

Need another word that means the same as “pernicious”? Find 31 synonyms and 30 related words for “pernicious” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Pernicious” are: insidious, subtle, baneful, deadly, pestilent, harmful, damaging, destructive, injurious, hurtful, detrimental, deleterious, dangerous, adverse, inimical, unhealthy, unfavourable, bad, evil, baleful, wicked, malign, malevolent, malignant, noxious, poisonous, cancerous, corrupting, ruinous, lethal, fatal**

## **Pernicious as an Adjective**

### **Definitions of "Pernicious" as an adjective**

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

- *Working or spreading in a hidden and usually injurious way.*
- *Exceedingly harmful.*
- *Having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way.*



## Synonyms of "Pernicious" as an adjective (31 Words)

<b><a href="#">adverse</a></b>	Contrary to your interests or welfare. <i>Taxes are having an <b>adverse</b> effect on production.</i>
<b>bad</b>	Feeling physical discomfort or pain though is occasionally used colloquially for bad. <i>A <b>bad</b> chess player.</i>
<b>baleful</b>	Having a harmful or destructive effect. <i>A <b>baleful</b> look.</i>
<b>baneful</b>	Deadly or sinister. <i>The <b>baneful</b> effects of envy and jealousy.</i>
<b>cancerous</b>	Affected by or showing abnormalities characteristic of cancer. <i>A <b>cancerous</b> growth.</i>
<b>corrupting</b>	Touched by rot or decay. <i>Corrupt judges and their <b>corrupting</b> influence.</i>

<b>damaging</b>	Having a detrimental effect on someone or something. <i><b>Damaging</b> allegations of corruption.</i>
<b>dangerous</b>	Involving or causing danger or risk; liable to hurt or harm. <i>Insecticides which are <b>dangerous</b> to the environment.</i>
<b>deadly</b>	Extremely poisonous or injurious; producing venom. <i>A series of <b>deadly</b> attacks.</i>
<b>deleterious</b>	Causing harm or damage. <i>Divorce is assumed to have <b>deleterious</b> effects on children.</i>
<b><u>destructive</u></b>	Negative and unhelpful. <i>A policy that is <b>destructive</b> to the economy.</i>
<b><u>detrimental</u></b>	(sometimes followed by `to') causing harm or injury. <i>Recent policies have been <b>detrimental</b> to the interests of many old people.</i>
<b>evil</b>	Of a force or spirit embodying or associated with the forces of the devil. <i>An <b>evil</b> influence.</i>
<b><u>fatal</u></b>	Causing death. <i>Such doctrines if true would be absolutely <b>fatal</b> to my theory.</i>
<b><u>harmful</u></b>	Causing or likely to cause harm. <i>Sugars which can be <b>harmful</b> to the teeth.</i>
<b>hurtful</b>	Causing distress to someone's feelings. <i>His <b>hurtful</b> remarks.</i>
<b>inimical</b>	Tending to obstruct or harm. <i>An <b>inimical</b> critic.</i>
<b>injurious</b>	Harmful to living things. <i>Food which is <b>injurious</b> to health.</i>
<b><u>insidious</u></b>	Proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with very harmful effects. <i><b>Insidious</b> pleasures.</i>
<b><u>lethal</u></b>	Very harmful or destructive. <i>The Krakatoa eruption was the most <b>lethal</b> on record.</i>
<b>malevolent</b>	Having or exerting a malignant influence. <i>The glint of dark <b>malevolent</b> eyes.</i>
<b>malign</b>	Of a disease malignant. <i>Prompted by <b>malign</b> motives.</i>
<b>malignant</b>	(of a tumour) tending to invade normal tissue or to recur after removal; cancerous. <i>In the hands of <b>malignant</b> fate.</i>
<b>noxious</b>	Injurious to physical or mental health. <i><b>Noxious</b> chemical wastes.</i>

<b>pestilent</b>	Destructive to life; deadly. <i>A <b>pestilential</b> malignancy in the air.</i>
<b>poisonous</b>	Marked by deep ill will; deliberately harmful. <i><b>Poisonous</b> chemicals.</i>
<b>ruinous</b>	Costing far more than can be afforded. <i>A <b>ruinous</b> effect on the environment.</i>
<b><u>subtle</u></b>	Making use of clever and indirect methods to achieve something. <i><b>Subtle</b> lighting.</i>
<b>unfavourable</b>	Likely to lead to an adverse outcome. <i>Single mothers are often the target of <b>unfavourable</b> press attention.</i>
<b><u>unhealthy</u></b>	Not having or showing good health. <i>An <b>unhealthy</b> climate.</i>
<b>wicked</b>	Extremely unpleasant. <i>A <b>wicked</b> sense of humour.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Pernicious" as an adjective

- *The pernicious influences of the mass media.*



## Associations of "Pernicious" (30 Words)

### **antidote**

A remedy that stops or controls the effects of a poison.  
*There is no known **antidote** to the poison of the pufferfish.*

Having the opposite of the desired effect.

### **counterproductive**

*Child experts fear the Executive's plans may prove **counterproductive**.*

### **damaging**

Causing harm or injury.  
*New cars are less **damaging** to the environment.*

### **deadly**

Exceedingly harmful.  
*Her skin was **deadly** pale.*

<b>deleterious</b>	Harmful to living things. <i><b>Deleterious</b> chemical additives.</i>
<b><u>detrimental</u></b>	Tending to cause harm. <i>Recent policies have been <b>detrimental</b> to the interests of many old people.</i>
<b><u>devastating</u></b>	Physically or spiritually devastating often used in combination. <i>She had a <b>devastating</b> wit.</i>
<b>exotoxin</b>	A toxin that is secreted by microorganisms into the surrounding medium.
<b><u>fatal</u></b>	Having momentous consequences; of decisive importance. <i>Such doctrines if true would be absolutely <b>fatal</b> to my theory.</i>
<b><u>harmful</u></b>	Causing or likely to cause harm. <i><b>Harmful</b> effects of smoking.</i>
<b>injurious</b>	(of language) maliciously insulting; libellous. <i>Food which is <b>injurious</b> to health.</i>
<b><u>lethal</u></b>	(in a sporting context) very accurate or skilful. <i>A <b>lethal</b> injection.</i>
<b>libelous</b>	(used of statements) harmful and often untrue; tending to discredit or malign.
<b>mercury</b>	Temperature measured by a mercury thermometer. <i>The <b>mercury</b> was falling rapidly.</i>
<b>mortal</b>	Causing or liable to cause death; fatal. <i>For three <b>mortal</b> days it rained.</i>
<b>noxious</b>	Injurious to physical or mental health. <i><b>Noxious</b> ideas.</i>
<b>poison</b>	Kill by its poison. <i><b>Poison</b> someone's mind.</i>
<b>poisoning</b>	The act of giving poison to a person or animal with the intent to kill. <i>Symptoms of <b>poisoning</b> may include nausea diarrhoea and vomiting.</i>
<b>poisonous</b>	Extremely unpleasant or malicious. <i><b>Poisonous</b> hate.</i>
<b>pollutant</b>	A substance that pollutes something, especially water or the atmosphere. <i>Chemical <b>pollutants</b>.</i>
<b>prejudicial</b>	Causing harm or injury. <i>The proposals were considered <b>prejudicial</b> to the city centre.</i>

<b>ruinous</b>	Extremely harmful; bringing physical or financial ruin. <i>The cost of their ransom might be <b>ruinous</b>.</i>
<b><u>toxic</u></b>	Denoting securities that are based on toxic debt and for which there is not a healthy or functioning market. <b>Toxic</b> chemicals.
<b><u>toxicity</u></b>	The quality of being very harmful or unpleasant in a pervasive or insidious way. <i>That was how I protected my partner from my family's <b>toxicity</b>.</i>
<b>toxin</b>	A poisonous substance produced during the metabolism and growth of certain microorganisms and some higher plant and animal species.
<b><u>unhealthy</u></b>	Harmful to health. <i>His skin looked pale and <b>unhealthy</b>.</i>
<b>vampire</b>	(folklore) a corpse that rises at night to drink the blood of the living. <i>The protectionist <b>vampires</b> in the Congress.</i>
<b>venom</b>	Extreme malice and bitterness shown in someone's attitudes, speech, or actions. <i>His voice was full of <b>venom</b>.</i>
<b>venomous</b>	(of an animal, especially a snake) secreting venom, or capable of injecting venom by means of a bite or sting. <b>Venomous</b> snakes.
<b>virulent</b>	Harsh or corrosive in tone. <i>Staphylococcus aureus is a common organism whose <b>virulent</b> strains are causing problems.</i>



