

Need another word that means the same as “downplay”? Find 27 synonyms and 30 related words for “downplay” in this overview.

Table Of Contents:

- [Downplay as a Verb](#)
- [Definitions of "Downplay" as a verb](#)
- [Synonyms of "Downplay" as a verb \(27 Words\)](#)
- [Usage Examples of "Downplay" as a verb](#)
- [Associations of "Downplay" \(30 Words\)](#)

**The synonyms of “Downplay” are: background, play down, minimise, minimize, understate, disparage, denigrate, belittle, diminish, deprecate, detract from, deflate, decry, discredit, cast aspersions on, downgrade, slight, run down, criticize, defame, vilify, abuse, insult, attack, speak ill of, speak evil of, pour scorn on**

## Downplay as a Verb

### Definitions of "Downplay" as a verb

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

- *Represent as less significant or important.*
- *Understate the importance or quality of.*
- *Make (something) appear less important than it really is.*

### Synonyms of "Downplay" as a verb (27 Words)

<b>abuse</b>	Use foul or abusive language towards. <i>Don t <b>abuse</b> the system.</i>
<b>attack</b>	Attack someone physically or emotionally. <i>Crystal Palace <b>attacked</b> swiftly down the left.</i>
<a href="#">background</a>	Form a background to. <i>Windswept land <b>backgrounded</b> by the Rockies.</i>
<a href="#">belittle</a>	Cause to seem less serious; play down. <i>Don t <b>belittle</b> his influence.</i>

<b>cast aspersions on</b>	Deposit.
<b>criticize</b>	Find fault with; express criticism of; point out real or perceived flaws. <i>A literary text may be <b>criticized</b> on two grounds the semantic and the expressive.</i>
<b>decry</b>	Publicly denounce. <i>They <b>decried</b> human rights abuses.</i>
<b>defame</b>	Charge falsely or with malicious intent. <i>He claimed that the article <b>defamed</b> his family.</i>
<b>deflate</b>	Become deflated or flaccid as by losing air. <i>He <b>deflated</b> one of the tyres.</i>
<b>denigrate</b>	Charge falsely or with malicious intent. <i>Doom and gloom merchants who <b>denigrate</b> their own country.</i>
<b>deprecate</b>	Express strong disapproval of; deplore. <i>What I <b>deprecate</b> is persistent indulgence.</i>
<b>detract from</b>	Take away a part from; diminish.
<b>diminish</b>	Cause to seem less impressive or valuable. <i>The trial has aged and <b>diminished</b> him.</i>
<b>discredit</b>	Harm the good reputation of. <i>This newspaper story <b>discredits</b> the politicians.</i>
<b>disparage</b>	Regard or represent as being of little worth. <i>He never missed an opportunity to <b>disparage</b> his competitors.</i>
<b>downgrade</b>	Reduce to a lower grade, rank, or level of importance. <i>Some jobs had gradually been <b>downgraded</b> from skilled to semi skilled.</i>
<b>insult</b>	Speak to or treat with disrespect or scornful abuse. <i>You re <b>insulting</b> the woman I love.</i>
<b>minimise</b>	Cause to seem less serious; play down.
<b>minimize</b>	Reduce (something, especially something undesirable) to the smallest possible amount or degree. <i>The aim is to <b>minimize</b> costs.</i>
<b>play down</b>	Participate in games or sport.
<b>pour scorn on</b>	Rain heavily.
<b>run down</b>	Be affected by; be subjected to.
<b>slight</b>	Raze or destroy (a fortification). <i>A Council determined whether the Fort should be kept or <b>slighted</b>.</i>
<b>speak evil of</b>	Use language.

<b>speak ill of</b>	Give a speech to.
<b>understate</b>	Describe or represent (something) as being smaller or less good or important than it really is. <i>The press have <b>understated</b> the extent of the problem.</i>
<b>vilify</b>	Speak or write about in an abusively disparaging manner. <i>He has been vilified in the press.</i>

## Usage Examples of "Downplay" as a verb

- *This report downplays the seriousness of global warming.*

## Associations of "Downplay" (30 Words)

<b><u>compress</u></b>	Be squeezed or pressed together or into a smaller space. <i>She <b>compressed</b> her lips.</i>
<b>condone</b>	Accept (behaviour that is considered morally wrong or offensive). <i>The college cannot <b>condone</b> any behaviour that involves illicit drugs.</i>
<b>connive</b>	Encourage or assent to illegally or criminally. <i>She <b>connived</b> with a senior official to rig the results of last year s election.</i>
<b><u>contraction</u></b>	The process or result of becoming smaller or pressed together. <i>Goodbye is a <b>contraction</b> of God be with you.</i>
<b><u>crass</u></b>	Showing no intelligence or sensitivity. <i>An act of <b>crass</b> stupidity.</i>
<b>decrease</b>	Decrease in size extent or range. <i>The rate of <b>decrease</b> became greater.</i>
<b>disparagingly</b>	In a disparaging manner. <i>These mythological figures are described <b>disparagingly</b> as belonging only to a story.</i>
<b><u>disregard</u></b>	The action or state of paying no attention to something. <i>The body of evidence is too substantial to <b>disregard</b>.</i>
<b>downgrade</b>	An instance of reducing someone or something's rank, status, or level of importance. <i>Some jobs had gradually been <b>downgraded</b> from skilled to semi skilled.</i>
<b>education</b>	The United States federal department that administers all federal programs dealing with education including federal aid to educational institutions and students created 1979. <i>Petrus is a good workman it is an <b>education</b> to watch him.</i>

<b>flatten</b>	Humiliate or depress (someone). <i><b>Flatten</b> a road.</i>
<b>ignore</b>	Fail to consider (something significant). <i>He <b>ignored</b> her outraged question.</i>
<b>intelligence</b>	Information in general; news. <i>British <b>intelligence</b> has secured numerous local informers.</i>
<u><b>irrelevant</b></u>	Not connected with or relevant to something. <i>Theory can sometimes be hastily dismissed as <b>irrelevant</b> to the classroom.</i>
<u><b>lighthearted</b></u>	Carefree and happy and lighthearted. <i>Her <b>lighthearted</b> nature.</i>
<u><b>minimize</b></u>	Represent as less significant or important. <i>Let s <b>minimize</b> the risk.</i>
<u><b>neglect</b></u>	The trait of neglecting responsibilities and lacking concern. <i>He <b>neglected</b> to write to her.</i>
<u><b>obscurity</b></u>	The state of being indistinct or indefinite for lack of adequate illumination. <i>He is too good a player to slide into <b>obscurity</b>.</i>
<u><b>omit</b></u>	Leave undone or leave out. <i>He was <b>omitted</b> from the second Test.</i>
<u><b>overlook</b></u>	Be oriented in a certain direction. <i>The apartment <b>overlooks</b> the Hudson.</i>
<u><b>rebuff</b></u>	Reject (someone or something) in an abrupt or ungracious manner. <i>I asked her to be my wife and was <b>rebuffed</b> in no uncertain terms.</i>
<b>reduce</b>	Reduce in scope while retaining essential elements. <i>The need for businesses to <b>reduce</b> costs.</i>
<b>reducible</b>	(of a subject or problem) capable of being simplified in presentation or analysis. <i>Shakespeare s major soliloquies are not <b>reducible</b> to categories.</i>
<b>reduction</b>	A thick and concentrated liquid or sauce made by boiling. <i>The <b>reduction</b> of classical genetics to molecular biology.</i>
<u><b>scoff</b></u>	Speak to someone or about something in a scornfully derisive or mocking way. <i>You a scientist he <b>scoffed</b>.</i>
<b>snub</b>	Reject outright and bluntly. <i>She <b>snubbed</b> his proposal.</i>

- understate** Represent as less significant or important.  
*The press have **understated** the extent of the problem.*
- understatement** A statement that is restrained in ironic contrast to what might have been said.  
*To say I am delighted is an **understatement**.*
- undervalue** Rate (something) insufficiently highly; fail to appreciate.  
*Through overfamiliarity it is easy to **undervalue** this concerto.*
- vanish** Pass away rapidly.  
*The effect **vanished** when day broke.*