

Need another word that means the same as “deficient”? Find 22 synonyms and 30 related words for “deficient” in this overview.

Table Of Contents:

- [Deficient as an Adjective](#)
- [Definitions of "Deficient" as an adjective](#)
- [Synonyms of "Deficient" as an adjective \(22 Words\)](#)
- [Usage Examples of "Deficient" as an adjective](#)
- [Associations of "Deficient" \(30 Words\)](#)

**The synonyms of “Deficient” are: insufficient, lacking, wanting, inferior, substandard, defective, inadequate, limited, poor, scant, faulty, flawed, imperfect, impaired, shoddy, scrappy, sketchy, weak, unsound, second-rate, shabby, incomplete**

## Deficient as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Deficient" as an adjective

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

- *Inadequate in amount or degree.*
- *Having mental disabilities.*
- *Not having enough of a specified quality or ingredient.*
- *Insufficient or inadequate.*
- *Of a quantity not able to fulfill a need or requirement.*
- *Falling short of some prescribed norm.*



## Synonyms of "Deficient" as an adjective (22 Words)

<b><u>defective</u></b>	Markedly subnormal in structure or function or intelligence or behavior. <i>I returned the appliance because it was <b>defective</b>.</i>
<b><u>faulty</u></b>	(of reasoning and other mental processes) mistaken or misleading because of flaws. <i><b>Faulty</b> logic.</i>
<b><u>flawed</u></b>	Having a blemish or flaw. <i>A <b>flawed</b> diamond.</i>
<b><u>impaired</u></b>	Diminished in strength, quality, or utility. <i><b>Impaired</b> driving charges.</i>
<b><u>imperfect</u></b>	(of a tense) denoting a past action in progress but not completed at the time in question. <i>Drainage here is <b>imperfect</b>.</i>
<b><u>inadequate</u></b>	Of insufficient quantity to meet a need. <i>A sad solitary <b>inadequate</b> man.</i>
<b><u>incomplete</u></b>	Not yet finished. <i>The analysis remains <b>incomplete</b>.</i>
<b><u>inferior</u></b>	Of low or inferior quality. <i><b>Inferior</b> goods.</i>
<b><u>insufficient</u></b>	Of a quantity not able to fulfill a need or requirement. <i>There was <b>insufficient</b> evidence to convict him.</i>
<b><u>lacking</u></b>	(of a quality) absent. <i>There was something <b>lacking</b> in our marriage.</i>
<b><u>limited</u></b>	Not unlimited. <i>I think he is a very <b>limited</b> man.</i>
<b><u>poor</u></b>	Lacking sufficient money to live at a standard considered comfortable or normal in a society. <i>The country had a <b>poor</b> economy.</i>
<b><u>scant</u></b>	Barely amounting to a specified number or quantity. <i>She weighed a <b>scant</b> two pounds.</i>
<b><u>scrappy</u></b>	Full of fighting spirit. <i>He had a <b>scrappy</b> New York temperament.</i>
<b><u>second-rate</u></b>	Moderate to inferior in quality.
<b><u>shabby</u></b>	Mean and unworthy and despicable. <i>A <b>shabby</b> fellow in slippers and an undershirt.</i>

- shoddy** Cheap and shoddy Judith Crist.  
*A **shoddy** misuse of the honours system.*
- sketchy** (of a picture) resembling a sketch; consisting of outline without much detail.  
*Once the story does come out the fact that you tried to hide it will seem **sketchy**.*
- substandard** Below the usual or required standard.  
***Substandard** spellings.*
- unsound** Physically unsound or diseased.  
*An **unsound** foundation.*
- wanting** Inadequate in amount or degree.  
*The English batting technique has been found **wanting**.*
- weak** Relating to or denoting the weakest of the known kinds of force between particles which acts only at distances less than about 10 cm is very much weaker than the electromagnetic and the strong interactions and conserves neither strangeness parity nor isospin.  
*A **weak** plot.*



## Usage Examples of "Deficient" as an adjective

- *The documentary evidence is deficient.*
- *Deficient in common sense.*
- *A deficient education.*
- *This diet is deficient in vitamin B.*



## Associations of "Deficient" (30 Words)

<b>absent</b>	Lost in thought; showing preoccupation. <i>Most pupils were <b>absent</b> from school at least once.</i>
<b>adequacy</b>	The state or quality of being adequate. <i>He questioned the <b>adequacy</b> of the usual sentimental interpretation of the Golden Rule.</i>
<b><u>cramped</u></b>	Inhibiting the development of someone or something. <i>Trying to bring children up in <b>cramped</b> high rise apartments.</i>
<b>deficiency</b>	The amount by which something, especially revenue, falls short; a deficit. <i>A budget <b>deficiency</b> of 96 billion.</i>
<b><u>inadequate</u></b>	(of a person) unable to deal with a situation or with life. <i>I felt like a fraud <b>inadequate</b> to the task.</i>
<b>incompleteness</b>	The state of being crude and incomplete and imperfect. <i>The study was criticized for <b>incompleteness</b> of data but it stimulated further research.</i>
<b><u>insufficient</u></b>	Not enough; inadequate. <i>There was <b>insufficient</b> evidence to convict him.</i>
<b>lacking</b>	Not available or in short supply. <i>Adequate resources are sadly <b>lacking</b>.</i>
<b>limited</b>	Denoting a limited company used after a company name. <i>A <b>limited</b> circle of friends.</i>
<b><u>meager</u></b>	Deficient in amount or quality or extent. <i><b>Meager</b> resources.</i>
<b>meagerly</b>	To a meager degree or in a meager manner. <i>These voices are <b>meagerly</b> represented at the conference.</i>
<b>measly</b>	Contemptibly small in amount. <i>A <b>measly</b> tip.</i>
<b>minus</b>	On the negative side or lower end of a scale. <i><b>Minus</b> five.</i>
<b>paucity</b>	An insufficient quantity or number. <i>A <b>paucity</b> of information.</i>
<b>pittance</b>	A very small or inadequate amount of money. <i>He paid his workers a <b>pittance</b>.</i>
<b><u>rare</u></b>	Not widely distributed. <i>Total eclipses are <b>rare</b> events.</i>

<b>rarely</b>	Not often. <i>The <b>rarely</b> fine Sheraton bookcase.</i>
<b>rareness</b>	Noteworthy scarcity.
<b>rarity</b>	Something unusual — perhaps worthy of collecting. <i>The <b>rarity</b> of the condition.</i>
<b>scant</b>	Limit in quality or quantity. <i>A <b>scant</b> cup of sugar.</i>
<b>scanty</b>	Short underpants for women or children (usually used in the plural). <i>They paid whatever they could out of their <b>scanty</b> wages to their families.</i>
<b>scarce</b>	Scarcely. <i>Would have <b>scarce</b> arrived before she would have found some excuse to leave.</i>
<b>short</b>	Of a broker position in the market etc buying or based on short stocks or other securities or commodities. <i>Money is <b>short</b>.</i>
<b>sometimes</b>	Occasionally, rather than all of the time. <i><b>Sometimes</b> I want to do things on my own.</i>
<b>sparse</b>	Not dense. <i>Trees were <b>sparse</b>.</i>
<b>subsist</b>	Remain in force or effect. <i>The court may treat a contract as still <b>subsisting</b>.</i>
<b>substandard</b>	Falling short of some prescribed norm. <i><b>Substandard</b> spellings.</i>
<b>undermanned</b>	Inadequate in number of workers or assistants etc.
<b>undersized</b>	Of less than the usual size. <i>The <b>undersized</b> cubs may not survive the winter.</i>
<b>wanting</b>	Inadequate in amount or degree. <i>Tested and found <b>wanting</b>.</i>



