

Need another word that means the same as “pitiful”? Find 45 synonyms and 30 related words for “pitiful” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Pitiful” are: deplorable, distressing, lamentable, sad, sorry, pathetic, pitiable, hapless, miserable, misfortunate, piteous, poor, wretched, disturbing, heartbreaking, moving, affecting, touching, plaintive, poignant, forlorn, abject, tragic, woeful, grievous, paltry, meagre, beggarly, insufficient, insignificant, trifling, negligible, derisory, dreadful, awful, terrible, hopeless, bad, feeble, well below par, inadequate, contemptible, despicable, laughable, worthless

Pitiful as an Adjective

Definitions of "Pitiful" as an adjective

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

- *Compassionate.*
- *Very small or poor; inadequate.*
- *Deserving or inciting pity.*
- *Deserving or arousing pity.*
- *Bad; unfortunate.*
- *Deserving or inciting pity- Galsworthy.*
- *Inspiring mixed contempt and pity.*



Synonyms of "Pitiful" as an adjective (45 Words)

abject	Most unfortunate or miserable. <i>The abject condition of the peasants.</i>
affecting	Touching the emotions; moving. <i>A highly affecting account of her experiences in prison.</i>
awful	Extreme in degree or extent or amount or impact. <i>An awful risk.</i>
bad	Feeling physical discomfort or pain though is occasionally used colloquially for bad. <i>A bad cut.</i>
beggarly	Marked by poverty befitting a beggar. <i>The stipend in 1522 was a beggarly 26 shillings.</i>
contemptible	Deserving contempt; despicable. <i>A display of contemptible cowardice.</i>
deplorable	Bringing or deserving severe rebuke or censure. <i>A deplorable act of violence.</i>
derisory	Ridiculously small or inadequate. <i>His derisory gaze swept over her.</i>
despicable	Deserving hatred and contempt. <i>A despicable crime.</i>
distressing	Bad; unfortunate. <i>Some very distressing news.</i>
disturbing	Causing anxiety; worrying. <i>Distressing or disturbing news.</i>
dreadful	Very unpleasant. <i>You re a dreadful flirt.</i>
feeble	Lacking strength of character. <i>Feeble efforts.</i>
forlorn	Pitifully sad and abandoned or lonely. <i>The last forlorn attempt.</i>
grievous	Of great gravity or crucial import; requiring serious thought. <i>Grievous bodily harm.</i>
hapless	(especially of a person) unfortunate. <i>The hapless victims of the disaster.</i>
heartbreaking	Causing or marked by grief or anguish. <i>Her sigh was heartbreaking.</i>

hopeless	Very bad or incompetent. <i>Jess looked at him in mute hopeless appeal.</i>
<u>inadequate</u>	Not sufficient to meet a need. <i>Inadequate funding.</i>
<u>insignificant</u>	Meaningless. <i>A minor insignificant bureaucrat.</i>
<u>insufficient</u>	Of a quantity not able to fulfill a need or requirement. <i>There was insufficient evidence to convict him.</i>
lamentable	(of circumstances or conditions) very bad; deplorable. <i>The industry is in a lamentable state.</i>
<u>laughable</u>	Arousing or provoking laughter. <i>A contribution so small as to be laughable.</i>
meagre	Deficient in amount or quality or extent. <i>A tall meagre man.</i>
<u>miserable</u>	Of very poor quality or condition. <i>Horribly wet and miserable conditions.</i>
misfortunate	Deserving or inciting pity.
moving	Used of a series of photographs presented so as to create the illusion of motion. <i>The moving parts of the machine.</i>
<u>negligible</u>	Not worth considering. <i>The effect was negligible.</i>
paltry	Petty; trivial. <i>A paltry wage.</i>
<u>pathetic</u>	Inspiring scornful pity- Dashiell Hammett. <i>He s a pathetic excuse for a man.</i>
piteous	Deserving or inciting pity- Galsworthy. <i>Piteous appeals for help.</i>
pitiable	Deserving or inciting pity- Galsworthy. <i>Pitiable lack of character.</i>
<u>plaintive</u>	Expressing sorrow. <i>A plaintive cry.</i>
<u>poignant</u>	Keenly distressing to the mind or feelings. <i>Poignant anxiety.</i>
poor	(of a person) deserving of pity or sympathy. <i>The proverbial poor artist living in a garret.</i>

sad	Of things that make you feel sad. <i>Sad news.</i>
sorry	Feeling sad or distressed through sympathy with someone else's misfortune. <i>He looks a sorry sight with his broken jaw.</i>
terrible	Used to emphasize the extent of something unpleasant or bad. <i>The stranger gave a terrible smile.</i>
touching	Arousing affect. <i>His gratitude was simple and touching.</i>
tragic	Relating to tragedy in a literary work. <i>The tragic parents reached the end of their tether.</i>
trifling	Not worth considering. <i>A trifling sum.</i>
well below par	In good health especially after having suffered illness or injury.
woeful	Of very poor quality or condition. <i>Woeful treatment of the accused.</i>
worthless	Having no real value or use. <i>Joan had been deserted by a worthless husband.</i>
wretched	Deserving or inciting pity- Galsworthy. <i>Wretched prisoners huddled in stinking cages.</i>



Usage Examples of "Pitiful" as an adjective

- *A pitiful attempt to impress her.*
- *Two children in a very pitiful state.*
- *Pitiful exhibition of cowardice.*
- *A pitiful fate.*



Associations of "Pitiful" (30 Words)

dejected	Sad and depressed; dispirited. <i>He stood in the street looking dejected.</i>
deplorable	Deserving strong condemnation; completely unacceptable. <i>My finances were in a deplorable state.</i>
<u>disastrous</u>	Having extremely unfortunate or dire consequences; bringing ruin. <i>United made a disastrous start to the season.</i>
grieve	Feel grief. <i>She grieved for her father.</i>
hapless	Deserving or inciting pity. <i>A hapless victim.</i>

inauspicious	Contrary to your interests or welfare. <i>My words with inauspicious thunderings shook heaven.</i>
<u>inferior</u>	Of low or inferior quality. <i>Inferior goods.</i>
lamentable	Full of or expressing sorrow or grief. <i>A lamentable decision.</i>
<u>loser</u>	A contestant who loses the contest. <i>South appeared to have three losers a trump a diamond and a spade.</i>
<u>miserable</u>	(of a person) habitually morose. <i>A miserable man in his late sixties.</i>
mournful	Expressing sorrow. <i>Stared with mournful eyes.</i>
moving	Producing strong emotion, especially sadness or sympathy. <i>The moving parts of the machine.</i>
<u>pathetic</u>	Inspiring mixed contempt and pity. <i>He s a pathetic excuse for a man.</i>
<u>pathos</u>	A quality that evokes pity or sadness. <i>The actor injects his customary humour and pathos into the role.</i>
piteous	Deserving or inciting pity. <i>A piteous cry.</i>
pitiable	Deserving or inciting pity. <i>Pitiable lack of character.</i>
<u>pity</u>	A feeling of sympathy and sorrow for the misfortunes of others. <i>It s a pity he couldn t do it.</i>
regrettable	(of conduct or an event) giving rise to regret; undesirable; unwelcome. <i>The loss of this number of jobs is regrettable.</i>
ruth	The great-grandmother of king David whose story is told in the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament.
sad	Of things that make you feel sad Christina Rossetti. <i>She doesn t like sad movies.</i>
sadness	The quality of excessive mournfulness and uncheerfulness. <i>It is one of life s sadnesses.</i>
<u>sorrow</u>	An event or circumstance that causes sorrow. <i>He tried to express his sorrow at her loss.</i>
<u>sorrowful</u>	Causing grief. <i>Sorrowful news.</i>

- sorry** Feeling regret or penitence.
*We feel so ashamed that we keep quiet about the whole **sorry** business.*
- touching** Arousing affect.
*A **touching** reconciliation scene.*
- tragic** Causing or characterized by extreme distress or sorrow.
*She wears **tragic** cardigans usually done up the wrong way.*
- unfortunate** A person who is considered immoral or lacking in religious faith or instruction, especially a prostitute.
*Those **unfortunates** whose lives are marred by poverty.*
- unhappy** Not satisfied or pleased with (a situation).
***Unhappy** over her departure.*
- unlucky** Marked by or promising bad fortune.
*The visitors were **unlucky** to have a goal disallowed.*
- wretched** Of very poor quality or condition.
*A **wretched** life.*

