

Need another word that means the same as “defensive”? Find 11 synonyms and 30 related words for “defensive” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Defensive” are: justificative, justificatory, defending, protecting, protective, oversensitive, thin-skinned, prickly, paranoid, neurotic, defensive attitude

Defensive as a Noun

Definitions of "Defensive" as a noun

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

- *An attitude of defensiveness (especially in the phrase `on the defensive).*



Synonyms of "Defensive" as a noun (1 Word)

defensive attitude An attitude of defensiveness (especially in the phrase `on the defensive).



Defensive as an Adjective

Definitions of "Defensive" as an adjective

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

- *Used or intended to defend or protect.*
- *Very anxious to challenge or avoid criticism.*
- *Intended or appropriate for defending against or deterring aggression or attack.*
- *(in sport) relating to or intended as defence.*
- *Attempting to justify or defend in speech or writing.*



Synonyms of "Defensive" as an adjective (10 Words)

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| defending | (in sport) protecting one's goal or wicket rather than attempting to score against one's opponents. <i>The defending champion.</i> |
| justificative | Providing justification. |
| justificatory | Serving as proof or justification. <i>Justificatory arguments.</i> |
| <u>neurotic</u> | (in non-technical use) abnormally sensitive, obsessive, or anxious. <i>He seemed a neurotic self obsessed character.</i> |
| oversensitive | (especially of a person or an instrument) excessively sensitive. <i>Bentley was oversensitive to criticism.</i> |
| <u>paranoid</u> | Suffering from paranoia. <i>You think I m paranoid but I tell you there is something going on.</i> |
| prickly | Very irritable. <i>She came across as prickly and generally difficult.</i> |

protecting Shielding (or designed to shield) against harm or discomfort.
*The **protecting** blanket of snow.*

protective Showing care.
*A **protective** covering.*

thin-skinned Quick to take offense.



Usage Examples of "Defensive" as an adjective

- *A poor defensive record.*
- *A defensive stance.*
- *He was very defensive about that side of his life.*
- *Defensive barriers.*
- *A defensive player.*
- *Defensive weapons.*



Associations of "Defensive" (30 Words)

| | |
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| <u>armament</u> | Weaponry used by military or naval force. <i>Instruments of disarmament rather than of armament.</i> |
| arms | Weapons; armaments. <i>Arms and ammunition.</i> |
| battlefield | A region where a battle is being (or has been) fought. <i>The battlefields of the Great War.</i> |
| blockade | Impose a blockade on. <i>The authorities blockaded roads in and out of the capital.</i> |
| circumvention | The action of overcoming a problem or difficulty, typically in a clever and surreptitious way. <i>Circumvention of the rules undermines any fairness.</i> |
| fortification | The action of fortifying or process of being fortified. <i>A medieval fortification.</i> |

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| gun | Shoot with a gun. <i>A grease gun.</i> |
| intercept | An act or instance of intercepting something. <i>I intercepted Edward on his way to work.</i> |
| machievellian | A follower of Machiavelli's principles. |
| maneuver | A deliberate coordinated movement requiring dexterity and skill. <i>He maneuvered to get the chairmanship.</i> |
| military | The military forces of a nation. <i>The build up of military activity.</i> |
| moat | Surround a place with a moat. |
| munition | Military weapons ammunition equipment and stores. <i>Munition factories.</i> |
| naval | Connected with or belonging to or used in a navy. <i>A naval base.</i> |
| obstructionist | Someone who systematically obstructs some action that others want to take. |
| ordnance | Large but transportable armament. <i>The ordnance corps.</i> |
| ploy | A maneuver in a game or conversation. <i>The eternal cross stitch I was set to do before I could indulge my own plays.</i> |
| prevent | (of God) go before (someone) with spiritual guidance and help. <i>Locks won't prevent a determined burglar from getting in.</i> |
| protective | (usually followed by 'of') solicitously caring or mindful. <i>Animals with protective coloring.</i> |
| siege | A group of herons. <i>Two cult members have died so far in the four day siege.</i> |
| stratagem | A maneuver in a game or conversation. <i>A series of devious stratagems.</i> |
| strategically | In a way that relates to the achievement of long-term or overall aims and interests. <i>We have to think strategically about how best to utilize our facilities.</i> |
| tackle | Make determined efforts to deal with (a problem or difficult task). <i>The first scoring chance came when Orrell tackled Webb.</i> |
| tactic | The art of disposing armed forces in order of battle and of organizing operations, especially during contact with an enemy. <i>The minority attempted to control the Council by a delaying tactic.</i> |

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| tactics | A plan for attaining a particular goal. |
| turret | A small tower on top of a larger tower or at the corner of a building or wall, typically of a castle. <i>A castle with fairy tale turrets.</i> |
| <u>unbeatable</u> | Extremely good; outstanding. <i>The team is unbeatable.</i> |
| <u>wall</u> | Anything that suggests a wall in structure or function or effect. <i>He curled a free kick around the wall for a late equalizer.</i> |
| <u>warfare</u> | The waging of armed conflict against an enemy. <i>Diplomatic warfare.</i> |
| wiretap | An act of using a listening device to conduct surveillance, typically over a phone line. <i>After putting a wiretap on the phone of the pizzeria agents searched shipments bound for the warehouse.</i> |

