

Need another word that means the same as “desperate”? Find 36 synonyms and 30 related words for “desperate” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Desperate” are: dire, despairing, heroic, hopeless, last-ditch, last-minute, all-out, final, grave, serious, dangerous, risky, perilous, hazardous, precarious, critical, acute, urgent, pressing, compelling, crying, violent, lawless, awful, terrible, appalling, abysmal, very bad, atrocious, unspeakable, frightful, miserable, in great need of, in want of, lacking, wanting

Desperate as an Adjective

Definitions of "Desperate" as an adjective

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

- *Arising from or marked by despair or loss of hope.*
- *(of a person) violent or dangerous.*
- *(of a person) having a great need or desire for something.*
- *Feeling or showing a hopeless sense that a situation is so bad as to be impossible to deal with.*
- *Fraught with extreme danger; nearly hopeless- G.C.Marshall.*
- *(of persons) dangerously reckless or violent as from urgency or despair.*
- *Showing extreme courage; especially of actions courageously undertaken in desperation as a last resort.*
- *Fraught with extreme danger; nearly hopeless.*
- *Desperately determined.*
- *(of an act) tried in despair or when everything else has failed.*
- *(of a situation) extremely serious or dangerous.*

- *Very bad.*
- *Dangerously reckless or violent as from urgency or despair.*
- *Showing extreme urgency or intensity especially because of great need or desire.*



Synonyms of "Desperate" as an adjective (36 Words)

abysmal	Very great; limitless. <i>The quality of her work is abysmal.</i>
<u>acute</u>	Denoting or designed for patients with an acute form of a disease. <i>An acute or critical lack of research funds.</i>
all-out	Using all available resources.
<u>appalling</u>	Causing consternation. <i>The cat suffered appalling injuries during the attack.</i>
<u>atrocious</u>	Of a very poor quality; extremely bad or unpleasant. <i>He attempted an atrocious imitation of my English accent.</i>

awful	Used to emphasize the extent of something, especially something unpleasant or negative. <i>The place smelled awful.</i>
<u>compelling</u>	Tending to persuade by forcefulness of argument. <i>His eyes were strangely compelling.</i>
critical	Having a decisive or crucial importance in the success, failure, or existence of something. <i>A critical temperature of water is 100 degrees C its boiling point at standard atmospheric pressure.</i>
crying	Demanding attention. <i>It would be a crying shame to let it all go to waste.</i>
dangerous	Able or likely to cause harm or injury. <i>A dangerous criminal.</i>
despairing	Arising from or marked by despair or loss of hope. <i>A despairing view of the world situation.</i>
<u>dire</u>	Fraught with extreme danger; nearly hopeless. <i>A dire emergency.</i>
<u>final</u>	Allowing no further doubt or dispute. <i>The judge s decision is final.</i>
frightful	Very unpleasant, serious, or shocking. <i>A frightful mistake.</i>
<u>grave</u>	Causing fear or anxiety by threatening great harm. <i>A grave illness.</i>
<u>hazardous</u>	Risky; dangerous. <i>It is hazardous to personal safety.</i>
<u>heroic</u>	Relating to or characteristic of heroes of antiquity. <i>One passes under pyramids and obelisks all on a heroic scale.</i>
hopeless	Without hope because there seems to be no possibility of comfort or success. <i>He is a hopeless romantic.</i>
in great need of	Directed or bound inward.
in want of	Currently fashionable.
lacking	Inadequate in amount or degree. <i>The students are not lacking in intellectual ability.</i>
last-ditch	Of something done as a final recourse (especially to prevent a crisis or disaster).
last-minute	Just before a deadline at the last minute.

lawless	Lax in enforcing laws. <i>Lawless bands roaming the plains.</i>
<u>miserable</u>	Contemptible (used as a term of abuse or for emphasis). <i>Horribly wet and miserable conditions.</i>
<u>perilous</u>	Fraught with danger. <i>The economy is in a perilous state.</i>
<u>precarious</u>	Fraught with danger. <i>The precarious life of an undersea diver.</i>
pressing	Expressing something strongly or persistently. <i>Too pressing to permit of longer delay.</i>
<u>risky</u>	Not financially safe or secure. <i>Their risky patter made the guests laugh.</i>
serious	Solemn or thoughtful in character or manner. <i>He suddenly had serious money to spend.</i>
terrible	Exceptionally bad or displeasing. <i>I was sick all night and felt terrible for two days.</i>
<u>unspeakable</u>	Defying expression or description. <i>I felt an unspeakable tenderness towards her.</i>
urgent	Of an action or event done or arranged in response to an urgent situation. <i>Bridges in urgent need of repair.</i>
very bad	Being the exact same one; not any other.
violent	Marked by extreme intensity of emotions or convictions inclined to react violently fervid. <i>A violent death.</i>
wanting	Deficient in intelligence. <i>Tested and found wanting.</i>



Usage Examples of "Desperate" as an adjective

- *Her desperate screams.*
- *A desperate illness.*
- *I am desperate for a cigarette.*
- *A desperate criminal.*
- *A desperate cry for help.*
- *Felt a desperate urge to confess.*
- *On all fronts the Allies were in a desperate situation due to lack of materiel.*
- *Other women are desperate to get back to work.*
- *Drugs used in a desperate attempt to save his life.*
- *A desperate need for recognition.*
- *The desperate gallantry of our naval task forces marked the turning point in the Pacific war.*
- *Taken hostage of desperate men.*
- *A desperate sadness enveloped Ruth.*
- *Made a last desperate attempt to reach the climber.*
- *That beer's desperate—it's a wonder you've the nerve to offer it for sale.*
- *There is a desperate shortage of teachers.*

- *Helpless and desperate-as if at the end of his tether.*



Associations of "Desperate" (30 Words)

bleak	(of the weather) cold and miserable. <i>A bleak midwinter s day.</i>
depressed	Flattened downward as if pressed from above or flattened along the dorsal and ventral surfaces. <i>Depressed inner city areas.</i>
despair	The complete loss or absence of hope. <i>In despair I hit the bottle.</i>
despairing	Arising from or marked by despair or loss of hope. <i>A despairing view of the world situation.</i>
despondent	Without or almost without hope. <i>Despondent about his failure.</i>

<u>discouraged</u>	Having lost confidence or enthusiasm; disheartened. <i>He must be feeling pretty discouraged.</i>
<u>drastic</u>	Likely to have a strong or far-reaching effect; radical and extreme. <i>A drastic reduction of staffing levels.</i>
<u>empty</u>	A bottle or glass left empty of its contents. <i>Empty bellied children.</i>
extreme	The highest or most extreme degree of something. <i>Extreme cold.</i>
famished	Extremely hungry. <i>I m famished is there anything to eat.</i>
<u>gloomy</u>	Filled with melancholy and despondency. <i>The gloomy forest.</i>
heartsick	Without or almost without hope. <i>Too heartsick to fight back.</i>
<u>helpless</u>	Uncontrollable. <i>Lying ill and helpless.</i>
hopeless	Beyond hope of management or reform. <i>I m hopeless at names.</i>
hungry	(usually followed by `for') extremely desirous. <i>A world full of hungry people.</i>
impecunious	Having little or no money. <i>A titled but impecunious family.</i>
insoluble	Impossible to solve. <i>Once dry the paints become insoluble in water.</i>
malnourished	Suffering from malnutrition.
mutineer	Someone who is openly rebellious and refuses to obey authorities (especially seamen or soldiers). <i>Those who resisted were denounced as mutineers and treated accordingly.</i>
penniless	(of a person) having no money; very poor. <i>A penniless young student.</i>
<u>ravenous</u>	Extremely hungry. <i>Ravenous as wolves.</i>
<u>skinny</u>	A skinny person. <i>He wanted the inside skinny on the new partner.</i>
<u>starving</u>	The act of depriving of food or subjecting to famine. <i>The world s starving children.</i>

thirst	Feel the need to drink. <i>An opponent thirsting for revenge.</i>
tired	Bored or impatient with. <i>Too tired to eat.</i>
underweight	Below a weight considered normal or desirable. <i>Underweighted assets.</i>
<u>unhealthy</u>	(of a person's attitude or behaviour) not sensible or well balanced. <i>His skin looked pale and unhealthy.</i>
<u>voracious</u>	Engaging in an activity with great eagerness or enthusiasm. <i>A voracious appetite.</i>
want	Hunt or look for want for a particular reason. <i>You shall want for nothing while you are with me.</i>
<u>wish</u>	Order politely express a wish for. <i>The union has reiterated its wish for an agreement.</i>

