

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

Table Of Contents:

- [Pernicious as an Adjective](#)
- [Definitions of "Pernicious" as an adjective](#)
- [Synonyms of "Pernicious" as an adjective \(31 Words\)](#)
- [Usage Examples of "Pernicious" as an adjective](#)
- [Associations of "Pernicious" \(30 Words\)](#)

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)

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

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

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

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

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

