

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)

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

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

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



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**.*

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

- 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.

