

Need another word that means the same as “obscure”? Find 85 synonyms and 30 related words for “obscure” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Obscure” are: unnoticeable, unknown, unsung, vague, dark, apart, isolated, hidden, unclear, uncertain, in doubt, doubtful, dubious, mysterious, hazy, indeterminate, concealed, little known, undistinguished, insignificant, unimportant, inconsequential, inconspicuous, unnoticed, nameless, anonymous, minor, humble, lowly, unrenowned, unrecognized, unhonoured, inglorious, forgotten, abstruse, recondite, arcane, esoteric, recherché, occult, indistinct, faint, ill-defined, blurred, blurry, misty, foggy, veiled, cloudy, clouded, nebulous, fuzzy, blot out, hide, obliterate, veil, blur, confuse, obnubilate, bedim, overcloud, becloud, befog, cloud, fog, haze over, mist, conceal, cover, shroud, screen, mask, cloak, cast a shadow over, shadow, envelop, mantle, block, block out, blank out, eclipse, overshadow, complicate, obfuscate, muddy

Obscure as a Verb

Definitions of "Obscure" as a verb

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

- *Make unclear and difficult to understand.*
- *Reduce a vowel to a neutral one, such as a schwa.*
- *Make unclear, indistinct, or blurred.*

- *Make undecipherable or imperceptible by obscuring or concealing.*
- *Make obscure or unclear.*
- *Keep from being known.*
- *Make less visible or unclear.*
- *Keep from being seen; conceal.*



Synonyms of "Obscure" as a verb (33 Words)

becloud	Make obscure or muddled. <i>Confusion beclouds the issue.</i>
bedim	Cause to become dim. <i>A slight cloud would bedim the sky.</i>
befog	Make less visible or unclear. <i>Her brain was befogged with lack of sleep.</i>
blank out	Keep the opposing (baseball) team from winning.

block	Support secure or raise with a block. <i>The narrow roads were blocked by cars.</i>
block out	Stamp or emboss a title or design on a book with a block.
blot out	Dry (ink) with blotting paper.
<u>blur</u>	Make unclear indistinct or blurred. <i>The distinction between the two theories blurred.</i>
cast a shadow over	Form by pouring (e.g., wax or hot metal) into a cast or mold.
<u>cloak</u>	Cover with or as if with a cloak. <i>Cloaked monks.</i>
<u>cloud</u>	Darken the sky with cloud. <i>Their faces were clouded with sadness.</i>
<u>complicate</u>	Make something more complicated. <i>There was a new development that complicated the matter.</i>
<u>conceal</u>	Hold back; keep from being perceived by others. <i>She conceals her anger well.</i>
confuse	Cause to feel embarrassment. <i>The constant attention of the young man confused her.</i>
cover	Provide with a covering or cause to be covered. <i>This should cover everyone in the group.</i>
<u>eclipse</u>	Cause an eclipse of a celestial body by intervention. <i>Jupiter was eclipsed by the Moon.</i>
envelop	Enclose or enfold completely with or as if with a covering. <i>A figure enveloped in a black cloak.</i>
<u>fog</u>	Make (a film, negative, or print) obscure or cloudy. <i>The windscreen was starting to fog up.</i>
haze over	Harass by imposing humiliating or painful tasks, as in military institutions.
hide	Prevent (an emotion or fact) from being apparent or known; keep secret. <i>He used to hide out in a cave.</i>
mantle	Cover like a mantle. <i>A warm pink mounted to the girl's cheeks and mantled her brow.</i>
<u>mask</u>	Cover the face with a mask. <i>Mask the meat.</i>
<u>mist</u>	Become covered with mist. <i>Don't mist furry leaved plants such as African violets.</i>

muddy	Cause to become muddy. <i>The first year's results muddy rather than clarify the situation.</i>
obfuscate	Bewilder (someone). <i>The spelling changes will deform some familiar words and obfuscate their etymological origins.</i>
obliterate	Mark for deletion, rub off, or erase. <i>The special stamp should be placed on the left hand side and not be used to obliterate the postage stamp.</i>
obnubilate	Make less visible or unclear. <i>Their words obnubilate their intentions.</i>
overcloud	Make dark, gloomy, or obscure. <i>The darkness of the beginning overclouds the set.</i>
overshadow	Cast a shadow upon. <i>He was always overshadowed by his brilliant elder brother.</i>
screen	Conceal, protect, or shelter someone or something with a screen or something forming a screen. <i>Screen these samples.</i>
shadow	Cast a shadow over. <i>A hood shadowed her face.</i>
shroud	Wrap or dress a body in a shroud for burial. <i>The mystery which shrouds the origins of the universe.</i>
veil	Cover with a veil. <i>Cold mists veiled the mountain peaks.</i>



Usage Examples of "Obscure" as a verb

- *The distinction was obscured.*
- *The debate has become obscured by conflicting ideological perspectives.*
- *Grey clouds obscure the sun.*
- *None of this should obscure the skill and perseverance of the workers.*
- *The stars are obscured by the clouds.*
- *The big elm tree obscures our view of the valley.*



Obscure as an Adjective

Definitions of "Obscure" as an adjective

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

- *Not discovered or known about; uncertain.*
- *Remote and separate physically or socially- W.H.Hudson.*
- *Not clearly understood or expressed-Anatole Broyard- P.A.So.*
- *Hard to define; vague.*
- *Difficult to find.*
- *Not drawing attention.*
- *Not important or well known.*
- *Not famous or acclaimed.*
- *Marked by difficulty of style or expression.*

- *Not clearly expressed or understood.*
- *Dark or dim.*
- *Not clearly expressed or easily understood.*
- *Remote and separate physically or socially.*



Synonyms of "Obscure" as an adjective (52 Words)

abstruse	Difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge. <i>The professor's lectures were so abstruse that students tended to avoid them.</i>
anonymous	Having no outstanding, individual, or unusual features; unremarkable or impersonal. <i>An anonymous phone call.</i>
apart	Remote and separate physically or socially. <i>Existed over the centuries as a world apart.</i>

<u>arcane</u>	Requiring secret or mysterious knowledge. <i>Arcane procedures for electing people.</i>
blurred	Indistinct or hazy in outline. <i>The blurred distinctions between childhood and adulthood.</i>
<u>blurry</u>	Perceived or remembered indistinctly. <i>Vision may be hazy or blurry for a few days after surgery.</i>
clouded	Made troubled or apprehensive or distressed in appearance. <i>Sometimes one understood clearly and sometimes the meaning was clouded.</i>
<u>cloudy</u>	(of liquids) clouded as with sediment. <i>The pond water is slightly cloudy.</i>
concealed	Hidden on any grounds for any motive. <i>Concealed or hidden damage.</i>
dark	Of a person having dark skin hair or eyes. <i>Dark green.</i>
doubtful	Not known with certainty. <i>Of doubtful legality.</i>
<u>dubious</u>	Morally suspect. <i>He holds the dubious distinction of being relegated with every club he has played for.</i>
esoteric	Confined to and understandable by only an enlightened inner circle. <i>A compilation of esoteric philosophical theories.</i>
<u>faint</u>	(of a sight, smell, or sound) barely perceptible. <i>A faint clue to the origin of the mystery.</i>
<u>foggy</u>	Unable to think clearly; confused. <i>She was foggy with sleep.</i>
forgotten	Not noticed inadvertently. <i>He was scolded for his forgotten chores.</i>
<u>fuzzy</u>	Having a frizzy texture or appearance. <i>Fuzzy fake fur throw pillows.</i>
<u>hazy</u>	Indistinct or hazy in outline. <i>The picture we have of him is extremely hazy.</i>
<u>hidden</u>	Not accessible to view. <i>Hidden dangers.</i>
humble	Marked by meekness or modesty; not arrogant or prideful. <i>She came from a humble unprivileged background.</i>
ill-defined	Poorly stated or described.

in doubt	Holding office.
<u>inconsequential</u>	Lacking worth or importance. <i>They talked about inconsequential things.</i>
<u>inconspicuous</u>	Not clearly visible or attracting attention. <i>An inconspicuous red brick building.</i>
indeterminate	(of a shoot) not having all the axes terminating in a flower bud and so potentially of indefinite length. <i>Of indeterminate age.</i>
indistinct	Not clearly defined or easy to perceive or understand. <i>An indistinct memory.</i>
inglorious	Not bringing honor and glory. <i>Inglorious though the peasants may have been this is not synonymous with mute.</i>
<u>insignificant</u>	Signifying nothing. <i>Insignificant sounds.</i>
isolated	Cut off or left behind. <i>Tiny isolated villages remote from centers of civilization.</i>
little known	Lowercase.
<u>lowly</u>	Of low birth or station (‘base’ is archaic in this sense). <i>A lowly corporal.</i>
<u>minor</u>	Of a premise containing the minor term in a categorical syllogism. <i>A minor poet.</i>
misty	(of a person’s eyes) full of tears so as to blur the vision. <i>The evening was cold and misty.</i>
mysterious	(of a location) having an atmosphere of strangeness or secrecy. <i>In its mysterious past it encompasses all the dim origins of life.</i>
nameless	(of a child) illegitimate. <i>His grandfather had been a nameless parentless child.</i>
nebulous	In the form of a cloud or haze; hazy. <i>Nebulous concepts like quality of life.</i>
<u>occult</u>	Having an import not apparent to the senses nor obvious to the intelligence; beyond ordinary understanding. <i>Occult lore.</i>
recherché	Lavishly elegant and refined.
recondite	Difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge. <i>The book is full of recondite information.</i>

<u>uncertain</u>	Not established or confirmed. <i>She spoke in no uncertain terms.</i>
<u>unclear</u>	Not easy to see, hear, or understand. <i>Users are still unclear about what middleware does.</i>
undistinguished	Not worthy of notice. <i>An undistinguished career.</i>
unhonoured	Not given public praise or respect. <i>His first rate performances were largely unhonoured.</i>
<u>unimportant</u>	Lacking in importance or significance. <i>The question seems unimportant.</i>
unknown	Being or having an unknown or unnamed source. <i>An unknown island.</i>
<u>unnoticeable</u>	Not noticeable; not drawing attention- J.G.Cozzens. <i>Her clothes were simple and unnoticeable.</i>
<u>unnoticed</u>	Not noticed. <i>A deliberate kick that went unnoticed by the referee.</i>
<u>unrecognized</u>	Not having a secure reputation. <i>Their contribution often goes unrecognized.</i>
unrenowned	Not renowned.
unsung	Having value that is not acknowledged. <i>Harvey is one of the unsung heroes of the industrial revolution.</i>
<u>vague</u>	Thinking or communicating in an unfocused or imprecise way. <i>Their descriptions of human behavior become vague dull and unclear.</i>
<u>veiled</u>	Having or as if having a veil or concealing cover. <i>A young girl with a veiled face.</i>



Usage Examples of "Obscure" as an adjective

- *An obscure village.*
- *A relatively obscure actor.*
- *An obscure family.*
- *I feel an obscure resentment.*
- *An obscure turn of phrase.*
- *The obscure light of dawn.*
- *His origins and parentage are obscure.*
- *Those who do not appreciate Kafka's work say his style is obscure.*
- *Obscure references to Proust.*
- *An obscure flaw.*
- *An impulse to go off and fight certain obscure battles of his own spirit.*
- *An obscure retreat.*



Associations of "Obscure" (30 Words)

abstruse	Difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge. <i>The professor's lectures were so abstruse that students tended to avoid them.</i>
blur	Make unclear indistinct or blurred. <i>In front of him the page blurred.</i>
blurred	Unclear in form or expression. <i>The camera caught only two blurred images.</i>
blurry	Unable to perceive clear or sharp images. <i>Vision may be hazy or blurry for a few days after surgery.</i>
concealed	Hidden on any grounds for any motive. <i>A concealed compartment in his briefcase.</i>

convoluted	Highly complex or intricate and occasionally devious. <i>Convoluted legal language.</i>
<u>elusive</u>	Skillful at eluding capture. <i>A cabal of conspirators each more elusive than the archterrorist.</i>
esoteric	Intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with a specialized knowledge or interest. <i>A compilation of esoteric philosophical theories.</i>
<u>faint</u>	A spontaneous loss of consciousness caused by insufficient blood to the brain. <i>Only a faint recollection.</i>
<u>hazy</u>	Indistinct or hazy in outline. <i>School leavers were often hazy about employment.</i>
imprecision	The quality of lacking precision. <i>All scientific measurements come with some degree of imprecision.</i>
<u>inconspicuous</u>	Not prominent or readily noticeable. <i>He pushed the string through an inconspicuous hole.</i>
indefinite	Lasting for an unknown or unstated length of time. <i>Plans are indefinite.</i>
indistinct	Not clearly defined or easy to perceive or understand. <i>His speech was slurred and indistinct.</i>
<u>invisible</u>	Invisible exports and imports. <i>Invisible rays.</i>
nebulous	Lacking definition or definite content. <i>A giant nebulous glow.</i>
nuance	Give nuances to. <i>Without understanding the finer nuances you can't enjoy the humor.</i>
<u>opaque</u>	An opaque thing. <i>Technical jargon that was opaque to her.</i>
<u>puzzling</u>	Not clear to the understanding. <i>A puzzling statement.</i>
recondite	Difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge. <i>Some recondite problem in historiography.</i>
<u>subtle</u>	(of a mixture or effect) delicately complex and understated. <i>A subtle difference.</i>
<u>subtlety</u>	A subtle distinction, feature, or argument. <i>You had to admire the subtlety of the distinctions he drew.</i>

trivia Details, considerations, or pieces of information of little importance or value.

*We fill our days with meaningless **trivia**.*

Having value that is not acknowledged.

unappreciated *She had been brought up in a family where she felt **unappreciated** and undervalued.*

unclear Not easily deciphered.

*The motive for this killing is **unclear**.*

unknown An unknown and unexplored region.

*She is a relative **unknown**.*

unnoticeable Not drawing attention.

*The reverberation will be so slight as to be **unnoticeable**.*

unobtrusive Not obtrusive or undesirably noticeable.

*A quiet **unobtrusive** life of self denial.*

unsung Having value that is not acknowledged.

***Unsung** heroes of the war.*

vague Not clearly understood or expressed-Anatole Broyard- P.A.So.

*He had been very **vague** about his activities.*

