

Need another word that means the same as “dire”? Find 44 synonyms and 30 related words for “dire” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Dire” are: desperate, awful, direful, dread, dreaded, dreadful, fearful, fearsome, frightening, horrendous, horrific, terrible, appalling, frightful, horrible, atrocious, grim, unspeakable, distressing, harrowing, alarming, shocking, outrageous, urgent, pressing, crying, sore, grave, serious, extreme, acute, drastic, ominous, portentous, gloomy, sinister, substandard, bad, deficient, defective, faulty, imperfect, inferior, mediocre**

## Dire as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Dire" as an adjective

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

- *Extremely serious or urgent.*
- *(of a warning or threat) presaging disaster.*
- *Causing fear or dread or terror.*
- *Fraught with extreme danger; nearly hopeless- G.C.Marshall.*
- *Of a very poor quality.*
- *Fraught with extreme danger; nearly hopeless.*



## Synonyms of "Dire" as an adjective (44 Words)

**acute** Denoting or designed for patients with an acute form of a disease.  
An ***acute*** ward.

**alarming** Worrying or disturbing.  
Our countryside is disappearing at an ***alarming*** rate.

**appalling** Causing consternation.  
His conduct was ***appalling***.

**atrocious** Of a very poor quality; extremely bad or unpleasant.  
An ***atrocious*** automobile accident.

**awful** Extreme in degree or extent or amount or impact.  
An ***awful*** speech.

<b>bad</b>	Feeling physical discomfort or pain though is occasionally used colloquially for bad. A <b>bad</b> mistake.
<b>crying</b>	Demanding attention. A <b>crying</b> baby.
<b>defective</b>	Having a defect. A <b>defective</b> appliance.
<b>deficient</b>	Of a quantity not able to fulfill a need or requirement. <b>Deficient</b> in common sense.
<b>desperate</b>	Desperately determined. There is a <b>desperate</b> shortage of teachers.
<b>direful</b>	Extremely bad; dreadful. A career of vengeance so <b>direful</b> that London was shocked.
<b>distressing</b>	Causing distress or worry or anxiety. <b>Distressing</b> or disturbing news.
<b>drastic</b>	Forceful and extreme and rigorous. <b>Drastic</b> measures.
<b>dread</b>	Greatly feared dreadful. Polio is no longer the <b>dreaded</b> disease it once was.
<b>dreaded</b>	Causing fear or dread or terror. Polio is no longer the <b>dreaded</b> disease it once was.
<b>dreadful</b>	Causing or involving great suffering, fear, or unhappiness; extremely bad or serious. The weather was <b>dreadful</b> .
<b>extreme</b>	Of the greatest possible degree or extent or intensity. Groups of his more <b>extreme</b> supporters rioted in front of parliament.
<b>faulty</b>	Having a defect. <b>Faulty</b> logic.
<b>fearful</b>	Lacking courage; ignobly timid and faint-hearted- P.B.Shelley. A <b>fearful</b> glance.
<b>fearsome</b>	Frightening, especially in appearance. The cat mewed displaying a <b>fearsome</b> set of teeth.
<b>frightening</b>	Making someone afraid or anxious; terrifying. A <b>frightening</b> experience.
<b>frightful</b>	Provoking horror- Winston Churchill. A <b>frightful</b> mistake.

<b><u>gloomy</u></b>	Causing dejection. <i>A <b>gloomy</b> corridor badly lit by oil lamps.</i>
<b><u>grave</u></b>	Of great gravity or crucial import; requiring serious thought. <i><b>Grave</b> responsibilities.</i>
<b><u>grim</u></b>	Depressing or worrying to consider. <i>His <b>grim</b> expression.</i>
<b>harrowing</b>	Extremely painful. <i>It was a <b>harrowing</b> experience.</i>
<b><u>horrendous</u></b>	Extremely unpleasant, horrifying, or terrible. <i>She suffered <b>horrendous</b> injuries.</i>
<b>horrible</b>	Causing or likely to cause horror; shocking. <i>The tea tasted <b>horrible</b>.</i>
<b><u>horrific</u></b>	Grossly offensive to decency or morality; causing horror. <i><b>Horrific</b> injuries.</i>
<b><u>imperfect</u></b>	Not perfect; faulty or incomplete. <i>An <b>imperfect</b> grasp of English.</i>
<b><u>inferior</u></b>	Of low or inferior quality. <i><b>Inferior</b> goods.</i>
<b>mediocre</b>	Of only average quality; not very good. <i>He is an enthusiastic if <b>mediocre</b> painter.</i>
<b>ominous</b>	Giving the worrying impression that something bad is going to happen; threateningly inauspicious. <i><b>Ominous</b> rumblings of discontent.</i>
<b><u>outrageous</u></b>	Very bold and unusual and rather shocking. <i>The <b>outrageous</b> claims made by the previous government.</i>
<b>portentous</b>	Done in a pompously or overly solemn manner so as to impress. <i>The author's <b>portentous</b> moralizings.</i>
<b>pressing</b>	Expressing something strongly or persistently. <i>He had <b>pressing</b> business in Scotland.</i>
<b>serious</b>	Acting or speaking sincerely and in earnest, rather than in a joking or half-hearted manner. <i>A <b>serious</b> book.</i>
<b><u>shocking</u></b>	Causing indignation or disgust; offensive. <i><b>Shocking</b> behaviour.</i>
<b><u>sinister</u></b>	Giving the impression that something harmful or evil is happening or will happen. <i>There might be a more <b>sinister</b> motive behind the government's actions.</i>

<b>sore</b>	(of a part of one's body) painful or aching. <i>We re in <b>sore</b> need of him.</i>
<b>substandard</b>	Below the usual or required standard. <i><b>Substandard</b> spellings.</i>
<b>terrible</b>	Intensely or extremely bad or unpleasant in degree or quality. <i><b>Terrible</b> handwriting.</i>
<b><u>unspeakable</u></b>	Too bad or horrific to express in words. <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>She needs <b>urgent</b> treatment.</i>

## Usage Examples of "Dire" as an adjective

- *A dire emergency.*
- *He was in dire need of help.*
- *There were dire warnings from the traffic organizations.*
- *A career or vengeance so direful that London was shocked.*
- *The concert was dire.*
- *Misuse of drugs can have dire consequences.*
- *Dire news.*

## Associations of "Dire" (30 Words)

<b>abominable</b>	Unequivocally detestable- Edmund Burke. <i><b>Abominable</b> workmanship.</i>
<b><u>atrocious</u></b>	Provoking horror. <i><b>Atrocious</b> taste.</i>
<b>awful</b>	Awfully very. <i>We re an <b>awful</b> long way from the motorway.</i>
<b><u>bitter</u></b>	Beer that is strongly flavoured with hops and has a bitter taste brewed by top fermentation. <i><b>Bitter</b> about the divorce.</i>
<b>dolorous</b>	Feeling or expressing great sorrow or distress. <i>A <b>dolorous</b> and repetitive tale of atrocity.</i>
<b><u>dreadful</u></b>	Exceptionally bad or displeasing. <i>There s been a <b>dreadful</b> accident.</i>

<b>enormity</b>	A grave crime or sin. <i>In careful usage the noun <b>enormity</b> is not used to express the idea of great size.</i>
<b>frightful</b>	Extremely distressing. <i>There s been a most <b>frightful</b> accident.</i>
<b>grave</b>	A place where a broken or discarded object lies. <i>Faced a <b>grave</b> decision in a time of crisis.</i>
<b>grief</b>	An instance or cause of intense sorrow. <i>Her death was a great <b>grief</b> to John.</i>
<b>grievous</b>	Shockingly brutal or cruel. <i><b>Grievous</b> bodily harm.</i>
<b>grim</b>	Causing dejection. <i>The <b>grim</b> task of burying the victims.</i>
<b>heartrending</b>	Causing or marked by grief or anguish. <i>The <b>heartrending</b> words of Rabin s granddaughter.</i>
<b>hellish</b>	Extremely difficult or unpleasant. <i>An unearthly <b>hellish</b> landscape.</i>
<b>horrible</b>	Very unpleasant. <i>A <b>horrible</b> massacre.</i>
<b>horrific</b>	Grossly offensive to decency or morality; causing horror. <i><b>Horrific</b> conditions in the mining industry.</i>
<b>introspection</b>	The examination or observation of one's own mental and emotional processes. <i>Quiet <b>introspection</b> can be extremely valuable.</i>
<b>lamentable</b>	(of circumstances or conditions) very bad; deplorable. <i>The industry is in a <b>lamentable</b> state.</i>
<b>mournful</b>	Expressing sorrow. <i><b>Mournful</b> music.</i>
<b>sad</b>	Of things that make you feel sad. <i>I was <b>sad</b> and subdued.</i>
<b>sadly</b>	To a regrettable extent; regrettably. <i><b>Sadly</b> the forests of Sulawesi are now under threat.</i>
<b>serious</b>	Of great consequence. <i>Are you <b>serious</b> or joking.</i>
<b>severe</b>	Severely simple. <i>A <b>severe</b> test of stamina.</i>

<b><u>solemn</u></b>	Dignified and somber in manner or character and committed to keeping promises. <i>The judge was <b>solemn</b> as he pronounced sentence.</i>
<b><u>sorrowful</u></b>	Feeling or showing grief. <i><b>Sorrowful</b> widows.</i>
<b>terrible</b>	Exceptionally bad or displeasing. <i>Despite passing my driving test first time I m a <b>terrible</b> driver.</i>
<b><u>tragedy</u></b>	The dramatic genre represented by tragedies. <i>A <b>tragedy</b> that killed 95 people.</i>
<b><u>tragic</u></b>	Very bad or inadequate. <i>At school she s not a complete <b>tragic</b> but she s not exactly popular either.</i>
<b><u>unpleasant</u></b>	Causing discomfort, unhappiness, or revulsion; disagreeable. <i>When drunk he could become very <b>unpleasant</b>.</i>
<b>weighty</b>	Of great seriousness and importance. <i>A <b>weighty</b> argument.</i>