

Need another word that means the same as “inadequate”? Find 34 synonyms and 30 related words for “inadequate” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Inadequate” are: jejune, poor, short, unequal, insufficient, not enough, deficient, scant, scanty, scarce, sparse, in short supply, incompetent, incapable, unsatisfactory, not good enough, no good, found wanting, not up to scratch, lacking, unfit, ineffective, ineffectual, inefficient, unskilful, inexpert, inept, unproficient, amateurish, substandard, bad, hopeless, useless, inferior**

## Inadequate as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Inadequate" as an adjective

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

- *Not sufficient to meet a need.*
- *Lacking the requisite qualities or resources to meet a task.*
- *Lacking the quality or quantity required; insufficient for a purpose.*
- *(of a person) unable to deal with a situation or with life.*
- *Of insufficient quantity to meet a need.*



## Synonyms of "Inadequate" as an adjective (34 Words)

<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> air.</i>
<b>deficient</b>	Not having enough of a specified quality or ingredient. <i>A <b>deficient</b> education.</i>
<b>found wanting</b>	Come upon unexpectedly or after searching.
<b>hopeless</b>	Very bad or incompetent. <i>Jess looked at him in mute <b>hopeless</b> appeal.</i>
<b>in short supply</b>	Directed or bound inward.
<b>incapable</b>	Lacking capacity or ability. <i>With the battery removed the car was <b>incapable</b> of being driven.</i>
<b>incompetent</b>	Not qualified or suited for a purpose. <i><b>Incompetent</b> at chess.</i>
<b>ineffective</b>	Lacking the ability or skill to perform effectively; inadequate. <i>The legal sanctions against oil spills are virtually <b>ineffective</b>.</i>
<b>ineffectual</b>	Not producing any significant or desired effect. <i>She was neglectful and <b>ineffectual</b> as a parent.</i>
<b>inefficient</b>	Not achieving maximum productivity; wasting or failing to make the best use of time or resources. <i><b>Inefficient</b> transport systems.</i>
<b>inept</b>	Revealing lack of perceptiveness or judgment or finesse. <i>An <b>inept</b> remark.</i>

<b>inexpert</b>	Lacking professional skill or expertise. <i>An <b>inexpert</b> transcription from the real music.</i>
<b><u>inferior</u></b>	Of low or inferior quality. <i><b>Inferior</b> alveolar artery.</i>
<b><u>insufficient</u></b>	Of a quantity not able to fulfill a need or requirement. <i>There was <b>insufficient</b> evidence to convict him.</i>
<b>jejune</b>	Lacking interest or significance or impact. <i><b>Jejune</b> responses to our problems.</i>
<b>lacking</b>	Deficient or inadequate. <i>The students are not <b>lacking</b> in intellectual ability.</i>
<b>no good</b>	Quantifier; used with either mass nouns or plural count nouns for indicating a complete or almost complete lack or zero quantity of.
<b>not enough</b>	Sufficient for the purpose.
<b>not good enough</b>	Resulting favorably.
<b>not up to scratch</b>	Extending or moving toward a higher place.
<b>poor</b>	(of a person) deserving of pity or sympathy. <i>Oh you <b>poor</b> thing.</i>
<b>scant</b>	Barely sufficient or adequate. <i>She weighed a <b>scant</b> two pounds.</i>
<b>scanty</b>	Lacking in magnitude or quantity. <i>They paid whatever they could out of their <b>scanty</b> wages to their families.</i>
<b><u>scarce</u></b>	Occurring in small numbers or quantities; rare. <i>The freshwater shrimp becomes <b>scarce</b> in soft water.</i>
<b>short</b>	Of a vowel categorized as short with regard to quality and length e g in standard British English the vowel in good is short as distinct from the long vowel u in food. <i>On <b>short</b> rations.</i>
<b><u>sparse</u></b>	Scanty; in short supply. <i>Trees were <b>sparse</b>.</i>
<b>substandard</b>	Falling short of some prescribed norm. <i><b>Substandard</b> spellings.</i>
<b>unequal</b>	Lacking the ability or resources to cope with. <i>She felt <b>unequal</b> to the task before her.</i>
<b><u>unfit</u></b>	(of a person) not having the requisite qualities or skills to undertake something competently. <i>Drunk and <b>unfit</b> for service.</i>

<b>unproficient</b>	Unskilful, inexpert.
<b><u>unsatisfactory</u></b>	Not satisfactory; not good enough. <i>Years of living in <b>unsatisfactory</b> rented accommodation.</i>
<b>unskilful</b>	Not having or showing skill. <i>Though kind and willing she was <b>unskilful</b>.</i>
<b><u>useless</u></b>	Not fulfilling or not expected to achieve the intended purpose or desired outcome. <i>A piece of <b>useless</b> knowledge.</i>

## Usage Examples of "Inadequate" as an adjective

- *A sad, solitary, inadequate man.*
- *The staff was inadequate.*
- *Inadequate training.*
- *I felt like a fraud, inadequate to the task.*
- *These labels prove to be wholly inadequate.*
- *Inadequate funding.*
- *An inadequate income.*

## Associations of "Inadequate" (30 Words)

<b><u>cramped</u></b>	Uncomfortably small or restricted. <i>There is no way a computer will be able to decipher my <b>cramped</b> handwriting.</i>
<b><u>deficient</u></b>	Insufficient or inadequate. <i>A <b>deficient</b> education.</i>
<b>discontented</b>	Dissatisfied, especially with one's circumstances. <i>I am so <b>discontented</b> with my work.</i>
<b><u>disgruntled</u></b>	In a state of sulky dissatisfaction. <i>Judges receive letters from <b>disgruntled</b> members of the public.</i>
<b><u>dissatisfied</u></b>	Not content or happy with something. <i><b>Dissatisfied</b> customers.</i>
<b>incompleteness</b>	The state of being crude and incomplete and imperfect. <i>The study was criticized for <b>incompleteness</b> of data but it stimulated further research.</i>
<b><u>indigent</u></b>	Poor; needy. <i>A charity for the relief of <b>indigent</b> artists.</i>

<b><u>inferior</u></b>	Of low or inferior quality. <i>Ulcers located in the <b>inferior</b> and posterior wall of the duodenum.</i>
<b>insufferable</b>	Used of persons or their behavior. <i>The <b>insufferable</b> heat of August in a New York apartment with no air conditioning.</i>
<b><u>insufficient</u></b>	Of a quantity not able to fulfill a need or requirement. <i><b>Insufficient</b> funds.</i>
<b>intolerable</b>	Unable to be endured. <i>The <b>intolerable</b> pressures of his work.</i>
<b>lacking</b>	Inadequate in amount or degree. <i>There was something <b>lacking</b> in our marriage.</i>
<b><u>meager</u></b>	Deficient in amount or quality or extent. <i><b>Meager</b> resources.</i>
<b>measly</b>	Contemptibly small in amount. <i>A <b>measly</b> tip.</i>
<b>scant</b>	Provide grudgingly or in insufficient amounts. <i>Companies with <b>scant</b> regard for the safety of future generations.</i>
<b>scanty</b>	Lacking in magnitude or quantity. <i>Her dress was <b>scanty</b> and revealing.</i>
<b><u>scarce</u></b>	Scarcely. <i>They <b>scarcely</b> ever used the emergency generator.</i>
<b>substandard</b>	Falling short of some prescribed norm. <i><b>Substandard</b> spellings.</i>
<b>unacceptable</b>	Not acceptable; not welcome. <i>A word <b>unacceptable</b> in polite society.</i>
<b><u>unbearable</u></b>	Not able to be endured or tolerated. <i>The heat was getting <b>unbearable</b>.</i>
<b>undermanned</b>	Inadequate in number of workers or assistants etc.
<b>undersized</b>	Smaller than normal for its kind. <i>The <b>undersized</b> cubs may not survive the winter.</i>
<b>unendurable</b>	Not able to be tolerated or endured. <i>Cries of <b>unendurable</b> suffering.</i>
<b>unequal</b>	A person or thing regarded as unequal to another in status or level. <i>She was <b>unequal</b> to the task.</i>
<b>unimaginable</b>	Difficult or impossible to imagine or comprehend. <i>Lives of almost <b>unimaginable</b> deprivation.</i>

<b><u>unpalatable</u></b>	Not pleasant to taste. <i><b>Unpalatable</b> behavior.</i>
<b><u>unsatisfactory</u></b>	Not giving satisfaction. <i>Years of living in <b>unsatisfactory</b> rented accommodation.</i>
<b><u>unsavory</u></b>	Morally offensive. <i>An <b>unsavory</b> scandal.</i>
<b><u>unthinkable</u></b>	(of a situation or event) too unlikely or undesirable to be considered a possibility. <i>It was <b>unthinkable</b> that John could be dead.</i>
<b>wanting</b>	Not existing; absent. <i>They weren't <b>wanting</b> in confidence.</i>