

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)

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

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

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

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