

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)

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

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

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



## 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.  
*My **aching** head.*
- agonizing** Causing great physical or mental pain.  
*An **agonizing** death.*
- biting** Capable of wounding.  
*His **biting** satire on corruption and power.*

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

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

