

Need another word that means the same as “insidious”? Find 20 synonyms and 30 related words for “insidious” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Insidious” are: pernicious, subtle, stealthy, surreptitious, sneaking, cunning, crafty, machiavellian, artful, guileful, sly, wily, tricky, slick, deceitful, deceptive, dishonest, underhand, backhanded, indirect

Insidious as an Adjective

Definitions of "Insidious" as an adjective

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

- *Proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with very harmful effects.*
- *Working or spreading in a hidden and usually injurious way.*
- *Intended to entrap.*
- *Beguiling but harmful.*



Synonyms of "Insidious" as an adjective (20 Words)

artful	Clever or skilful, especially in a crafty or cunning way. <i>An artful choice of metaphors.</i>
backhanded	Made with the back of the hand facing in the direction of movement. <i>Coming from me teasing is a backhanded compliment.</i>
crafty	Marked by skill in deception. <i>A crafty crook faked an injury to escape from prison.</i>
<u>cunning</u>	Attractive especially by means of smallness or prettiness or quaintness. <i>Cunning kittens.</i>
deceitful	Intended to deceive. <i>A deceitful politician.</i>

<u>deceptive</u>	Designed to deceive or mislead either deliberately or inadvertently. <i>The deceptive calm in the eye of the storm.</i>
dishonest	Deceptive or fraudulent; disposed to cheat or defraud or deceive. <i>Dishonest politicians.</i>
guileful	Having or showing sly or cunning intelligence. <i>A supremely guileful and deceptive politician.</i>
<u>indirect</u>	Not as a direct effect or consequence. <i>Known as a shady indirect fellow.</i>
machiavellian	Of or relating to Machiavelli or the principles of conduct he recommended.
<u>pernicious</u>	Exceedingly harmful. <i>The pernicious influences of the mass media.</i>
<u>slick</u>	Made slick by e.g. ice or grease. <i>A slick commercial.</i>
<u>sly</u>	Marked by skill in deception. <i>A sly sip of water.</i>
sneaking	Not openly expressed. <i>A sneaking suspicion.</i>
<u>stealthy</u>	Behaving or done in a cautious and surreptitious manner, so as not to be seen or heard. <i>Stealthy footsteps.</i>
<u>subtle</u>	Crafty; cunning. <i>The subtle fiend dissembled.</i>
surreptitious	Marked by quiet and caution and secrecy; taking pains to avoid being observed. <i>A surreptitious glance at his watch.</i>
<u>tricky</u>	(of a task, problem, etc.) requiring care and skill because difficult or awkward. <i>Applying eyeliner can be a tricky business.</i>
underhand	Acting or done in a secret or dishonest way. <i>Underhand dealings.</i>
wily	Skilled at gaining an advantage, especially deceitfully. <i>His wily opponents.</i>



Usage Examples of "Insidious" as an adjective

- *Insidious pleasures.*
- *Sexual harassment is a serious and insidious problem.*
- *Glaucoma is an insidious disease.*



Associations of "Insidious" (30 Words)

[ambush](#)

Hunt quarry by stalking and ambushing.
*Seven members of a patrol were killed in an **ambush**.*

colonist

A person who settles in a new colony or moves into new country.

[confiscate](#)

Surrendered as a penalty.
*The guards **confiscated** his camera.*

[creep](#)

Move slowly; in the case of people or animals with the body near the ground.
*The fog was **creeping** up from the marsh.*

[deprive](#)

Prevent (a person or place) from having or using something.
*The city was **deprived** of its water supplies.*

despoil

Steal goods; take as spoils.
*The church was **despoiled** of its marble wall covering.*

encroachment	Any entry into an area not previously occupied. <i>Urban encroachment of habitat.</i>
furtive	Suggestive of guilty nervousness. <i>A furtive manner.</i>
incursion	The mistake of incurring liability or blame. <i>The incursion of television into the American living room.</i>
intrusion	A body of igneous rock which has intruded the surrounding strata. <i>Villagers say the noise is an intrusion on their lives.</i>
invasion	An unwelcome intrusion into another's domain. <i>In 1546 England had to be defended from invasion.</i>
kingship	The state or position of being a king. <i>Upon his succession to the kingship David retained his English estates.</i>
loot	Steal (goods) in a war, riot, etc. <i>Ten thousand quid is a lot of loot.</i>
lurk	A profitable stratagem; a dodge or scheme. <i>A ruthless killer still lurked in the darkness.</i>
piracy	A practice similar to piracy but in other contexts especially hijacking. <i>Air piracy.</i>
pretend	Represent fictitiously as in a play or pretend to be or act like. <i>I cannot pretend to say that you are wrong.</i>
puritan	A member of a group of English Protestants of the late 16th and 17th centuries who regarded the Reformation of the Church under Elizabeth I as incomplete and sought to simplify and regulate forms of worship. <i>Don't be such a puritan.</i>
purloin	Make off with belongings of others. <i>He must have managed to purloin a copy of the key.</i>
raid	Conduct a raid on. <i>An early morning raid on a bank.</i>
rapine	The violent seizure of someone's property. <i>Industrial rapine.</i>
shy	Short. <i>The shares are 29p shy of their flotation price.</i>
sneak	Someone who prowls or sneaks about usually with unlawful intentions. <i>Sneak a cigarette.</i>
steal	Steal a base. <i>At 59.95 it's an absolute steal.</i>

<u>stealthy</u>	Behaving or done in a cautious and surreptitious manner, so as not to be seen or heard. <i>Stealthy footsteps.</i>
<u>subtle</u>	Arranged in an ingenious and elaborate way. <i>A subtle difference.</i>
trespass	Entry to a person's land or property without permission. <i>A man who had trespassed against Judaic law.</i>
unsafe	Not safe; dangerous. <i>Drinking water in some areas may be unsafe.</i>
usurpation	Wrongfully seizing and holding (an office or powers) by force (especially the seizure of a throne or supreme authority). <i>A succession of generals who ruled by usurpation.</i>
waylay	Stop or interrupt (someone) and detain them in conversation or trouble them in some other way. <i>He waylaid me on the stairs.</i>