

Need another word that means the same as “plaintive”? Find 19 synonyms and 30 related words for “plaintive” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Plaintive” are: mournful, sad, wistful, doleful, pathetic, pitiful, piteous, melancholy, melancholic, sorrowful, unhappy, wretched, woeful, grief-stricken, heartbroken, desolate, forlorn, weebegone, disconsolate**

## Plaintive as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Plaintive" as an adjective

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

- *Sounding sad and mournful.*
- *Expressing sorrow.*



## Synonyms of "Plaintive" as an adjective (19 Words)

- desolate** (of a place) uninhabited and giving an impression of bleak emptiness.  
*I suddenly felt **desolate** and bereft.*
- disconsolate** Causing dejection.  
*A **disconsolate** winter landscape.*
- doleful** Filled with or evoking sadness.  
*He could be struck off with **doleful** consequences.*
- forlorn** (of an aim or endeavour) unlikely to succeed or be fulfilled.  
*A **forlorn** attempt to escape.*
- grief-stricken** Sorrowful through loss or deprivation.
- heartbroken** Full of sorrow.  
*He was **heartbroken** at the thought of leaving the house.*

<b><u>melancholic</u></b>	Characterized by or causing or expressing sadness. <i>Patients with <b>melancholic</b> depression.</i>
<b><u>melancholy</u></b>	Having a feeling of melancholy sad and pensive. <i>She felt a little <b>melancholy</b>.</i>
<b>mournful</b>	Expressing sorrow. <i>Her large <b>mournful</b> eyes.</i>
<b><u>pathetic</u></b>	Miserably inadequate; of very low standard. <i>It was a <b>pathetic</b> sight.</i>
<b>piteous</b>	Deserving or arousing pity. <i><b>Piteous</b> appeals for help.</i>
<b><u>pitiful</u></b>	Deserving or inciting pity- Galsworthy. <i><b>Pitiful</b> exhibition of cowardice.</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><u>sorrowful</u></b>	Experiencing or marked by or expressing sorrow especially that associated with irreparable loss- Proverbs 14:13. <i><b>Sorrowful</b> news.</i>
<b>unhappy</b>	Unfortunate. <i>Many were <b>unhappy</b> about the scale of the cuts.</i>
<b><u>wistful</u></b>	Showing pensive sadness. <i>The sensitive and <b>wistful</b> response of a poet to the gentler phases of beauty.</i>
<b>woebegone</b>	Affected by or full of grief or woe- George du Maurier. <i>His sorrow made him look haggard and <b>woebegone</b>.</i>
<b>woeful</b>	Affected by or full of grief or woe. <i>Her face was <b>woeful</b>.</i>
<b>wretched</b>	Of poor quality; very bad. <i>I felt so <b>wretched</b> because I thought I might never see you again.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Plaintive" as an adjective

- A *plaintive* cry.

## Associations of "Plaintive" (30 Words)

<b>cry</b>	Bring into a particular state by crying. <i>The cat was <b>crying</b>.</i>
<b>depire</b>	Express strong disapproval of. <i>We <b>depire</b> all violence.</i>
<b>dirge</b>	A song or piece of music that is considered too slow, miserable, or boring. <i>The wind howled <b>dirges</b> around the chimney.</i>
<b><u>disastrous</u></b>	Causing great damage. <i>A <b>disastrous</b> fire swept through the museum.</i>

<b>dithyramb</b>	A wild choral hymn of ancient Greece, especially one dedicated to Dionysus.
<b>doleful</b>	Filled with or evoking sadness. A <b>doleful</b> look.
<b>dolorous</b>	Feeling or expressing great sorrow or distress. A <b>dolorous</b> and repetitive tale of atrocity.
<b>elegiac</b>	Verses in an elegiac metre. An <b>elegiac</b> lament for youthful ideals.
<b>elegy</b>	(in Greek and Latin verse) a poem written in elegiac couplets, as notably by Catullus and Propertius.
<b>grieve</b>	Cause great distress to (someone). It <b>grieves</b> me to think of you in that house alone.
<b>grievous</b>	Of great gravity or crucial import; requiring serious thought. A <b>grievous</b> loss.
<b>heartsick</b>	Full of sorrow. Weary and <b>heartsick</b> she forced herself to search throughout the remains of the village.
<b>howl</b>	Make a howling sound. I got <b>howls</b> of protest from readers.
<b>lament</b>	A mournful poem a lament for the dead. The women wept and <b>lamented</b> over him.
<b>lamentable</b>	(of circumstances or conditions) very bad; deplorable. A <b>lamentable</b> decision.
<b>lamentation</b>	A book of the Bible telling of the desolation of Judah after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC. Scenes of <b>lamentation</b> .
<b>mourn</b>	Observe the customs of mourning after the death of a loved one. Publishers <b>mourned</b> declining sales of hardback fiction.
<b>mournful</b>	Expressing sorrow. Her large <b>mournful</b> eyes.
<b>mourning</b>	The passionate and demonstrative activity of expressing grief. If he dies she ll put on <b>mourning</b> but she won t cry.
<b>sad</b>	Of things that make you feel sad Christina Rossetti. They looked at her with <b>sad</b> anxious faces.
<b>sadness</b>	The state of being sad. A source of great <b>sadness</b> .
<b>sob</b>	An act or sound of sobbing. She <b>sobbed</b> out her troubles to him.



<u>sorrow</u>	An event or circumstance that causes sorrow. <i>It was a great <b>sorrow</b> to her when they separated.</i>
<u>sorrowful</u>	Experiencing or marked by or expressing sorrow especially that associated with irreparable loss. <i>A <b>sorrowful</b> tale of death and despair.</i>
<u>sorry</u>	In a poor or pitiful state. <i>A <b>sorry</b> state of affairs.</i>
<b>threnody</b>	A lament. <i>A brooding <b>threnody</b> to urban desolation.</i>
<u>tragic</u>	Very bad or inadequate. <i>She wears <b>tragic</b> cardigans usually done up the wrong way.</i>
<b>wail</b>	Utter a wail. <i><b>Wail</b> in self pity.</i>
<u>weep</u>	A fit or period of weeping. <i>Sit down and have a <b>weep</b>.</i>
<u>whimper</u>	A whimpering sound. <i>He s not dead is he she <b>whimpered</b>.</i>