

Need another word that means the same as “deceptive”? Find 35 synonyms and 30 related words for “deceptive” in this overview.

Table Of Contents:

- [Deceptive as an Adjective](#)
- [Definitions of "Deceptive" as an adjective](#)
- [Synonyms of "Deceptive" as an adjective \(35 Words\)](#)
- [Usage Examples of "Deceptive" as an adjective](#)
- [Associations of "Deceptive" \(30 Words\)](#)

**The synonyms of “Deceptive” are: delusory, misleading, illusory, illusive, illusionary, ambiguous, delusive, distorted, specious, deceitful, duplicitous, fraudulent, counterfeit, sham, bogus, cheating, underhand, cunning, crafty, sly, guileful, scheming, perfidious, treacherous, machiavellian, disingenuous, untrustworthy, unscrupulous, unprincipled, dishonest, untruthful, lying, mendacious, insincere, false**

## Deceptive as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Deceptive" as an adjective

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

- *Giving an appearance or impression different from the true one; misleading.*
- *Causing one to believe what is not true or fail to believe what is true.*
- *Designed to deceive or mislead either deliberately or inadvertently.*



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

<b>ambiguous</b>	Not clear or decided. <i>The election result was <b>ambiguous</b>.</i>
<b>bogus</b>	Fraudulent; having a misleading appearance. <i>A <b>bogus</b> insurance claim.</i>
<b>cheating</b>	Not faithful to a spouse or lover.
<b>counterfeit</b>	Pretended; sham. <i><b>Counterfeit</b> emotion.</i>
<b>crafty</b>	Skilled at the making of decorative objects and other things by hand. <i>They are looking for <b>crafty</b> people to join the group to make ornaments.</i>
<b><u>cunning</u></b>	Showing inventiveness and skill. <i>The <b>cunning</b> maneuvers leading to his success.</i>
<b>deceitful</b>	Intended to deceive - S.T.Coleridge. <i>Such an act would have been <b>deceitful</b> and irresponsible.</i>
<b>delusive</b>	Giving a false or misleading impression. <i><b>Delusive</b> expectations.</i>
<b>delusory</b>	Causing one to believe what is not true or fail to believe what is true. <i>A <b>delusory</b> pleasure.</i>
<b>dishonest</b>	Intended to mislead or cheat. <i>He was a <b>dishonest</b> hypocrite prepared to exploit his family.</i>

<b><u>disingenuous</u></b>	Not straightforward or candid; giving a false appearance of frankness. A <b>disingenuous</b> excuse.
<b><u>distorted</u></b>	Affected by electrical distortion. His poor <b>distorted</b> limbs.
<b><u>duplicitous</u></b>	Marked by deliberate deceptiveness especially by pretending one set of feelings and acting under the influence of another. A <b>duplicitous</b> philanderer.
<b>false</b>	Used in names of plants animals and gems that superficially resemble the thing properly so called e g false oat. A <b>false</b> assumption.
<b>fraudulent</b>	Obtained, done by, or involving deception, especially criminal deception. <b>Fraudulent</b> share dealing.
<b>guileful</b>	Marked by skill in deception. A supremely <b>guileful</b> and deceptive politician.
<b>illusionary</b>	Marked by or producing illusion. <b>Illusionary</b> stage effects.
<b>illusive</b>	Deceptive; illusory. An <b>illusive</b> haven.
<b>illusory</b>	Based on illusion; not real. Secret activities offer presidents the alluring but often <b>illusory</b> promise that they can achieve foreign policy goals without the bothersome debate and open decision that are staples of democracy.
<b><u>insincere</u></b>	Lacking sincerity. She flashed him an <b>insincere</b> smile.
<b>lying</b>	Not telling the truth. He s a <b>lying</b> cheating snake in the grass.
<b>machiavellian</b>	Of or relating to Machiavelli or the principles of conduct he recommended.
<b>mendacious</b>	Given to lying. A <b>mendacious</b> child.
<b><u>misleading</u></b>	Giving the wrong idea or impression. Statistics can be presented in ways that are <b>misleading</b> .
<b>perfidious</b>	Deceitful and untrustworthy. The <b>perfidious</b> Judas.
<b>scheming</b>	Given to or involved in making secret and underhand plans. A <b>scheming</b> wife.
<b><u>sham</u></b>	Bogus; false. <b>Sham</b> modesty.

<b>sly</b>	Marked by skill in deception. <i>A <b>sly</b> sip of water.</i>
<b>specious</b>	Superficially plausible, but actually wrong. <i>A <b>specious</b> argument.</i>
<b>treacherous</b>	Tending to betray especially having a treacherous character as attributed to the Carthaginians by the Romans. <i>Memory is particularly <b>treacherous</b>.</i>
<b>underhand</b>	With the palm of the hand upward or outward. <i><b>Underhand</b> dealings.</i>
<b>unprincipled</b>	Lacking principles or moral scruples. <i>An <b>unprincipled</b> womanizer.</i>
<b>unscrupulous</b>	Having or showing no moral principles; not honest or fair. <i><b>Unscrupulous</b> landlords might be tempted to harass existing tenants.</i>
<b>untrustworthy</b>	Not able to be relied on as honest or truthful. <i>These <b>untrustworthy</b> impressions were instinctive.</i>
<b>untruthful</b>	Saying or consisting of something that is false or incorrect. <i>An <b>untruthful</b> person.</i>

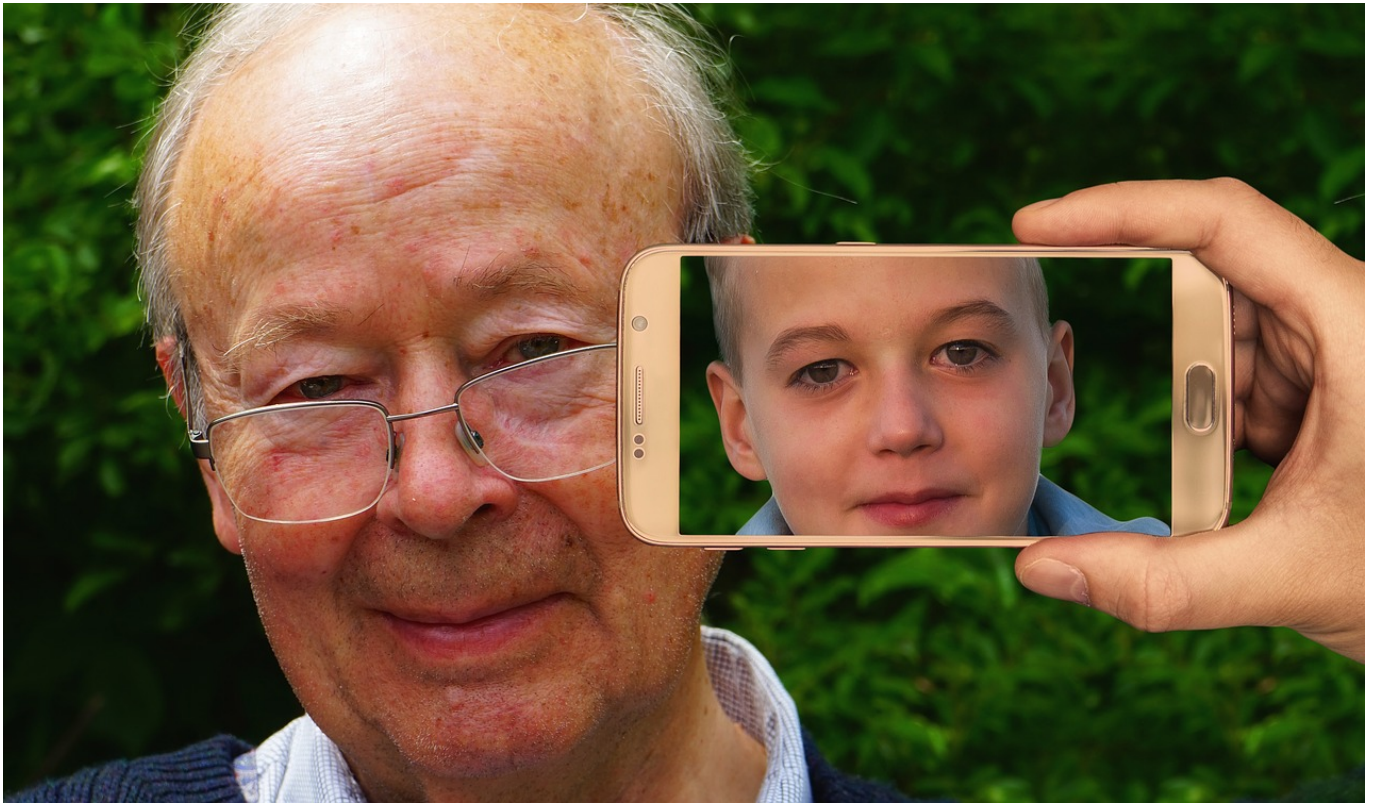


## Usage Examples of "Deceptive" as an adjective

- *The deceptive calm in the eye of the storm.*



- *Deliberately deceptive packaging.*
- *Deceptive calm.*
- *He put the question with deceptive casualness.*



## Associations of "Deceptive" (30 Words)

<b>beguile</b>	Trick (someone) into doing something. <i>They were <b>beguiled</b> into signing a peace treaty.</i>
<b>cheat</b>	An act of cheating a fraud or deception. <i>I wish someone had told me my partner was <b>cheating</b> on me.</i>
<b>cheating</b>	Not faithful to a spouse or lover.
<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 <b>cozened</b> the money out of the old man.</i>
<b>cunning</b>	Attractive or quaint. <i>A <b>cunning</b> look came into his eyes.</i>

<b><u>deceit</u></b>	The quality of being fraudulent. <i>A series of lies and <b>deceits</b>.</i>
<b>deceitful</b>	Intended to deceive. <i><b>Deceitful</b> advertising.</i>
<b>deceive</b>	Be false to; be dishonest with. <i>I didn't intend to <b>deceive</b> people into thinking it was French champagne.</i>
<b>deception</b>	A thing that deceives. <i>A range of elaborate <b>deceptions</b>.</i>
<b>delusive</b>	Giving a false or misleading impression. <i><b>Delusive</b> expectations.</i>
<b>dishonest</b>	Behaving or prone to behave in an untrustworthy, deceitful, or insincere way. <i><b>Dishonest</b> politicians.</i>
<b>dissimulation</b>	Concealment of one's thoughts, feelings, or character; pretence. <i>An attempt at <b>dissimulation</b>.</i>
<b>fraud</b>	A person who makes deceitful pretenses. <i>Prosecutions for social security <b>frauds</b>.</i>
<b>fraudulence</b>	Something intended to deceive; deliberate trickery intended to gain an advantage.
<b>fraudulent</b>	Obtained, done by, or involving deception, especially criminal deception. <i><b>Fraudulent</b> psychics.</i>
<b><u>hoax</u></b>	Subject to a playful hoax or joke. <i>A <b>hoax</b> 999 call.</i>
<b>humbug</b>	Pretentious or silly talk or writing. <i>His comments are sheer <b>humbug</b>.</i>
<b>imposture</b>	Pretending to be another person. <i>I discovered the <b>imposture</b> as soon as her doppelganger arrived.</i>
<b>inducement</b>	Act of bringing about a desired result. <i><b>Inducement</b> of sleep.</i>
<b>lie</b>	The way direction or position in which something lies. <i>Putting homeless families into private houses that would otherwise <b>lie</b> empty.</i>
<b><u>lure</u></b>	Something used to lure fish or other animals into danger so they can be trapped or killed. <i>The <b>lure</b> of the exotic East.</i>
<b>motivator</b>	A positive motivational influence. <i>Music can be a great exercise <b>motivator</b>.</i>

<b>mountebank</b>	A person who sold patent medicines in public places.
<b>phony</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.
<b>scam</b>	A dishonest scheme; a fraud. <i>A guy that <b>scams</b> old pensioners out of their savings.</i>
<b>swindle</b>	Obtain (money) fraudulently. <i>He was said to have <b>swindled</b> 62 5 million from the state owned cement industry.</i>
<b>treacherous</b>	Tending to betray especially having a treacherous character as attributed to the Carthaginians by the Romans. <i><b>Treacherous</b> intrigues.</i>
<b>trickery</b>	Verbal misrepresentation intended to take advantage of you in some way. <i>The dealer resorted to <b>trickery</b>.</i>
<b>untruth</b>	A lie or false statement (often used euphemistically). <i>They go off and tell <b>untruths</b> about organizations for which they worked.</i>

