

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

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**The synonyms of “Motive” are: motivation, need, motif, reason, rationale, grounds, cause, basis, occasion, thinking, the whys and wherefores, object, purpose, intention, design, theme, idea, concept, subject, topic, leitmotif, trope, element, motivating, motivative, motor, kinetic, driving, impelling, propelling, propulsive, operative, moving**

## Motive as a Noun

### Definitions of "Motive" as a noun

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

- *A theme that is repeated or elaborated in a piece of music.*
- *A reason for doing something.*
- *The psychological feature that arouses an organism to action toward a desired goal; the reason for the action; that which gives purpose and direction to behavior.*
- *A motif in art, literature, or music.*
- *A design or figure that consists of recurring shapes or colors, as in architecture or decoration.*



## Synonyms of "Motive" as a noun (23 Words)

### basis

The system or principles according to which an activity or process is carried on.

*She needed coaching on a regular **basis**.*

### cause

Reasonable grounds for doing, thinking, or feeling something.

*They are trying to determine the **cause** of the crash.*

### concept

An idea or mental image which corresponds to some distinct entity or class of entities, or to its essential features, or determines the application of a term (especially a predicate), and thus plays a part in the use of reason or language.

*A **concept** car for next month s Geneva motor show.*

### design

An arrangement scheme.

*Good **design** can help the reader understand complicated information.*

### element

Each of more than one hundred substances that cannot be chemically interconverted or broken down into simpler substances and are primary constituents of matter Each element is distinguished by its atomic number i e the number of protons in the nuclei of its atoms.

*A component or constituent **element** of a system.*

<b>grounds</b>	A justification for something existing or happening. <i>It is a Middle Eastern custom to read your future in your coffee <b>grounds</b>.</i>
<b>idea</b>	An approximate calculation of quantity or degree or worth. <i>It s a good <b>idea</b> to do some research before you go.</i>
<b><u>intention</u></b>	An act of intending; a volition that you intend to carry out. <i>Good <b>intentions</b> are not enough.</i>
<b>leitmotif</b>	A melodic phrase that accompanies the reappearance of a person or situation (as in Wagner's operas). <i>There are two <b>leitmotifs</b> in his score marking the heroine and her Fairy Godmother.</i>
<b><u>motif</u></b>	A leitmotif or figure. <i>Floral or other <b>motifs</b> are then appliqu d to net veils.</i>
<b>motivation</b>	Desire or willingness to do something; enthusiasm. <i>His <b>motivation</b> was at a high level.</i>
<b>need</b>	A condition requiring relief. <i>She satisfied his <b>need</b> for affection.</i>
<b>object</b>	(computing) a discrete item that provides a description of virtually anything known to a computer. <i>The Institute was opened with the <b>object</b> of promoting scientific study.</i>
<b>occasion</b>	A vaguely specified social event. <i>There was no <b>occasion</b> for complaint.</i>
<b>purpose</b>	The quality of being determined to do or achieve something firmness of purpose. <i>There was a new sense of <b>purpose</b> in her step as she set off.</i>
<b>rationale</b>	An explanation of the fundamental reasons (especially an explanation of the working of some device in terms of laws of nature). <i>The <b>rationale</b> for capital punishment.</i>
<b>reason</b>	One's sanity. <i>The <b>reason</b> that war was declared.</i>
<b><u>subject</u></b>	A person who is subjected to experimental or other observational procedures someone who is an object of investigation. <i>He s the <b>subject</b> of a major new biography.</i>
<b>the whys and wherefores</b>	The cause or intention underlying an action or situation especially in the phrase the whys and wherefores.
<b>theme</b>	Any of the twenty-nine provinces in the Byzantine empire. <i>His letters were always on the <b>theme</b> of love.</i>

**thinking**

A person's ideas or opinions.  
*I am wrapped in dismal **thinkings**.*

**topic**

The subject matter of a conversation or discussion.  
*Sleep deprivation became a frequent **topic** of conversation.*

**trope**

A significant or recurrent theme; a motif.  
*Both clothes and illness became **tropes** for new attitudes toward the self.*



**Usage Examples of "Motive" as a noun**

- *Police were unable to establish a motive for his murder.*
- *He acted with the best of motives.*



## Motive as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Motive" as an adjective

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

- *Impelling to action- Arthur Pap.*
- *Causing or able to cause motion.*
- *Impelling to action.*
- *Causing or being the reason for something.*
- *Producing physical or mechanical motion.*



## Synonyms of "Motive" as an adjective (10 Words)

- driving** Having the power of driving or impelling.  
*The **driving** force was his innate enthusiasm.*
- impelling** Markedly effective as if by emotional pressure.  
***Impelling** skill as a teller of tales.*
- kinetic** Relating to the motion of material bodies and the forces associated therewith.  
*Modern dance has been called **kinetic** pantomime.*
- motivating** Impelling to action.  
***Motivating** arguments.*
- motivative** Serving to motivate; providing a reason for, or a stimulus to, action or thought.  
*It may well be that ethical language has primarily a **motivative** function.*
- motor** Relating to motor vehicles.  
*The **motor** functions of each hand.*
- moving** Producing strong emotion, especially sadness or sympathy.  
*An unforgettable and **moving** book.*

**operative** Functioning or having effect.  
*Operative dentistry.*

**propelling** Tending to or capable of propelling.

**propulsive** Having the power to propel.  
*The faster a jet plane goes the greater its **propulsive** efficiency.*



## Usage Examples of "Motive" as an adjective

- *The charge of gas is the motive force for every piston stroke.*
- *Motive pleas.*
- *Motive power.*
- *The motive principle of a writer's work.*
- *A motive force.*



## Associations of "Motive" (30 Words)

- allure** Dispose or incline or entice to.  
*Will sponsors really be **allured** by such opportunities.*
- attributable** (of a work or remark) able to be ascribed to a particular author, artist, or speaker.  
*Some 50 liturgical works by or **attributable** to him have survived.*
- auditory** Of or relating to the process of hearing.  
***Auditory** processing.*
- bonus** Anything that tends to arouse.  
*Good weather is an added **bonus** but the real appeal is the landscape.*
- cause** Give rise to cause to happen or occur not always intentionally.  
*They worked in the **cause** of world peace.*
- conditioned** Physically fit.  
*A **conditioned** response.*



<b>excitation</b>	The neural or electrical arousal of an organ or muscle or gland. <i>A state of sexual <b>excitation</b>.</i>
<b>exciting</b>	Causing great enthusiasm and eagerness. <i>An <b>exciting</b> account of her trip.</i>
<b>fraudulent</b>	Unjustifiably claiming or being credited with particular accomplishments or qualities. <i><b>Fraudulent</b> psychics.</i>
<b>impetus</b>	The act of applying force suddenly. <i>The ending of the Cold War gave new <b>impetus</b> to idealism.</i>
<b>incentive</b>	A payment or concession to stimulate greater output or investment. <i>Give farmers an <b>incentive</b> to improve their land.</i>
<b>inducement</b>	A positive motivational influence. <i><b>Inducement</b> of sleep.</i>
<b>inspiration</b>	The act of inhaling; the drawing in of air (or other gases) as in breathing. <i>Then I had an <b>inspiration</b>.</i>
<b>inspiring</b>	Having the effect of inspiring someone. <i>The scenery is not very <b>inspiring</b>.</i>
<b>irritant</b>	Something that causes irritation and annoyance. <i>A powerful skin <b>irritant</b>.</i>
<b>lure</b>	Something used to lure fish or other animals into danger so they can be trapped or killed. <i>The <b>lure</b> of the exotic East.</i>
<b>motivate</b>	Provide (someone) with a reason for doing something. <i>It is the teacher's job to <b>motivate</b> the child at school.</i>
<b>motivation</b>	A set of facts and arguments used in support of a proposal. <i>The following proposal and <b>motivation</b> is submitted for consideration.</i>
<b>motivator</b>	A positive motivational influence. <i>She was a great <b>motivator</b> of people and very energetic.</i>
<b>optimism</b>	The belief that good must ultimately prevail over evil in the universe. <i>The talks had been amicable and there were grounds for <b>optimism</b>.</i>
<b>passion</b>	A state or outburst of strong emotion. <i>A man of impetuous <b>passion</b>.</i>
<b>provocation</b>	Unfriendly behavior that causes anger or resentment. <i>Walking with deliberate <b>provocation</b> she struck a pose then giggled.</i>
<b>reason</b>	Decide by reasoning draw or come to a conclusion. <i>There is <b>reason</b> to believe he is lying.</i>

<b>reflex</b>	In reflexology a response in a part of the body to stimulation of a corresponding point on the feet hands or head. <i><b>Reflex</b> points.</i>
<b>stimulate</b>	Act as a stimulant. <i>This herbal infusion doesn't <b>stimulate</b>.</i>
<b>stimulating</b>	Rousing or quickening activity or the senses. <i>A <b>stimulating</b> discussion.</i>
<b>stimulation</b>	The act of arousing an organism to action. <i><b>Stimulation</b> of the vagus nerve slows heart rate.</i>
<b><u>stimulus</u></b>	Any stimulating information or event; acts to arouse action. <i>If the tax were abolished it would act as a <b>stimulus</b> to exports.</i>
<b><u>titillate</u></b>	Lightly touch; tickle. <i>The press are paid to <b>titillate</b> the public.</i>
<b>urge</b>	Push for something. <i>He felt the <b>urge</b> to giggle.</i>

