

Need another word that means the same as “cynical”? Find 21 synonyms and 30 related words for “cynical” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Cynical” are: misanthropic, misanthropical, bitter, resentful, soured, distorted, disenchanting, disillusioned, disappointed, pessimistic, sceptical, distrustful, suspicious, doubtful, disbelieving, unbelieving, scoffing, doubting, incredulous, mocking, satirical

Cynical as an Adjective

Definitions of "Cynical" as an adjective

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

- *Believing that people are motivated purely by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity.*
- *Contemptuous; mocking.*
- *Believing the worst of human nature and motives; having a sneering disbelief in e.g. selflessness of others.*
- *Doubtful as to whether something will happen or whether it is worthwhile.*
- *Concerned only with one's own interests and typically disregarding accepted standards in order to achieve them.*



Synonyms of "Cynical" as an adjective (21 Words)

bitter

Causing a sharp and acrid taste experience.

***Bitter** enemies.*

disappointed

Sad or displeased because someone or something has failed to fulfil one's hopes or expectations.

*The rising was a revolution of **disappointed** hopes.*

disbelieving

Denying or questioning the tenets of especially a religion.

*The **disbelieving** look in her eyes.*

disenchanted

Disappointed by someone or something previously respected or admired; disillusioned.

*He became **disenchanted** with his erstwhile ally.*

disillusioned

Freed from illusion.

*The minority groups were completely **disillusioned** with the party.*

distorted

Having an intended meaning altered or misrepresented.

***Distorted** guitars.*

distrustful	Feeling or showing distrust of someone or something. <i>My experience in other fields of law has made me distrustful of rules of thumb generally.</i>
doubtful	Feeling uncertain about something. <i>It is doubtful whether these schemes have any lasting effect.</i>
doubting	Expressing or feeling uncertainty or lack of conviction; sceptical. <i>People look at it through doubting eyes.</i>
incredulous	Not disposed or willing to believe; unbelieving. <i>An incredulous gasp.</i>
misanthropic	Believing the worst of human nature and motives; having a sneering disbelief in e.g. selflessness of others. <i>A misanthropic drunken loner.</i>
misanthropical	Believing the worst of human nature and motives; having a sneering disbelief in e.g. selflessness of others.
mocking	Playfully vexing (especially by ridicule)- Lawrence Durrell. <i>He got jeers and mocking laughter as he addressed the marchers.</i>
pessimistic	Tending to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen. <i>He was pessimistic about the prospects.</i>
resentful	Feeling or expressing bitterness or indignation at having been treated unfairly. <i>Resentful at the way he was treated.</i>
satirical	Sarcastic, critical, and mocking another's weaknesses. <i>A New York based satirical magazine.</i>
sceptical	Denying or questioning the tenets of especially a religion. <i>The public were deeply sceptical about some of the proposals.</i>
scoffing	Contemptuously ridiculing or mocking someone or something. <i>A scoffing cabin crew tells her there s no shower on the plane.</i>
soured	Inaccurate in pitch. <i>Serve with guacamole and soured cream.</i>
suspicious	Having or showing a cautious distrust of someone or something. <i>Police were called when staff became suspicious.</i>
unbelieving	Rejecting any belief in gods. <i>They were to preach to the unbelieving people.</i>

Usage Examples of "Cynical" as an adjective

- *He gave a cynical laugh.*

- *He was brutally cynical and hardened to every sob story under the sun.*
- *Most residents are cynical about efforts to clean mobsters out of their city.*
- *A cynical manipulation of public opinion.*
- *Her cynical attitude.*

Associations of "Cynical" (30 Words)

agnostic	Of or pertaining to an agnostic or agnosticism. <i>Many common file formats JPEG MP3 etc are platform agnostic.</i>
contemptuous	Showing contempt; scornful. <i>She was intolerant and contemptuous of the majority of the human race.</i>
disbelief	Lack of faith. <i>I ll burn in hell for disbelief.</i>
doubtful	Feeling uncertain about something. <i>It is doubtful whether these schemes have any lasting effect.</i>
dubious	Hesitating or doubting. <i>Timeshare has been brought into disrepute by dubious sales methods.</i>
freethinker	A person who rejects religion.
incredulity	The state of being unwilling or unable to believe something. <i>He stared down the street in incredulity.</i>
incredulous	Not disposed or willing to believe; unbelieving. <i>An incredulous gasp.</i>
leery	Cautious or wary due to realistic suspicions. <i>A city leery of gang violence.</i>
misanthrope	Someone who dislikes people in general. <i>Scrooge wasn t the mean spirited misanthrope most of us believe him to be.</i>
misanthropic	Believing the worst of human nature and motives; having a sneering disbelief in e.g. selflessness of others. <i>A misanthropic drunken loner.</i>
misanthropy	Hatred of mankind. <i>The streak of misanthropy in his nature.</i>
negative	A negative photographic image made on film or specially prepared glass from which positive prints may be made. <i>The HIV test was negative.</i>
nihilism	Complete denial of all established authority and institutions.

pessimism	The feeling that things will turn out badly. <i>The dispute cast an air of deep pessimism over the future of the peace talks.</i>
<u>pessimist</u>	A person who believes that this world is as bad as it could be or that evil will ultimately prevail over good. <i>The pessimists point to ways in which life has deteriorated.</i>
<u>questionable</u>	Able to be refuted. <i>A questionable reputation.</i>
<u>sarcastic</u>	Expressing or expressive of ridicule that wounds. <i>I think they re being sarcastic.</i>
<u>sardonic</u>	Disdainfully or ironically humorous; scornful and mocking. <i>Starkey attempted a sardonic smile.</i>
<u>satirical</u>	Containing or using satire. <i>A New York based satirical magazine.</i>
sceptic	A person inclined to question or doubt accepted opinions.
sceptical	Relating to the theory that certain knowledge is impossible. <i>The public were deeply sceptical about some of the proposals.</i>
<u>scornful</u>	Expressing extreme contempt. <i>Scornful laughter.</i>
skeptic	Someone who habitually doubts accepted beliefs.
<u>skeptical</u>	Marked by or given to doubt. <i>A skeptical approach to the nature of miracles.</i>
skepticism	Doubt about the truth of something.
sneering	Contemptuous or mocking. <i>He made a sneering comment about their closeness.</i>
surprise	Cause to be surprised. <i>Surprise major.</i>
<u>suspicious</u>	Having the belief or impression that someone is involved in an illegal or dishonest activity. <i>She gave him a suspicious look.</i>
<u>uncertainty</u>	The state of being unsure of something. <i>The uncertainty of the outcome.</i>