

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)

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

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

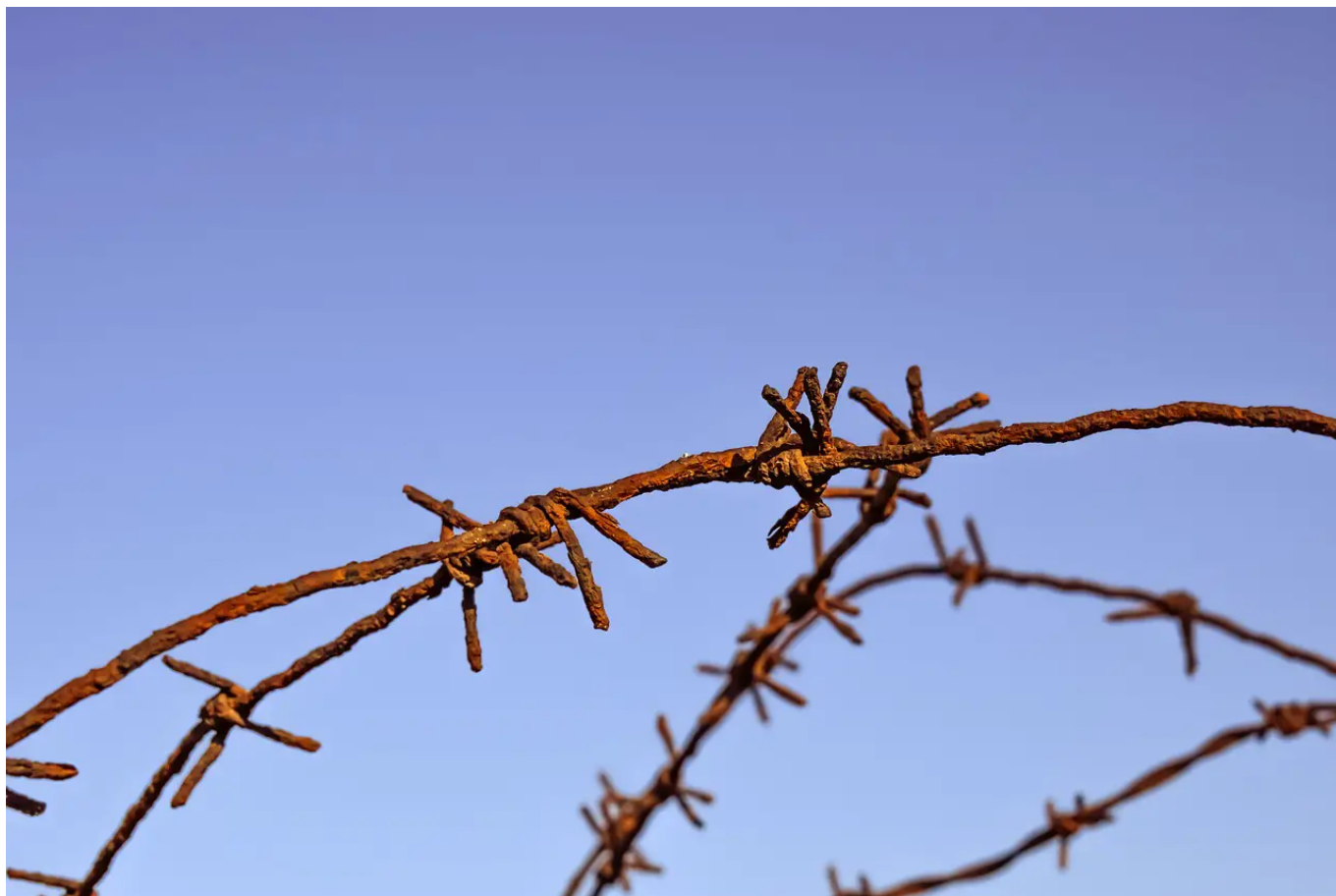
<b>repressive</b>	Inhibiting or preventing the expression or awareness of thoughts or desires. <i>A <b>repressive</b> regime.</i>
<b>soupy</b>	Effusively or insincerely emotional. <i><b>Soupy</b> nostalgia.</i>
<b>steamy</b>	Hot or warm and humid. <i><b>Steamy</b> towels.</i>
<u><b>sticky</b></u>	Having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

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

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

