

Need another word that means the same as “ill”? Find 97 synonyms and 30 related words for “ill” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Ill” are: sick, inauspicious, ominous, unwell, not well, not very well, ailing, poorly, sickly, peaky, afflicted, indisposed, infirm, liverish, bad, poor, unsatisfactory, incompetent, unacceptable, inadequate, deficient, defective, faulty, unskilful, inexpert, amateurish, harmful, damaging, detrimental, deleterious, adverse, injurious, hurtful, destructive, pernicious, inimical, dangerous, ruinous, calamitous, disastrous, malign, malignant, unlucky, unfavourable, unfortunate, unpropitious, unpromising, infelicitous, gloomy, badly, imperfectly, adversely, unsuccessfully, unfavourably, inadequately, insufficiently, unhappily, inauspiciously, barely, scarcely, hardly, just, only just, just possibly, narrowly, ailment, complaint, problems, troubles, difficulties, misfortunes, strains, trials, tribulations, trials and tribulations, worries, anxieties, concerns, illnesses, ill health, poor health, harm, hurt, injury, damage, mischief, pain, trouble, unpleasantness, misfortune, grievance, suffering, distress, anguish, trauma, grief**

## **Ill as a Noun**

## Definitions of "Ill" as a noun

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), "ill" as a noun can have the following definitions:

- *A problem or misfortune.*
- *An often persistent bodily disorder or disease; a cause for complaining.*
- *Evil or harm.*



## Synonyms of "Ill" as a noun (31 Words)

### [ailment](#)

An often persistent bodily disorder or disease; a cause for complaining.

*The doctor diagnosed a common stomach **ailment**.*

### [anguish](#)

Severe mental or physical pain or suffering.

*Philip gave a cry of **anguish**.*

<b>anxieties</b>	(psychiatry) a relatively permanent state of worry and nervousness occurring in a variety of mental disorders, usually accompanied by compulsive behavior or attacks of panic.
<b>complaint</b>	A loud cry (or repeated cries) of pain or rage or sorrow. <i>I intend to make an official <b>complaint</b>.</i>
<b>concerns</b>	An anxious feeling. <i>A racially integrated business concern.</i>
<b>damage</b>	Loss of military equipment. <i>The <b>damage</b> to his reputation was considerable.</i>
<b>difficulties</b>	An effort that is inconvenient.
<b>distress</b>	A state of adversity (danger or affliction or need). <i>Vessels in <b>distress</b> on or near the coast.</i>
<b><u><a href="#">grief</a></u></b>	Intense sorrow, especially caused by someone's death. <i>Time heals <b>griefs</b> and quarrels.</i>
<b><u><a href="#">grievance</a></u></b>	An official statement of a complaint over something believed to be wrong or unfair. <i>A website which enabled staff to air their <b>grievances</b>.</i>
<b><u><a href="#">harm</a></u></b>	Actual or potential ill effects or danger. <i>I can't see any <b>harm</b> in it.</i>
<b>hurt</b>	Feelings of mental or physical pain. <i>Rolling properly into a fall minimizes <b>hurt</b>.</i>
<b>ill health</b>	An often persistent bodily disorder or disease; a cause for complaining.
<b>illnesses</b>	Impairment of normal physiological function affecting part or all of an organism.
<b>injury</b>	An act that causes someone or something to receive physical damage. <i>All escaped without serious <b>injury</b>.</i>
<b><u><a href="#">mischief</a></u></b>	A wrong or hardship that a statute is designed to remove or for which the common law affords a remedy. <i>The statute was passed to prevent a <b>mischief</b> in respect of which the defendant was already under a duty at common law.</i>
<b><u><a href="#">misfortune</a></u></b>	Bad luck. <i>Never laugh at other people's <b>misfortunes</b>.</i>
<b>misfortunes</b>	An unfortunate state resulting from unfavorable outcomes.

<b>pain</b>	A symptom of some physical hurt or disorder. <i>As the intensity increased the sensation changed from tickle to <b>pain</b>.</i>
<b>poor health</b>	People without possessions or wealth (considered as a group).
<b>problems</b>	A state of difficulty that needs to be resolved. <i>Urban <b>problems</b> such as traffic congestion and smog.</i>
<b>strains</b>	Difficulty that causes worry or emotional tension- R.J.Samuelson. <i>She endured the stresses and <b>strains</b> of life.</i>
<b>suffering</b>	Psychological suffering. <i>His disregard for the <b>sufferings</b> of his fellow countrymen.</i>
<b><u>trauma</u></b>	Emotional shock following a stressful event or a physical injury, which may lead to long-term neurosis. <i>Rupture of the diaphragm caused by blunt <b>trauma</b>.</i>
<b>trials</b>	The act of undergoing testing. <i>In the experimental <b>trials</b> the amount of carbon was measured separately.</i>
<b>trials and tribulations</b>	A preliminary competition to determine qualifications.
<b><u>tribulations</u></b>	An annoying or frustrating or catastrophic event. <i>Life is full of <b>tribulations</b>.</i>
<b>trouble</b>	Used to refer to the condition of a pregnant unmarried woman. <i>I went to a lot of <b>trouble</b>.</i>
<b>troubles</b>	An unwanted pregnancy. <i>He wanted to die and end his <b>troubles</b>.</i>
<b>unpleasantness</b>	Bad feeling or quarrelling between people. <i>Their faces were filled with <b>unpleasantness</b>.</i>
<b><u>worries</u></b>	Something or someone that causes anxiety; a source of unhappiness. <i>It's a major worry.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Ill" as a noun

- *A lengthy work on the ills of society.*
- *How could I wish him ill?*



## **Ill as an Adjective**

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

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), "ill" as an adjective can have the following



definitions:

- *Not favourable or auspicious.*
- *Presaging ill fortune- P.B.Shelley.*
- *Bad or harmful.*
- *Affected by an impairment of normal physical or mental function.*
- *Suffering from an illness or disease or feeling unwell.*
- *Presaging ill fortune.*
- *Distressing.*
- *Poor in quality.*
- *Indicating hostility or enmity.*
- *Resulting in suffering or adversity.*



## Synonyms of "Ill" as an adjective (49 Words)

[adverse](#)

In an opposing direction.  
**Adverse** currents.

<b><u>afflicted</u></b>	Mentally or physically unfit.
<b><u>ailing</u></b>	Somewhat ill or prone to illness. <i>My poor <b>ailing</b> grandmother.</i>
<b>amateurish</b>	Lacking professional skill or expertise. <i>A very <b>amateurish</b> job.</i>
<b>bad</b>	Feeling physical discomfort or pain though is occasionally used colloquially for bad. <i><b>Bad</b> behaviour.</i>
<b>calamitous</b>	Having extremely unfortunate or dire consequences; bringing ruin. <i>Such <b>calamitous</b> events as fires hurricanes and floods.</i>
<b>damaging</b>	Having a detrimental effect on someone or something. <i><b>Damaging</b> to career and reputation.</i>
<b>dangerous</b>	Involving or causing danger or risk; liable to hurt or harm. <i>Unemployment reached <b>dangerous</b> proportions.</i>
<b><u>defective</u></b>	Having a defect. <i><b>Defective</b> speech.</i>
<b><u>deficient</u></b>	Inadequate in amount or degree. <i>This diet is <b>deficient</b> in vitamin B.</i>
<b>deleterious</b>	Harmful to living things. <i><b>Deleterious</b> chemical additives.</i>
<b><u>destructive</u></b>	Causing destruction or much damage. <i>A policy that is <b>destructive</b> to the economy.</i>
<b><u>detrimental</u></b>	Causing harm or injury. <i>Moving her could have a <b>detrimental</b> effect on her health.</i>
<b><u>disastrous</u></b>	Causing great damage. <i>A <b>disastrous</b> fire swept through the museum.</i>
<b><u>faulty</u></b>	Characterized by errors; not agreeing with a model or not following established rules. <i><b>Faulty</b> logic.</i>
<b><u>gloomy</u></b>	Filled with melancholy and despondency. <i><b>Gloomy</b> forecasts about the economy.</i>
<b><u>harmful</u></b>	Causing or capable of causing harm. <i><b>Harmful</b> effects of smoking.</i>
<b>hurtful</b>	Causing hurt. <i>Her <b>hurtful</b> unconsidered words.</i>
<b><u>inadequate</u></b>	Of insufficient quantity to meet a need. <i>A sad solitary <b>inadequate</b> man.</i>



<b>inauspicious</b>	Unlucky. <i>This is the <b>inauspicious</b> star of disaster.</i>
<b>incompetent</b>	Legally not qualified or sufficient. <i>The patient is deemed legally <b>incompetent</b>.</i>
<b>indisposed</b>	Strongly opposed. <i>Clearly <b>indisposed</b> to grant their request.</i>
<b>inexpert</b>	Having or showing a lack of skill or knowledge. <i><b>Inexpert</b> but conscientious efforts.</i>
<b>infelicitous</b>	Not appropriate in application; defective. <i><b>Infelicitous</b> circumstances.</i>
<b>infirm</b>	(of a person or their judgement) weak; irresolute. <i><b>Infirm</b> of purpose give me the daggers.</i>
<b>inimical</b>	Unfriendly; hostile. <i>An <b>inimical</b> critic.</i>
<b>injurious</b>	(of language) maliciously insulting; libellous. <i>Food which is <b>injurious</b> to health.</i>
<b>liverish</b>	Irritable as if suffering from indigestion. <i>A <b>liverish</b> red.</i>
<b>malign</b>	Having or exerting a malignant influence. <i>Believed in witches and <b>malign</b> spirits.</i>
<b>malignant</b>	Dangerous to health; characterized by progressive and uncontrolled growth (especially of a tumor). <i>In the hands of <b>malignant</b> fate.</i>
<b>not very well</b>	Being the exact same one; not any other.
<b>not well</b>	Wise or advantageous and hence advisable.
<b>ominous</b>	Threatening or foreshadowing evil or tragic developments. <i><b>Ominous</b> rumblings of discontent.</i>
<b>peaky</b>	Having or as if having especially high-pitched spots. <i>You re looking a bit <b>peaky</b> a change of scene would do you good.</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>poor</b>	Having little money or few possessions. <i>A <b>poor</b> land.</i>
<b>poorly</b>	Somewhat ill or prone to illness. <i>She looked <b>poorly</b>.</i>

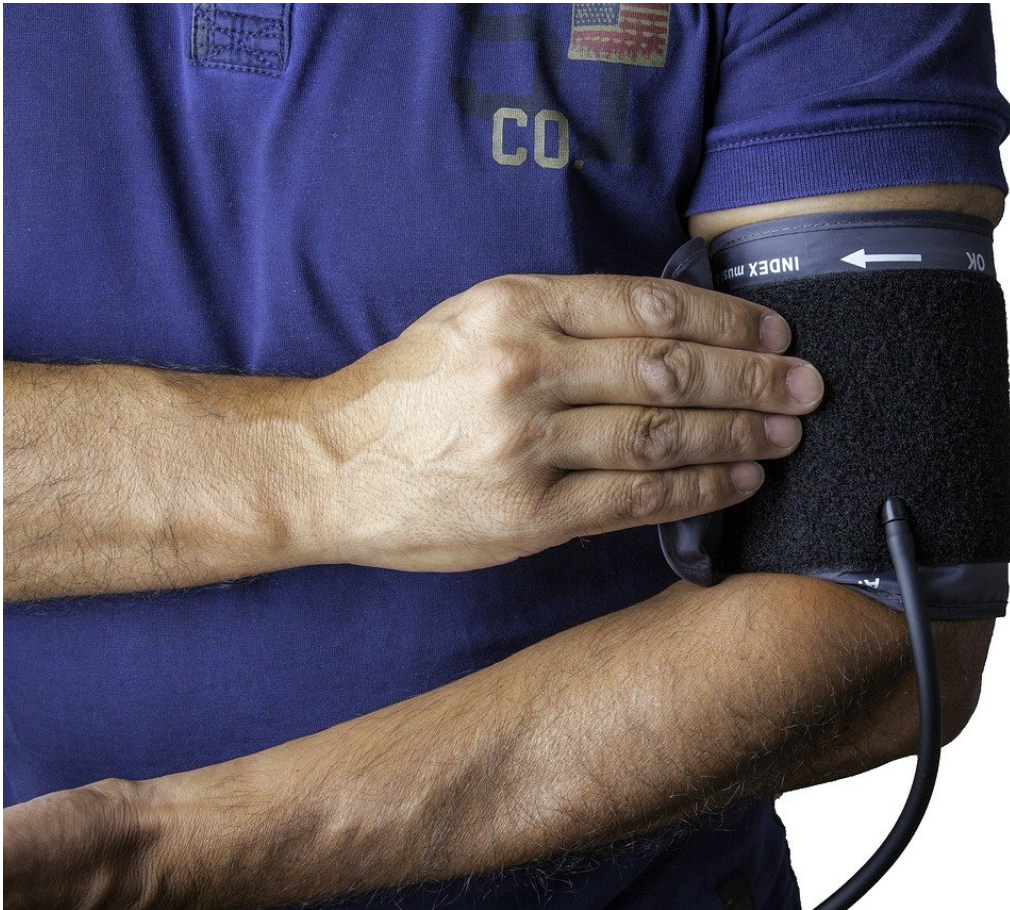
<b>ruinous</b>	Causing injury or blight; especially affecting with sudden violence or plague or ruin. <i>The cost of their ransom might be <b>ruinous</b>.</i>
<b>sick</b>	Excellent. <i>He looked pretty <b>sick</b> at that but he eventually agreed.</i>
<b>sickly</b>	Unhealthy looking. <i>She was a thin <b>sickly</b> child.</i>
<b>unacceptable</b>	Not adequate to give satisfaction. <i>A word <b>unacceptable</b> in polite society.</i>
<b>unfavourable</b>	(of winds or weather) tending to hinder or oppose. <i>Single mothers are often the target of <b>unfavourable</b> press attention.</i>
<b>unfortunate</b>	Not favored by fortune; marked or accompanied by or resulting in ill fortune. <i>An <b>unfortunate</b> decision.</i>
<b>unlucky</b>	Having or bringing misfortune. <i>Friday the 13th is an <b>unlucky</b> date.</i>
<b>unpromising</b>	Not giving hope of future success or good results. <i>The boy's natural intellect had survived in <b>unpromising</b> circumstances.</i>
<b>unpropitious</b>	(of a circumstance) not giving or indicating a good chance of success; unfavourable. <i>His reports were submitted at a financially <b>unpropitious</b> time.</i>
<b>unsatisfactory</b>	Not giving satisfaction. <i>Shops should take back <b>unsatisfactory</b> goods.</i>
<b>unskilful</b>	Not having or showing skill. <i>Though kind and willing she was <b>unskilful</b>.</i>
<b>unwell</b>	Somewhat ill or prone to illness. <i>Is <b>unwell</b> and can't come to work.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Ill" as an adjective

- *I have had a run of ill luck.*
- *Of ill repute.*
- *Ill judgement dogs the unsuccessful.*
- *He was taken ill with food poisoning.*
- *A terminally ill patient.*
- *Ill from the monotony of his suffering.*
- *Ill predictions.*
- *Even the seriously ill cannot get tests done immediately.*
- *A bird of ill omen.*
- *She had a cup of the same wine and suffered no ill effects.*
- *Ill feelings.*
- *It's an ill wind that blows no good.*
- *You certainly did me an ill turn.*
- *Ill effects.*

- *Ill omens.*
- *Ill manners.*
- *Ill will.*



## Ill as an Adverb

### Definitions of "Ill" as an adverb

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), "ill" as an adverb can have the following definitions:

- (*'ill' is often used as a combining form*) *in a poor or improper or unsatisfactory manner; not well.*
- *With difficulty or inconvenience; scarcely or hardly.*
- *Badly, wrongly, or imperfectly.*
- *In a poor or improper or unsatisfactory manner; not well.*



- Unfavourably or inauspiciously.
- Unfavorably or with disapproval.
- Only with difficulty; hardly.



## Synonyms of "Ill" as an adverb (17 Words)

- adversely** In a way that prevents success or development; harmfully or unfavourably.  
*His self confidence was **adversely** affected for years to come.*
- badly** With great intensity bad is a nonstandard variant for badly.  
*The venture turned out **badly** for the investors.*
- barely** Openly; explicitly.  
*They had **barely** sat down before forty policemen swarmed in.*
- hardly** Harshly.  
*I **hardly** think so.*
- imperfectly** In a flawed or incomplete way.  
*The disease was **imperfectly** understood at the time.*



<b>inadequately</b>	In a way that lacks the quality or quantity required; unsatisfactorily. <i>A hastily trained <b>inadequately</b> equipped army.</i>
<b>inauspiciously</b>	In an inauspicious manner. <i>He started his new job <b>inauspiciously</b> on Friday the 13th.</i>
<b>insufficiently</b>	To an inadequate degree; not enough. <i>We were <b>insufficiently</b> attentive.</i>
<b>just</b>	Very recently; in the immediate past. <i>Simon really messed things up Didn t he <b>just</b>.</i>
<b>just possibly</b>	Indicating exactness or preciseness.
<b>narrowly</b>	Closely or carefully. <i>He was looking at her <b>narrowly</b>.</i>
<b>only just</b>	Never except when.
<b>poorly</b>	In a way that is unsatisfactory or inadequate. <i>He lived as <b>poorly</b> as his peasant parishioners.</i>
<b>scarcely</b>	Almost not. <i>They could <b>scarcely</b> all be wrong.</i>
<b>unfavourably</b>	Showing disapproval; in a disparaging way. <i>Her mother s actions always reflected <b>unfavourably</b> upon her.</i>
<b>unhappily</b>	Unfortunately. <i><b>Unhappily</b> such days do not come too often.</i>
<b>unsuccessfully</b>	In a way that fails to accomplish a desired aim or result. <i>He <b>unsuccessfully</b> opposed the sanctions policy.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Ill" as an adverb

- *He was ill prepared.*
- *Tried not to speak ill of the dead.*
- *A look on her face which boded ill for anyone who crossed her path.*
- *It ill befits a man to betray old friends.*
- *Ill-fitting clothes.*
- *The street is dominated by ill-lit shops.*
- *It ill becomes one so beautiful to be gloomy.*
- *An ill-conceived plan.*
- *She could ill afford the cost of new curtains.*





## Associations of "Ill" (30 Words)

### ailment

An illness, typically a minor one.

*The doctor diagnosed a common stomach **ailment**.*

### catching

The act of detecting something catching sight of something.

*Her enthusiasm is **catching**.*

### communicable

Capable of being transmitted by infection.

*The fight against **communicable** disease.*

### **contagious**

(of disease) capable of being transmitted by infection.

*A **contagious** disease.*

### **disabled**

Relating to or specifically designed for people with a physical or mental disability.

***Disabled** access is available at all venues.*

<b>disease</b>	A particular quality or disposition regarded as adversely affecting a person or group of people. <i>We are suffering from the British <b>disease</b> of self deprecation.</i>
<b>disturbed</b>	Affected with madness or insanity. <i>The <b>disturbed</b> books and papers on her desk.</i>
<u>dizzy</u>	Make dizzy or giddy. <i>A <b>dizzy</b> blonde.</i>
<u>epidemic</u>	Of the nature of an epidemic. <i>A flu <b>epidemic</b>.</i>
<b>epilepsy</b>	A disorder of the central nervous system characterized by loss of consciousness and convulsions.
<b>flu</b>	Influenza. <i>She was in bed with <b>flu</b>.</i>
<b>headache</b>	A thing or person that causes worry or difficulty; a problem. <i>I ve got a splitting <b>headache</b>.</i>
<b>hospital</b>	A hospice, especially one run by the Knights Hospitaller. <i>Christ's <b>Hospital</b>.</i>
<u>illness</u>	Impairment of normal physiological function affecting part or all of an organism. <i>I ve never missed a day s work through <b>illness</b>.</i>
<u>infect</u>	Affect in a contagious way. <i>Society was <b>infected</b> by racism.</i>
<b>infection</b>	(international law) illegality that taints or contaminates a ship or cargo rendering it liable to seizure. <i>The <b>infection</b> of his enthusiasm for poetry.</i>
<b>infectious</b>	Of or relating to infection. <i>A loud <b>infectious</b> laugh.</i>
<b>migraine</b>	A severe recurring vascular headache; occurs more frequently in women than men. <i>I m getting a <b>migraine</b>.</i>
<u>neurotic</u>	A neurotic person. <i>I wasn t going to be labelled as a hypochondriac or <b>neurotic</b>.</i>
<b>pandemic</b>	An outbreak of a pandemic disease. <i><b>Pandemic</b> diseases have occurred throughout history.</i>
<b>patient</b>	Enduring trying circumstances with even temper or characterized by such endurance. <i>Was <b>patient</b> with the children.</i>

<b>plague</b>	A contagious bacterial disease characterized by fever and delirium typically with the formation of buboes bubonic plague and sometimes infection of the lungs pneumonic plague. <i>Staff theft is usually the <b>plague</b> of restaurants.</i>
<b>sars</b>	A respiratory disease of unknown etiology that apparently originated in mainland China in 2003; characterized by fever and coughing or difficulty breathing or hypoxia; can be fatal.
<b>schizophrenia</b>	A long-term mental disorder of a type involving a breakdown in the relation between thought, emotion, and behaviour, leading to faulty perception, inappropriate actions and feelings, withdrawal from reality and personal relationships into fantasy and delusion, and a sense of mental fragmentation. <i>Gibraltar s <b>schizophrenia</b> continues to be fed by colonial pride.</i>
<b>septic</b>	A drainage system incorporating a septic tank. <i>A <b>septic</b> environment.</i>
<b>sick</b>	People who are sick. <i>He was passing blood and <b>sicking</b> it up.</i>
<b>smallpox</b>	A highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever and weakness and skin eruption with pustules that form scabs that slough off leaving scars.
<b>transmissible</b>	Occurring among members of a family usually by heredity. <i>The virus mutated into a form that was <b>transmissible</b> between humans.</i>
<b>transmission</b>	A programme or signal that is broadcast or sent out. <i>A three speed automatic <b>transmission</b>.</i>
<b>unbalanced</b>	Affected with madness or insanity. <i>She considered him to be mentally <b>unbalanced</b> and dangerous.</i>



