

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)

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

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

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

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

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

