

Need another word that means the same as “harmful”? Find 14 synonyms and 30 related words for “harmful” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Harmful” are: damaging, injurious, detrimental, dangerous, deleterious, unfavourable, negative, disadvantageous, unhealthy, unwholesome, hurtful, baleful, wounding, destructive**

## **Harmful as an Adjective**

### **Definitions of "Harmful" as an adjective**

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

- *Causing or likely to cause harm.*
- *Causing or capable of causing harm.*



## Synonyms of "Harmful" as an adjective (14 Words)

<b>baleful</b>	Having a harmful or destructive effect. <i>Bill shot a <b>baleful</b> glance in her direction.</i>
<b>damaging</b>	Causing physical damage. <i>New cars are less <b>damaging</b> to the environment.</i>
<b>dangerous</b>	Able or likely to cause harm or injury. <i>Unemployment reached <b>dangerous</b> proportions.</i>
<b>deleterious</b>	Causing harm or damage. <i><b>Deleterious</b> chemical additives.</i>
<b><u>destructive</u></b>	Causing great and irreparable damage. <i><b>Destructive</b> criticism.</i>
<b><u>detrimental</u></b>	Tending to cause harm. <i>Moving her could have a <b>detrimental</b> effect on her health.</i>

<b>disadvantageous</b>	Involving or creating unfavourable circumstances that reduce the chances of success or effectiveness. A <b>disadvantageous</b> outcome.
<b>hurtful</b>	Causing distress to someone's feelings. Her <b>hurtful</b> unconsidered words.
<b>injurious</b>	Harmful to living things. Food which is <b>injurious</b> to health.
<b>negative</b>	Having a negative charge. A colorless <b>negative</b> personality.
<b>unfavourable</b>	Tending to hinder or oppose. <b>Unfavourable</b> economic conditions.
<b><u>unhealthy</u></b>	(of a person's attitude or behaviour) not sensible or well balanced. <b>Unhealthy</b> ulcers.
<b>unwholesome</b>	Detrimental to physical or moral well-being. The use of the living room as sleeping quarters led to <b>unwholesome</b> crowding.
<b>wounding</b>	Causing harm to a person's feelings or reputation. A <b>wounding</b> description of their mother.



## Usage Examples of "Harmful" as an adjective

- *Too much sun is harmful to the skin.*
- *The ozone layer blocks the harmful rays from the sun.*
- *Sugars which can be harmful to the teeth.*
- *Harmful effects of smoking.*



## Associations of "Harmful" (30 Words)

<b><u>counterproductive</u></b>	Tending to hinder the achievement of a goal. <i>Child experts fear the Executive's plans may prove <b>counterproductive</b>.</i>
<b>damage</b>	Inflict damage upon. <i>The car was badly <b>damaged</b> in the accident.</i>
<b>damaging</b>	Causing physical damage. <i><b>Damaging</b> allegations of corruption.</i>
<b>deadly</b>	Exceedingly harmful. <i>My end of the theatre is <b>deadly</b> at the moment.</i>
<b>deleterious</b>	Causing harm or damage. <i><b>Deleterious</b> chemical additives.</i>
<b><u>destructive</u></b>	Negative and unhelpful. <i>A policy that is <b>destructive</b> to the economy.</i>

<b>detrimental</b>	(sometimes followed by `to') causing harm or injury. <i>Moving her could have a <b>detrimental</b> effect on her health.</i>
<b>exotoxin</b>	A toxin released by a living bacterial cell into its surroundings.
<b>fatal</b>	Having extremely unfortunate or dire consequences; bringing ruin. <i>Such doctrines if true would be absolutely <b>fatal</b> to my theory.</i>
<b>harm</b>	Cause or do harm to. <i>The villains didn't <b>harm</b> him.</i>
<b>hurt</b>	Hurt the feelings of. <i>Dogs and cats with <b>hurt</b> paws.</i>
<b>injurious</b>	(of language) maliciously insulting; libellous. <i>Food which is <b>injurious</b> to health.</i>
<b>injury</b>	A casualty to military personnel resulting from combat. <i>Compensation for <b>injury</b> to feelings.</i>
<b>insulting</b>	Disrespectful or scornfully abusive. <i><b>Insulting</b> remarks.</i>
<b>libellous</b>	Containing or constituting a libel. <i>A <b>libellous</b> newspaper story.</i>
<b>libelous</b>	(used of statements) harmful and often untrue; tending to discredit or malign.
<b>noxious</b>	Harmful, poisonous, or very unpleasant. <i>They were overcome by the <b>noxious</b> fumes.</i>
<b>pernicious</b>	Working or spreading in a hidden and usually injurious way. <i>The <b>pernicious</b> influences of the mass media.</i>
<b>poison</b>	Kill by its poison. <i>She <b>poisoned</b> her husband.</i>
<b>poisoning</b>	The physiological state produced by a poison or other toxic substance. <i>Symptoms of <b>poisoning</b> may include nausea diarrhoea and vomiting.</i>
<b>poisonous</b>	(of an animal) producing poison as a means of attacking enemies or prey; venomous. <i>A <b>poisonous</b> snake.</i>
<b>prejudicial</b>	(sometimes followed by `to') causing harm or injury. <i>The proposals were considered <b>prejudicial</b> to the city centre.</i>
<b>ruinous</b>	Causing injury or blight; especially affecting with sudden violence or plague or ruin. <i>A <b>ruinous</b> course of action.</i>
<b>slanderous</b>	(of a spoken statement) false and malicious. <i><b>Slanderous</b> allegations.</i>

<b><u>toxic</u></b>	Denoting securities that are based on toxic debt and for which there is not a healthy or functioning market. <i><b>Toxic</b> liver injury.</i>
<b>toxin</b>	A poisonous substance produced during the metabolism and growth of certain microorganisms and some higher plant and animal species.
<b><u>unhealthy</u></b>	Not conducive to good health. <i>An <b>unhealthy</b> obsession with fast cars.</i>
<b>venom</b>	Toxin secreted by animals; secreted by certain snakes and poisonous insects (e.g., spiders and scorpions). <i>His voice was full of <b>venom</b>.</i>
<b>virulent</b>	Infectious; having the ability to cause disease. <i><i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> is a common organism whose <b>virulent</b> strains are causing problems.</i>
<b><u>wound</u></b>	Inflict a wound on. <i>A <b>wound</b> to the thigh.</i>

