resorted to <b>trickery</b>.</i>
<b>trickiness</b>	The quality of requiring skill or caution. <i>These puzzles are famous for their <b>trickiness</b>.</i>
<b>wiliness</b>	A person who lacks confidence, is irresolute and wishy-washy.





## Usage Examples of "Cunning" as a noun

- *What resources of energy and cunning it took just to survive.*
- *A statesman to whom cunning had come as second nature.*



## Cunning as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Cunning" as an adjective

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

- *Attractive or quaint.*
- *Showing inventiveness and skill.*
- *Marked by skill in deception.*
- *Attractive especially by means of smallness or prettiness or quaintness.*



- *Ingenious.*
- *Having or showing skill in achieving one's ends by deceit or evasion.*



## Synonyms of "Cunning" as an adjective (35 Words)

<b>adroit</b>	Clever or skilful. <i>An <b>adroit</b> technician.</i>
<b>artful</b>	Showing creative skill or taste. <i>The <b>artful</b> dodger.</i>
<b>attractive</b>	Having qualities or features which arouse interest. <i>An <b>attractive</b> opportunity.</i>
<a href="#"><u>charming</u></a>	Possessing or using or characteristic of or appropriate to supernatural powers- Shakespeare. <i>He was a <b>charming</b> affectionate colleague.</i>
<b>clever</b>	Healthy or well. <i>A simple but <b>clever</b> idea for helping people learn computing.</i>

<b>crafty</b>	Marked by skill in deception. <i>They are looking for <b>crafty</b> people to join the group to make ornaments.</i>
<b>cute</b>	Sexually attractive; good-looking. <i>The two brothers were <b>cute</b> enough to find a couple of rich women and marry them.</i>
<b>deceitful</b>	Marked by deliberate deceptiveness especially by pretending one set of feelings and acting under the influence of another. <i>Smooth shining and <b>deceitful</b> as thin ice.</i>
<u>deceptive</u>	Designed to deceive or mislead either deliberately or inadvertently. <b>Deceptive</b> calm.
<b>designing</b>	Concealing crafty designs for advancing your own interest. <i>A selfish and <b>designing</b> nation obsessed with the dark schemes of European intrigue.</i>
<u>devious</u>	(of a route or journey) longer and less direct than the most straightforward way. <i>They arrived at the town by a <b>devious</b> route.</i>
<b>dodgy</b>	Of uncertain outcome; especially fraught with risk. <i>A <b>dodgy</b> second hand car salesman.</i>
<u>duplicitous</u>	(of a charge or plea) containing more than one allegation. <i>A <b>duplicitous</b> philanderer.</i>
<b>foxy</b>	Sexually attractive (typically used of a woman). <i>A terrier with prick ears and a <b>foxy</b> expression.</i>
<b>guileful</b>	Marked by skill in deception. <i>A supremely <b>guileful</b> and deceptive politician.</i>
<b>ingenious</b>	Showing inventiveness and skill. <i>His theory while <b>ingenious</b> is most assuredly incorrect.</i>
<b>janus-faced</b>	Marked by deliberate deceptiveness especially by pretending one set of feelings and acting under the influence of another- Israel Zangwill.
<b>knavish</b>	Marked by skill in deception. <i>His <b>knavish</b> tricks will be frustrated.</i>
<b>knowing</b>	Experienced or shrewd, especially excessively or prematurely so. <i>A <b>knowing</b> breach of the order by the appellants.</i>
<b>machiavellian</b>	Of or relating to Machiavelli or the principles of conduct he recommended.

manipulative

Skillful in influencing or controlling others to your own advantage.  
*The early **manipulative** techniques of a three year old child.*

**old-fashioned**

Out of fashion.

**old-world**

Characteristic of former times especially in Europe.

picturesque

Suggesting or suitable for a picture; pretty as a picture.  
*The salad has no regional or **picturesque** name.*

**pleasantly old-fashioned**

Affording pleasure; being in harmony with your taste or likings.

**scheming**

Acting with a specific goal.  
*They had mean **scheming** little minds.*

**skilful**

Having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude.  
*A **skilful** midfielder.*

slick

Made slick by e g ice or grease.  
*Sidewalks **slick** with ice.*

**slippery**

Not to be trusted.  
*The word intended is a decidedly **slippery** one.*

sly

Showing in an insinuating way that one has some secret knowledge that may be harmful or embarrassing.  
*He gave a **sly** grin.*

sweet

Having a sweet nature befitting an angel or cherub.  
***Sweet** dessert wines.*

**toytown**

Resembling a quaint or miniature replica of something.  
*Below you far away was a single **toytown** rooftop.*

**tricksy**

Ingenious, intricate, or complicated.  
*A **tricksy** little device.*

tricky

Not to be trusted- James Agee.  
*The radio is **tricky** to operate.*

**wily**

Marked by skill in deception.  
*A **wily** old attorney.*







## Usage Examples of "Cunning" as an adjective

- *Cunning men often pass for wise.*
- *A cunning baby.*
- *Baby will look too cunning for anything in that pink print.*
- *Plants have evolved cunning defences.*
- *The cunning maneuvers leading to his success.*
- *Cunning kittens.*
- *A cunning look came into his eyes.*



## Associations of "Cunning" (30 Words)

**artful**      Showing creative skill or taste.  
An **artful** photograph of a striking woman.

<b>astute</b>	Having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn this to one's advantage. <i>An <b>astute</b> businessman.</i>
<b>baloney</b>	Pretentious or silly talk or writing. <i>I don't buy it it's all a load of <b>baloney</b>.</i>
<b>betrayal</b>	An act of deliberate betrayal. <i>The <b>betrayal</b> by the king by his daughter.</i>
<b>cheating</b>	A deception for profit to yourself.
<b>chicanery</b>	The use of deception or subterfuge to achieve one's purpose. <i>Storylines packed with political <b>chicanery</b>.</i>
<b>cozen</b>	Obtain by deception. <i>He was able to <b>cozen</b> a profit.</i>
<b>crafty</b>	Marked by skill in deception. <i>A market full of <b>crafty</b> pots and interesting earrings.</i>
<b>deceit</b>	The quality of being fraudulent. <i>A web of <b>deceit</b>.</i>
<b>deceitful</b>	Marked by deliberate deceptiveness especially by pretending one set of feelings and acting under the influence of another- Israel Zangwill. <i>Smooth shining and <b>deceitful</b> as thin ice.</i>
<b>deception</b>	A thing that deceives. <i>A range of elaborate <b>deceptions</b>.</i>
<b>delude</b>	Make (someone) believe something that is not true. <i>Too many theorists have <b>deluded</b> the public.</i>
<b>dishonesty</b>	Lack of honesty; acts of lying or cheating or stealing. <i>The dismissal of thirty civil servants for <b>dishonesty</b> and misconduct.</i>
<b>duplicity</b>	The state of being double. <i>The president was accused of <b>duplicity</b> in his dealings with Congress.</i>
<b>fraud</b>	Wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain. <i>Prosecutions for social security <b>frauds</b>.</i>
<b>fraudulence</b>	Something intended to deceive; deliberate trickery intended to gain an advantage.
<b>guile</b>	Sly or cunning intelligence. <i>He used all his <b>guile</b> and guts to free himself from the muddle he was in.</i>
<b>hoax</b>	Subject to a playful hoax or joke. <i>The evidence had been planted as part of an elaborate <b>hoax</b>.</i>



<b>hoodwink</b>	Influence by slyness. <i>Staff were <b>hoodwinked</b> into thinking the cucumber was a sawn off shotgun.</i>
<b>humbug</b>	Trick or deceive. <i>You see what a <b>humbug</b> I am.</i>
<b>hypocrite</b>	A person who professes beliefs and opinions that he or she does not hold in order to conceal his or her real feelings or motives. <i>The story tells of respectable Ben who turns out to be a cheat and a <b>hypocrite</b>.</i>
<b>machiavellian</b>	A follower of Machiavelli's principles.
<u><b>manipulative</b></u>	Exercising unscrupulous control or influence over a person or situation. <i>The early <b>manipulative</b> techniques of a three year old child.</i>
<b>shrewd</b>	Used of persons. <i>She was <b>shrewd</b> enough to guess the motive behind his gesture.</i>
<b>skulduggery</b>	Underhand, unscrupulous, or dishonest behaviour or activities. <i>A firm that investigates commercial <b>skulduggery</b>.</i>
<u><b>sly</b></u>	(of an action) surreptitious. <i><b>Sly</b> as a fox.</i>
<u><b>trickery</b></u>	The use of tricks to deceive someone (usually to extract money from them). <i>The dealer resorted to <b>trickery</b>.</i>
<u><b>tricky</b></u>	Not to be trusted. <i>Applying eyeliner can be a <b>tricky</b> business.</i>
<b>wile</b>	The use of tricks to deceive someone (usually to extract money from them). <i>The gang had played monopoly as they <b>wiled</b> away the hours.</i>
<b>wily</b>	Skilled at gaining an advantage, especially deceitfully. <i>His <b>wily</b> opponents.</i>

