

Need another word that means the same as “misuse”? Find 33 synonyms and 30 related words for “misuse” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Misuse” are: misapply, abuse, pervert, put to wrong use, misemploy, embezzle, use fraudulently, ill-treat, maltreat, mistreat, ill-use, treat badly, handle roughly, treat roughly, knock about, knock around, hit, beat, strike, mishandle, manhandle, maul, molest, injure, harm, hurt, bully, persecute, wrong use, embezzlement, fraud, misapplication

Misuse as a Noun

Definitions of "Misuse" as a noun

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

- *Improper or excessive use.*
- *The wrong or improper use of something.*

Synonyms of "Misuse" as a noun (5 Words)

abuse A rude expression intended to offend or hurt.
*Human rights **abuses**.*

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| embezzlement | Theft or misappropriation of funds placed in one's trust or belonging to one's employer. <i>Charges of fraud and embezzlement.</i> |
| fraud | Something intended to deceive; deliberate trickery intended to gain an advantage. <i>He was convicted of fraud.</i> |
| misapplication | The fraudulent appropriation of funds or property entrusted to your care but actually owned by someone else. |
| wrong use | That which is contrary to the principles of justice or law. |

Usage Examples of "Misuse" as a noun

- *A misuse of power.*
- *Drugs of such potency that their misuse can have dire consequences.*

Misuse as a Verb

Definitions of "Misuse" as a verb

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

- *Use (something) in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose.*
- *Apply to a wrong thing or person; apply badly or incorrectly.*
- *Treat (someone or something) badly or unfairly.*
- *Change the inherent purpose or function of something.*

Synonyms of "Misuse" as a verb (28 Words)

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| abuse | Change the inherent purpose or function of something. <i>The actress abused the policeman who gave her a parking ticket.</i> |
| beat | Give a beating to subject to a beating either as a punishment or as an act of aggression. <i>Agassi beat Becker in the tennis championship.</i> |
| bully | Seek to harm, intimidate, or coerce (someone perceived as vulnerable). <i>Her 11- year-old son has been constantly bullied at school.</i> |

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| embezzle | Appropriate (as property entrusted to one's care) fraudulently to one's own use. <i>She had embezzled 5 600 000 in company funds.</i> |
| handle roughly | Touch, lift, or hold with the hands. |
| <u>harm</u> | Cause or do harm to. <i>The villains didn't harm him.</i> |
| hit | Hit against come into sudden contact with. <i>A car hit the barrier.</i> |
| hurt | Hurt the feelings of. <i>Were you hurting after the accident.</i> |
| ill-treat | Treat badly. |
| ill-use | Treat badly. |
| injure | Harm or impair (something). <i>The explosion injured several people.</i> |
| knock about | Find fault with; express criticism of; point out real or perceived flaws. |
| knock around | Sound like a car engine that is firing too early. |
| maltreat | Treat (a person or animal) cruelly or with violence. <i>Children die from neglect or are maltreated by their carers.</i> |
| manhandle | Move (a heavy object) by hand with great effort. <i>Men used to manhandle the piano down the stairs.</i> |
| maul | Split wood with a maul and wedges. <i>A man was mauled by a lion at London Zoo.</i> |
| misapply | Use (something) for the wrong purpose or in the wrong way. <i>You are misapplying the name of this religious group.</i> |
| misemploy | Employ or use (something) wrongly or improperly. <i>You misemploy the term celibate.</i> |
| mishandle | Manipulate roughly or carelessly. <i>The equipment could be dangerous if mishandled.</i> |
| <u>mistreat</u> | Treat badly. <i>A dog which has been mistreated will remain very wary of strangers.</i> |
| persecute | Cause to suffer. <i>Hilda was persecuted by some of the other girls.</i> |
| <u>pervert</u> | Lead (someone) away from what is considered natural or acceptable. <i>Hector is a man who is simply perverted by his time.</i> |
| put to wrong use | Estimate. |

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| strike | Undertake strike action against an employer. Strike a balance. |
| treat badly | Provide with choice or abundant food or drink. |
| treat roughly | Subject to a process or treatment, with the aim of readying for some purpose, improving, or remedying a condition. |
| use fraudulently | Habitually do something (use only in the past tense). |

Usage Examples of "Misuse" as a verb

- *He was found guilty of misusing public funds.*
- *The director of the factory misused the funds intended for the health care of his workers.*
- *We felt that we had been deceived and misused.*

Associations of "Misuse" (30 Words)

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| abuse | Treat with cruelty or violence, especially regularly or repeatedly. <i>A black eye and other signs of physical abuse.</i> |
| addictive | (of a substance or activity) causing or likely to cause someone to become addicted. <i>A highly addictive drug.</i> |
| affront | A deliberately offensive act or something producing the effect of deliberate disrespect. <i>He took his son's desertion as a personal affront.</i> |
| alcohol | Drink containing alcohol. <i>Polyvinyl alcohol.</i> |
| arbitrarily | On the basis of random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system. <i>Everyone has the right not to be arbitrarily detained.</i> |
| blob | An indeterminate roundish mass or shape. <i>He made a string of blobs then hit a hundred.</i> |
| contents | A list of divisions (chapters or articles) and the pages on which they start. <i>He emptied the contents of his pockets.</i> |
| deliberately | In a deliberate unhurried manner. <i>The fire was started deliberately.</i> |
| expletive | A word or phrase conveying no independent meaning but added to fill out a sentence or metrical line. <i>He was greeted by a stream of expletives.</i> |

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| gelatinous | Of or like the protein gelatin. <i>A sweet gelatinous drink.</i> |
| gist | The substance or general meaning of a speech or text. <i>It was hard to get the gist of Pedro s talk.</i> |
| inappropriate | Not suitable for a particular occasion etc. <i>It would be inappropriate for me to comment.</i> |
| intoxicant | Causing. <i>Intoxicants and drugs are used by some to escape physical or psychological pain.</i> |
| intoxicate | Have an intoxicating effect on, of a drug. <i>Except for NYC and LA no American city has so intoxicated and infuriated writers.</i> |
| intoxication | Excitement and elation beyond the bounds of sobriety. <i>The intoxication of wealth and power.</i> |
| malapropism | The unintentional misuse of a word by confusion with one that sounds similar. |
| maltreat | Treat badly. <i>Children die from neglect or are maltreated by their carers.</i> |
| matter | (of a wound) secrete or discharge pus. <i>Organic matter.</i> |
| means | Resources; capability. <i>Resolving disputes by peaceful means.</i> |
| misdirect | Direct to the wrong place or in the wrong direction. <i>Voters were misdirected to the wrong polling station.</i> |
| misguide | Give bad advice to. <i>A long survey that can only baffle and misguide the general reader.</i> |
| mislead | Give false or misleading information to. <i>The government misled the public about the road's environmental impact.</i> |
| mistreat | Treat (a person or animal) badly, cruelly, or unfairly. <i>A dog which has been mistreated will remain very wary of strangers.</i> |
| overuse | Excessive use. <i>Overuse of natural resources.</i> |
| perfunctorily | In a set manner without serious attention. <i>He kissed her cheek perfunctorily.</i> |
| pervert | Corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality. <i>He was charged with conspiring to pervert the course of justice.</i> |

- quintessential** Representing the most perfect or typical example of a quality or class.
*He was the **quintessential** tough guy strong silent and self contained.*
- randomly** In a way that involves equal chances for each item.
*The houses were **randomly** scattered.*
- substance** The most important or essential part of something; the real or essential meaning.
***Substance** abuse.*
- thing** An example or type of something.
*The sea is the primal source of all living **things** on earth.*