

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**.*

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

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

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

<b>strike</b>	Undertake strike action against an employer. <i><b>Strike</b> a balance.</i>
<b>treat badly</b>	Provide with choice or abundant food or drink.
<b>treat roughly</b>	Subject to a process or treatment, with the aim of readying for some purpose, improving, or remedying a condition.
<b>use fraudulently</b>	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)

<b>abuse</b>	Treat with cruelty or violence, especially regularly or repeatedly. <i>A black eye and other signs of physical <b>abuse</b>.</i>
<b>addictive</b>	(of a substance or activity) causing or likely to cause someone to become addicted. <i>A highly <b>addictive</b> drug.</i>
<b>affront</b>	A deliberately offensive act or something producing the effect of deliberate disrespect. <i>He took his son's desertion as a personal <b>affront</b>.</i>
<b>alcohol</b>	Drink containing alcohol. <i>Polyvinyl <b>alcohol</b>.</i>
<b>arbitrarily</b>	On the basis of random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system. <i>Everyone has the right not to be <b>arbitrarily</b> detained.</i>
<b>blob</b>	An indeterminate roundish mass or shape. <i>He made a string of <b>blobs</b> then hit a hundred.</i>
<b>contents</b>	A list of divisions (chapters or articles) and the pages on which they start. <i>He emptied the <b>contents</b> of his pockets.</i>
<b>deliberately</b>	In a deliberate unhurried manner. <i>The fire was started <b>deliberately</b>.</i>
<b>expletive</b>	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 <b>expletives</b>.</i>

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