

Need another word that means the same as “punitive”? Find 20 synonyms and 30 related words for “punitive” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Punitive” are: punitory, penal, disciplinary, corrective, correctional, retributive, harsh, severe, stiff, austere, cruel, savage, stringent, burdensome, demanding, draconian, drastic, swingeing, crushing, crippling

Punitive as an Adjective

Definitions of "Punitive" as an adjective

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

- *Inflicting or intended as punishment.*
- *(of a tax or other charge) extremely high.*
- *Inflicting punishment.*

Synonyms of "Punitive" as an adjective (20 Words)

austere	Severe or strict in manner or attitude. <i>The cathedral is impressive in its austere simplicity.</i>
burdensome	Not easily borne; wearing. <i>The burdensome task of preparing the income tax return.</i>
correctional	Relating to the punishment of criminals in a way intended to rectify their behaviour. <i>A correctional institution.</i>
corrective	Designed to correct or counteract something harmful or undesirable. <i>The teacher's action was corrective rather than instructional.</i>

crippling	Causing a severe and almost insuperable problem. <i>A crippling injury.</i>
cruel	Causing pain or suffering. <i>People who are cruel to animals.</i>
crushing	Physically or spiritually devastating; often used in combination. <i>Bone crushing.</i>
demanding	(of a person) making others work hard or meet high standards; not easily satisfied. <i>He was a demanding baby and rarely slept through the night.</i>
disciplinary	Relating to a specific field of academic study. <i>A soldier will face disciplinary action after going absent without leave.</i>
draconian	(of laws or their application) excessively harsh and severe. <i>The Nazis destroyed the independence of the press by a series of draconian laws.</i>
<u>drastic</u>	Forceful and extreme and rigorous. <i>A drastic reduction of staffing levels.</i>
harsh	Of textures that are rough to the touch or substances consisting of relatively large particles. <i>The harsh white light makes you screw up your eyes.</i>
penal	Subject to punishment by law. <i>The juvenile was sentenced to six months in a penal institution.</i>
punitory	Inflicting punishment.
retributive	Given or inflicted in requital according to merits or deserts. <i>Retributive justice.</i>
savage	Able or disposed to inflict pain or suffering. <i>The decision was a savage blow for the town.</i>
<u>severe</u>	Severely simple. <i>A hefty six footer with a rather severe mien.</i>
<u>stiff</u>	(of a person or their manner) not relaxed or friendly; constrained. <i>A stiff neck.</i>
<u>stringent</u>	(of regulations, requirements, or conditions) strict, precise, and exacting. <i>Stringent safety measures.</i>
swingeing	Severe or extreme in size, amount, or effect. <i>Swingeing damages awarded by the judge.</i>

Usage Examples of "Punitive" as an adjective

- A current *punitive* interest rate of 31.3 per cent.
- He called for *punitive* measures against the Eastern bloc.
- *Punitive* damages.
- *Punitive* justice.

Associations of "Punitive" (30 Words)

allegation	A formal accusation against somebody (often in a court of law). <i>An allegation of malpractice.</i>
arraign	Accuse of a wrong or an inadequacy. <i>Her sister was arraigned on charges of attempted murder.</i>
castigation	Verbal punishment.
commit	Refer a parliamentary or legislative bill to a committee. <i>After the second episode she had to be committed.</i>
complicity	The fact or condition of being involved with others in an activity that is unlawful or morally wrong. <i>They were accused of complicity in the attempt to overthrow the government.</i>
confession	The religious body or Church sharing a confession of faith. <i>His words are a political confession of faith.</i>
conspiracy	A group of conspirators banded together to achieve some harmful or illegal purpose. <i>A conspiracy to destroy the government.</i>
conviction	A formal declaration by the verdict of a jury or the decision of a judge in a court of law that someone is guilty of a criminal offence. <i>The conviction came as no surprise.</i>
execution	Putting a condemned person to death. <i>The film is entirely professional in its execution.</i>
felony	A serious crime (such as murder or arson). <i>An accusation of felony.</i>
illicit	Forbidden by law, rules, or custom. <i>Illicit sex.</i>
indict	Accuse formally of a crime. <i>His former manager was indicted for fraud.</i>

justice	A public official authorized to decide questions brought before a court of justice. <i>The justice of his case.</i>
law	The branch of philosophy concerned with the law and the principles that lead courts to make the decisions they do. <i>A new law was passed to make divorce easier and simpler.</i>
malfeasance	Wrongful conduct by a public official.
malpractice	Professional wrongdoing that results in injury or damage. <i>Victims of medical malpractice.</i>
misdemeanor	A crime less serious than a felony.
offence	A feeling of anger caused by being offended. <i>The new offence of obtaining property by deception.</i>
penal	Subject to punishment by law. <i>Avoid borrowing at penal rates of interest.</i>
penalize	Subject to a penalty or punishment. <i>Section twenty penalizes possession of a firearm when trespassing.</i>
penalty	A payment required for not fulfilling a contract. <i>The charge carries a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment.</i>
perjury	Criminal offense of making false statements under oath. <i>He claimed two witnesses at his trial had committed perjury.</i>
punish	Impose a penalty on inflict punishment on. <i>Fraudulent acts would be punished by up to two years in prison.</i>
punishment	The act of punishing. <i>Crime demands just punishment.</i>
retributive	Given or inflicted in requital according to merits or deserts. <i>Retributive justice.</i>
suspicion	Doubt about someone's honesty. <i>He tried to shield me from suspicion.</i>
threat	Declaration of an intention or a determination to inflict harm on another. <i>His threat to kill me was quite explicit.</i>
trial	Of a horse dog or other animal compete in trials. <i>His mother in law s visits were a great trial for him.</i>
turpitude	A corrupt or depraved or degenerate act or practice. <i>The various turpitudes of modern society.</i>
violator	Someone who assaults others sexually. <i>A curse pronounced over the violators of children.</i>