

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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

