

Need another word that means the same as “elusive”? Find 9 synonyms and 30 related words for “elusive” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Elusive” are: baffling, knotty, problematic, problematical, tough, subtle, difficult to catch, difficult to find, difficult to track down

Elusive as an Adjective

Definitions of "Elusive" as an adjective

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

- *Difficult to find, catch, or achieve.*
- *Skillful at eluding capture.*
- *Difficult to describe.*
- *Skillful at eluding capture- David Kline.*
- *Making great mental demands; hard to comprehend or solve or believe.*
- *Difficult to remember.*
- *Difficult to detect or grasp by the mind or analyze.*



Synonyms of "Elusive" as an adjective (9 Words)

baffling	Impossible to understand; perplexing. <i>A baffling problem.</i>
difficult to catch	Hard to control.
difficult to find	Hard to control.
difficult to track down	Hard to control.
knotty	Extremely difficult or complex. <i>A knotty problem.</i>
problematic	Open to doubt or debate. <i>If you ever get married which seems to be extremely problematic.</i>
problematical	Making great mental demands; hard to comprehend or solve or believe. <i>The weighting of votes was particularly problematical.</i>
<u>subtle</u>	Difficult to detect or grasp by the mind or analyze. <i>The German plan was simple yet subtle.</i>
<u>tough</u>	Physically toughened. <i>A tough character.</i>

Usage Examples of "Elusive" as an adjective

- *A haunting elusive odor.*
- *The elusive thought he had had moments before.*
- *Success will become ever more elusive.*
- *A cabal of conspirators, each more elusive than the archterrorist.*
- *That elusive thing the soul.*

Associations of "Elusive" (30 Words)

abstruse	Difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge. <i>An abstruse philosophical inquiry.</i>
<u>allusion</u>	The practice of making allusions. <i>An allusion to Shakespeare.</i>
artful	Not straightforward or candid; giving a false appearance of frankness- David Cannadine. <i>The artful dodger.</i>

complexity	A factor involved in a complicated process or situation. <i>He enjoyed the complexity of modern computers.</i>
covert	A flock of coots. Covert actions by the CIA.
crafty	Involving the making of decorative objects and other things by hand. <i>A crafty crook faked an injury to escape from prison.</i>
cunning	Marked by skill in deception. <i>Plants have evolved cunning defences.</i>
difficult	Not easy; requiring great physical or mental effort to accomplish or comprehend or endure. <i>She had a difficult decision to make.</i>
esoteric	Intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with a specialized knowledge or interest. Esoteric philosophical debates.
esoterica	Esoteric or highly specialized subjects or publications. <i>A professor of such esoterica as angelology and comparative shamanism.</i>
furtive	Secret and sly or sordid- A.L.Guerard. Furtive behavior.
guile	Sly or cunning intelligence. <i>He used all his guile and guts to free himself from the muddle he was in.</i>
impalpable	Incapable of being perceived by the senses especially the sense of touch- James Jeans. <i>An impalpable pulse.</i>
ingenious	Showing inventiveness and skill. <i>His theory while ingenious is most assuredly incorrect.</i>
innuendo	An indirect (and usually malicious) implication. <i>She s always making sly innuendoes.</i>
insidious	Proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with very harmful effects. <i>Glaucoma is an insidious disease.</i>
intangible	An intangible thing. <i>An intangible feeling of impending disaster.</i>
manipulative	Exercising unscrupulous control or influence over a person or situation. <i>The early manipulative techniques of a three year old child.</i>
nuance	Give nuances to. <i>Without understanding the finer nuances you can t enjoy the humor.</i>
obscure	Make obscure or unclear. <i>The distinction was obscured.</i>

recondite	Difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge. <i>The book is full of recondite information.</i>
secretive	(of a state or activity) characterized by the concealment of intentions and information. <i>She was very secretive about her past.</i>
sly	Showing in an insinuating way that one has some secret knowledge that may be harmful or embarrassing. <i>A sly sip of water.</i>
subtle	Crafty; cunning. <i>The subtle fiend dissembled.</i>
subtlety	A subtle distinction, feature, or argument. <i>You had to admire the subtlety of the distinctions he drew.</i>
tricky	Marked by skill in deception. <i>I wouldn't trust her she's tricky.</i>
undercurrent	A current below the surface of a fluid. <i>Racial undercurrents.</i>
undertone	A subdued or muted tone of sound or colour. <i>Spoke in undertones.</i>
vague	Lacking clarity or distinctness. <i>Vague feelings of sadness.</i>
wily	Skilled at gaining an advantage, especially deceitfully. <i>A wily old attorney.</i>