

Need another word that means the same as “dreadful”? Find 35 synonyms and 30 related words for “dreadful” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Dreadful” are: awful, dire, direful, dread, dreaded, fearful, fearsome, frightening, horrendous, horrific, terrible, abominable, atrocious, painful, unspeakable, frightful, horrible, grim, unpleasant, disagreeable, nasty, unwell, ill, poorly, bad, indisposed, sick, queasy, nauseous, nauseated, peaky, liverish, green around the gills, outrageous, shocking

Dreadful as an Adjective

Definitions of "Dreadful" as an adjective

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

- *Causing or involving great suffering, fear, or unhappiness; extremely bad or serious.*
- *(of a person) unwell or troubled.*
- *Exceptionally bad or displeasing.*
- *Used to emphasize the degree to which something is the case, especially something regarded with sadness or disapproval.*
- *Causing fear or dread or terror.*
- *Very unpleasant.*
- *Extremely disagreeable and unpleasant.*
- *Extremely disagreeable.*



Synonyms of "Dreadful" as an adjective (35 Words)

abominable	Causing moral revulsion. <i>The uprising was suppressed with abominable cruelty.</i>
atrocious	Provoking horror. <i>Murder is an atrocious crime.</i>
awful	Inspiring awe or admiration or wonder. <i>I look awful in a swimsuit.</i>
bad	Feeling physical discomfort or pain though is occasionally used colloquially for bad. <i>A bad mistake.</i>
dire	Of a very poor quality. <i>A dire emergency.</i>
direful	Extremely bad; dreadful. <i>A career or vengeance so direful that London was shocked.</i>

<u>disagreeable</u>	Unfriendly and bad-tempered. <i>Found the task disagreeable and decided to abandon it.</i>
<u>dread</u>	Causing fear or dread or terror. <i>He was stricken with the dread disease and died.</i>
<u>dreaded</u>	Regarded with great fear or apprehension. <i>The dreaded news came that Joe had been wounded.</i>
fearful	Experiencing or showing fear. <i>He s fearful that his career is over.</i>
fearsome	Causing fear or dread or terror. <i>The cat mewed displaying a fearsome set of teeth.</i>
<u>frightening</u>	Causing fear or dread or terror. <i>A frightening experience.</i>
frightful	Provoking horror- Winston Churchill. <i>Her hair was a frightful mess.</i>
green around the gills	Naive and easily deceived or tricked.
<u>grim</u>	Depressing or worrying to consider. <i>The grim aftermath of the bombing.</i>
<u>horrendous</u>	Extremely unpleasant, horrifying, or terrible. <i>She suffered horrendous injuries.</i>
horrible	Very unpleasant. <i>War is beyond all words horrible.</i>
<u>horrific</u>	Causing fear or dread or terror. <i>Horrific injuries.</i>
<u>ill</u>	Presaging ill fortune P B Shelley. <i>Ill predictions.</i>
indisposed	Averse; unwilling. <i>Clearly indisposed to grant their request.</i>
liverish	Slightly ill, as though having a disordered liver. <i>A liverish red.</i>
<u>nasty</u>	Disgustingly dirty; filled or smeared with offensive matter. <i>A nasty pigsty of a room.</i>
nauseated	Feeling nausea; feeling about to vomit.
nauseous	Causing or able to cause nausea. <i>A rancid odour that made him nauseous.</i>
<u>outrageous</u>	Shockingly bad or excessive. <i>Subjected to outrageous cruelty.</i>

painful

Very bad.

The **painful** process of growing up.

peaky

Having or as if having especially high-pitched spots.

Absence of **peaky** highs and beefed up bass.

poorly

Somewhat ill or prone to illness.

She looked **poorly**.

queasy

Feeling nausea; feeling about to vomit.

In the morning he was still pale and **queasy**.

shocking

Glaringly vivid and graphic; marked by sensationalism.

I've got a **shocking** cold.

sick

Lacking in intensity or brightness; dim or feeble.

Sick to death of flattery.

terrible

Used to emphasize the extent of something unpleasant or bad.

A **terrible** crime.

unpleasant

(of a person or their manner) unfriendly and inconsiderate; rude.

The symptoms are extremely **unpleasant**.

unspeakable

Not able to be expressed in words.

A piece of **unspeakable** abuse.

unwell

Somewhat ill or prone to illness.

Is **unwell** and can't come to work.



Usage Examples of "Dreadful" as an adjective

- *This was all a dreadful mistake.*
- *You're a dreadful flirt.*
- *The weather was dreadful.*
- *There's been a dreadful accident.*
- *Don't go out, the weather is dreadful.*
- *She looked quite dreadful and she was struggling for breath.*
- *A dreadful storm.*
- *Dreadful manners.*
- *I feel dreadful—I hate myself.*



Associations of "Dreadful" (30 Words)

alarming

Worrying or disturbing.

*Our countryside is disappearing at an **alarming** rate.*

appall

Strike with disgust or revulsion.

appalling

Causing consternation.

*Is it better to view the **appalling** or merely hear of it.*

atrocious

Horribly wicked.

*An **atrocious** automobile accident.*

awful

Awfully very.

*I felt **awful** for being so angry with him.*

beastly

In a beastly manner.

*Don't be **beastly** to him.*

chilling

Horrifying or frightening.

*A **chilling** account of the prisoners fate.*

fearful	Causing or likely to cause people to be afraid; horrifying. <i>He s fearful that his career is over.</i>
fearsome	Causing fear or dread or terror. <i>The cat mewed displaying a fearsome set of teeth.</i>
<u>formidable</u>	Inspiring fear- G.H.Johnston. <i>Had a formidable array of compositions to his credit.</i>
<u>frightening</u>	The act of inspiring with fear. <i>A frightening experience.</i>
frightful	Provoking horror. <i>In a frightful hurry.</i>
<u>ghastly</u>	Very objectionable, bad, or unpleasant. <i>One of the most ghastly crimes ever committed.</i>
<u>hellish</u>	Extremely (used for emphasis). <i>An unearthly hellish landscape.</i>
hideous	Grossly offensive to decency or morality; causing horror. <i>The whole hideous story.</i>
horrible	Provoking horror- Winston Churchill. <i>A horrible massacre.</i>
<u>horrific</u>	Causing horror. <i>Horrific injuries.</i>
<u>horrifying</u>	Provoking horror. <i>An alarming even horrifying picture.</i>
<u>horror</u>	A literary or film genre concerned with arousing feelings of horror. <i>A horror film.</i>
<u>indescribable</u>	Too unusual, extreme, or indefinite to be adequately described. <i>Indescribable beauty.</i>
ineffable	Too sacred to be uttered. <i>The ineffable Hebrew name that gentiles write as Jehovah.</i>
inexpressible	(of a feeling) too strong to be described or conveyed in words. <i>A mood of inexpressible longing.</i>
<u>nasty</u>	An unpleasant or harmful person or thing. <i>A nasty vicious looking hatchet.</i>
scared	Fearful; frightened. <i>We re both scared of spiders.</i>
scary	Frightening; causing fear. <i>It was scary the way they bonded with each other.</i>

terrible

Extremely unpleasant or disagreeable.
*I was sick all night and felt **terrible** for two days.*

terrifying

Causing extreme terror.
*A **terrifying** wail.*

unspeakable

Defying expression or description.
*I felt an **unspeakable** tenderness towards her.*

unutterable

Very difficult to pronounce correctly.
*I felt an **unutterable** fool.*

