

Need another word that means the same as “painful”? Find 32 synonyms and 30 related words for “painful” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Painful” are: irritating, afflictive, sore, abominable, atrocious, awful, dreadful, terrible, unspeakable, hurting, hurt, tender, aching, throbbing, smarting, burning, agonizing, excruciating, distressing, unpleasant, nasty, bitter, disquieting, disturbing, upsetting, traumatic, miserable, wretched, sad, heartbreaking, harrowing, mortifying

Painful as an Adjective

Definitions of "Painful" as an adjective

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

- *(of a part of the body) affected with pain.*
- *Causing distress or trouble.*
- *Exceptionally bad or displeasing.*
- *Causing physical pain.*
- *Very bad.*
- *Causing misery or pain or distress.*
- *Causing physical or psychological pain.*
- *Causing physical discomfort.*



Synonyms of "Painful" as an adjective (32 Words)

abominable	Unequivocally detestable. <i>The uprising was suppressed with abominable cruelty.</i>
aching	Causing a dull and steady pain. <i>The cool air was a relief to my aching head.</i>
afflictive	Causing pain or suffering. <i>I was under assault by afflictive emotions anger fear panic.</i>
<u>agonizing</u>	Extremely painful. <i>There is an agonizing choice to make.</i>
<u>atrocious</u>	Exceptionally bad or displeasing. <i>Atrocious weather.</i>
awful	(of a person) very unwell or troubled. <i>I've made an awful fool of myself.</i>
<u>bitter</u>	(of wind or weather) intensely cold. <i>Today's decision has come as a bitter blow.</i>
<u>burning</u>	Very keenly or deeply felt; intense. <i>The burning question of independence.</i>
disquieting	Inducing feelings of anxiety or worry. <i>The disquieting sounds of nearby gunfire.</i>
distressing	Bad; unfortunate. <i>Distressing or disturbing news.</i>

disturbing	Causing distress or worry or anxiety. <i>Distressing or disturbing news.</i>
dreadful	Causing or involving great suffering, fear, or unhappiness; extremely bad or serious. <i>She looked quite dreadful and she was struggling for breath.</i>
excruciating	Extremely painful. <i>Excruciating back pain.</i>
harrowing	Acutely distressing. <i>It was a harrowing experience.</i>
heartbreaking	Causing or marked by grief or anguish. <i>Her sigh was heartbreaking.</i>
hurt	Suffering from physical injury especially that suffered in battle. <i>Ambulances for the hurt men and women.</i>
hurting	Suffering from physical injury especially that suffered in battle.
irritating	Serving to stimulate or excite. <i>The substance may be irritating to eyes and skin.</i>
miserable	Of the most contemptible kind. <i>You miserable skunk.</i>
mortifying	Causing to feel shame or chagrin or vexation. <i>How mortifying to find that he was right.</i>
nasty	Damaging or harmful. <i>Life has a nasty habit of repeating itself.</i>
sad	Of things that make you feel sad. <i>I was sad and subdued.</i>
smarting	Capable of independent and apparently intelligent action. <i>Susan rubbed her smarting eyes.</i>
sore	Roused to anger- Mark Twain. <i>She had a sore throat.</i>
tender	Given to sympathy or gentleness or sentimentality. <i>The pale tender skin of her forearm.</i>
terrible	Causing or likely to cause terror; sinister. <i>A terrible crime.</i>
throbbing	Causing pain in a series of regular beats. <i>A throbbing vein.</i>
traumatic	Psychologically painful. <i>She was going through a traumatic divorce.</i>

<u>unpleasant</u>	(of a person or their manner) unfriendly and inconsiderate; rude. An <i>unpleasant</i> personality.
<u>unspeakable</u>	Not able to be expressed in words. I felt an <i>unspeakable</i> tenderness towards her.
upsetting	Causing an emotional disturbance- Herb Caen. An <i>upsetting</i> experience.
wretched	Deserving or inciting pity- Galsworthy. She disliked the <i>wretched</i> man intensely.



Usage Examples of "Painful" as an adjective

- *The painful process of growing up.*
- *A painful performance.*
- *Their attempts at reggae are painful.*
- *A painful knock.*
- *Bites of black flies are more than irritating; they can be very painful.*
- *A painful experience.*

- *Her ankle was very painful.*
- *Worked with painful slowness.*



Associations of "Painful" (30 Words)

aching	Having an ache in a part of one's body. <i>My aching head.</i>
<u>agonizing</u>	Causing great physical or mental pain. <i>An agonizing death.</i>
biting	Capable of wounding. <i>His biting satire on corruption and power.</i>

bitter	Alcohol flavoured with bitter plant extracts used as an additive in cocktails or as a medicinal substance to promote appetite or digestion. <i>The bitter truth.</i>
bitterly	To an extreme, forceful, or particularly harsh degree. <i>Its humour is cutting and bitterly sarcastic.</i>
callus	Form a callus or calluses. <i>The long march had callused his feet.</i>
distressing	Causing distress or worry or anxiety. <i>Some very distressing news.</i>
doleful	Expressing sorrow; mournful. <i>A doleful look.</i>
dolorous	Feeling or expressing great sorrow or distress. <i>A dolorous and repetitive tale of atrocity.</i>
elegy	(in modern literature) a poem of serious reflection, typically a lament for the dead.
excruciating	Intensely painful. <i>He explained the procedure in excruciating detail.</i>
frustrating	Discouraging by hindering. <i>It can be very frustrating to find that the size you want isn't there.</i>
grievous	Of great gravity or crucial import; requiring serious thought. <i>His death was a grievous blow.</i>
harrowing	Extremely painful. <i>It was a harrowing experience.</i>
irksome	Irritating; annoying. <i>An irksome journey.</i>
lamentable	Full of or expressing sorrow or grief. <i>The lamentable friends trailing their long black garments.</i>
lamentation	A book of the Bible telling of the desolation of Judah after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC. <i>Scenes of lamentation.</i>
mournful	Feeling, expressing, or inducing sadness, regret, or grief. <i>Stared with mournful eyes.</i>
poignant	Keenly distressing to the mind or feelings. <i>Poignant anxiety.</i>
sad	Of things that make you feel sad Christina Rossetti. <i>The show is tongue in cheek anyone who takes it seriously is a bit sad.</i>

sore	An open skin infection. <i>They were sore afraid.</i>
sorrowful	Feeling or showing grief. <i>A sorrowful tale of death and despair.</i>
stressful	Extremely irritating to the nerves. <i>The stressful days before a war.</i>
swollen	Characteristic of false pride; having an exaggerated sense of self-importance. <i>Growing ever more swollen headed and arbitrary.</i>
tedious	So lacking in interest as to cause mental weariness. <i>Tedious days on the train.</i>
torturous	Characterized by, involving, or causing pain or suffering. <i>A torturous five days of fitness training.</i>
traumatic	Relating to or denoting physical injury. <i>Few experiences are more traumatic than losing a child.</i>
trying	Difficult or annoying; hard to endure. <i>It had been a very trying day.</i>
unhappy	Unfortunate. <i>The unhappy or sad news.</i>
worrisome	Not reassuring; tending to cause anxiety. <i>In a particularly worrisome predicament.</i>

