Need another word that means the same as “oppressive”? Find 36 synonyms and 30 related words for “oppressive” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Oppressive” are: tyrannical, tyrannous, harsh, cruel, brutal, repressive, crushing, domineering, autocratic, dictatorial, undemocratic, despotic, draconian, punitive, overwhelming, overpowering, hard to bear, unbearable, burdensome, unendurable, intolerable, heavy, muggy, close, hot, humid, sticky, steamy, soupy, fuggy, airless, stuffy, stifling, suffocating, sultry, torrid

Oppressive as an Adjective

Definitions of "Oppressive" as an adjective

According to the Oxford Dictionary of English, “oppressive” as an adjective can have the following definitions:

- *(of weather) close and sultry.*
- *Weighing heavily on the mind or spirits.*
- *Inflicting harsh and authoritarian treatment.*
- *Weighing heavily on the senses or spirit.*
- *Marked by unjust severity or arbitrary behavior.*

Synonyms of "Oppressive" as an adjective (36 Words)

airless	Without wind or breeze; still. *A dusty **airless** attic.*
autocratic	Relating to a ruler who has absolute power. *The constitutional reforms threatened his **autocratic** power.*
brutal	Harsh. *The **brutal** honesty of his observations.*
burdensome	Difficult to carry out or fulfil; taxing. *The **burdensome** task of preparing the income tax return.*
close	Close in relevance or relationship. *It was very **close** in the dressing room.*

cruel	(of persons or their actions) able or disposed to inflict pain or suffering. ***Cruel*** *tortures.*
crushing	Physically or spiritually devastating; often used in combination. *A* ***crushing*** *blow.*
despotic	Ruled by or characteristic of a despot. *Moved from a feudal to a* ***despotic*** *order.*
dictatorial	Of or characteristic of a dictator. *A* ***dictatorial*** *rule that lasted for the duration of the war.*
domineering	Tending to domineer. *How can I do my job with a* ***domineering*** *boss yelling in my ear.*
draconian	Of or relating to Draco or his harsh code of laws. *The Nazis destroyed the independence of the press by a series of* ***draconian*** *laws.*
fuggy	(of a room or atmosphere) warm, stuffy, or smoky. *A* ***fuggy*** *pub.*
hard to bear	Unfortunate or hard to bear.
harsh	Disagreeable to the senses. *The* ***harsh*** *realities of the world news.*
heavy	Large and powerful especially designed for heavy loads or rough work. *A* ***heavy*** *truck.*
hot	Used of physical heat; having a high or higher than desirable temperature or giving off heat or feeling or causing a sensation of heat or burning. *The dice are* ***hot*** *tonight.*
humid	Marked by a relatively high level of water vapour in the atmosphere. ***Humid*** *weather.*
intolerable	Incapable of being put up with. *The* ***intolerable*** *pressures of his work.*
muggy	Hot or warm and humid. *It was a hot very* ***muggy*** *evening.*
overpowering	So strong as to be irresistible. *A feeling of* ***overpowering*** *sadness.*
overwhelming	(especially of an emotion) very strong. *She felt an* ***overwhelming*** *desire to giggle.*
punitive	Inflicting or intended as punishment. *He called for* ***punitive*** *measures against the Eastern bloc.*

repressive	Inhibiting or preventing the expression or awareness of thoughts or desires. *A **repressive** regime.*
soupy	Effusively or insincerely emotional. ***Soupy** nostalgia.*
steamy	Hot or warm and humid. ***Steamy** towels.*
sticky	Having the sticky properties of an adhesive. *A **sticky** thread is now live on the forum.*
stifling	Making one feel constrained or oppressed. ***Stifling** heat.*
stuffy	Excessively conventional and unimaginative and hence dull. *A **stuffy** overcrowded office.*
suffocating	Causing difficulty in breathing especially through lack of fresh air and presence of heat. *Some marriages can at times feel **suffocating**.*
sultry	Characterized by oppressive heat and humidity. *The **sultry** late summer weather had brought swarms of insects.*
torrid	Extremely hot and dry. *The **torrid** heat of the noonday sun.*
tyrannical	Marked by unjust severity or arbitrary behavior. *A momentary quieting of her **tyrannical** appetite.*
tyrannous	(of a government or ruler) exercising power in a cruel or arbitrary way. *They would welcome liberation from their **tyrannous** oppressor.*
unbearable	Not able to be endured or tolerated. *The heat was getting **unbearable**.*
undemocratic	Not in agreement with or according to democratic doctrine or practice or ideals. *The union broke with its past **undemocratic** procedures.*
unendurable	Incapable of being put up with. *Cries of **unendurable** suffering.*

Usage Examples of "Oppressive" as an adjective

- *The oppressive government.*
- *The offices present an oppressive atmosphere.*
- *The atmosphere was oppressive.*
- *An oppressive dictatorship.*
- *The day was sunless and oppressive.*
- *Oppressive sorrows.*
- *Oppressive laws.*

Associations of "Oppressive" (30 Words)

assertive	Having or showing a confident and forceful personality. *The job may call for **assertive** behaviour.*
authoritarian	An authoritarian person. *He had an **authoritarian** and at times belligerent manner.*
authorities	The organization that is the governing authority of a political unit. *The matter was referred to higher **authorities**.*
autocratic	Taking no account of other people's wishes or opinions; domineering. ***Autocratic** behavior.*
bullying	The act of intimidating a weaker person to make them do something.
cavalier	A royalist supporter of Charles I during the English Civil War. *Anne was irritated by his **cavalier** attitude.*
coercive	Relating to or using force or threats. *Authority is directional instead of **coercive**.*

commanding	(in military contexts) having a position of authority. *A **commanding** view of the ocean.*
despotic	Of or typical of a despot; tyrannical. ***Despotic** rulers.*
despotism	The exercise of absolute power, especially in a cruel and oppressive way. *Some nations are democracies others are **despotism**s.*
dictator	(in ancient Rome) a chief magistrate with absolute power, appointed in an emergency. *My boss is a **dictator** who makes everyone work overtime.*
dictatorial	Of or typical of a ruler with total power. *A **dictatorial** rule that lasted for the duration of the war.*
dictatorship	Absolute authority in any sphere. *The effects of forty years of **dictatorship**.*
dominant	Denoting the predominant species in a plant or animal community. *The **dominant** partner in the marriage.*
domineering	Tending to domineer. *How can I do my job with a **domineering** boss yelling in my ear.*
firm	Marked by firm determination or resolution not shakable. *Stocks are still **firm**.*
forceful	Forceful and definite in expression or action. ***Forceful** measures.*
haughty	Arrogantly superior and disdainful. *A **haughty** British aristocrat.*
imperative	The imperative mood. *As nuclear weapons proliferate preventing war becomes **imperative**.*
imperious	Having or showing arrogant superiority to and disdain of those one views as unworthy. *His **imperious** demands.*
magisterial	Used of a person's appearance or behavior; befitting an eminent person. *He dropped his somewhat **magisterial** style of questioning.*
misrule	The disruption of peace; disorder. *A country that is recovering from decades of **misrule**.*
monocracy	A system of government by one person only.
overbearing	Expecting unquestioning obedience. *Insufferably **overbearing** behavior toward the waiter.*

peremptory	Insisting on immediate attention or obedience, especially in a brusquely imperious way. ***Peremptory*** *commands.*
powerful	Of a person possessing physical strength and weight rugged and powerful. *A* ***powerful*** *bomb.*
regime	A coordinated programme for the promotion or restoration of health a regimen. *A low calorie low fat* ***regime****.*
sovereign	A former British gold coin worth one pound sterling, now only minted for commemorative purposes. *A* ***sovereign*** *state.*
tyrannical	Characteristic of tyranny; oppressive and controlling. *A* ***tyrannical*** *parent.*
vigorous	Characterized by or involving physical strength, effort, or energy. *A* ***vigorous*** *old man who spent half of his day on horseback.*