

Need another word that means the same as “rueful”? Find 12 synonyms and 30 related words for “rueful” in this overview.

Table Of Contents:

- [Rueful as an Adjective](#)
- [Definitions of "Rueful" as an adjective](#)
- [Synonyms of "Rueful" as an adjective \(12 Words\)](#)
- [Usage Examples of "Rueful" as an adjective](#)
- [Associations of "Rueful" \(30 Words\)](#)

**The synonyms of “Rueful” are: contrite, remorseful, ruthless, sorrowful, regretful, apologetic, sorry, shamefaced, sheepish, hangdog, repentant, penitent**

## Rueful as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Rueful" as an adjective

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

- *Expressing sorrow or regret, especially in a wry or humorous way.*
- *Feeling or expressing pain or sorrow for sins or offenses.*

### Synonyms of "Rueful" as an adjective (12 Words)

<b><a href="#">apologetic</a></b>	Expressing or showing regretful acknowledgement of an offence or failure. An <b><i>apologetic</i></b> note.
<b>contrite</b>	Feeling or expressing pain or sorrow for sins or offenses. A <b><i>contrite</i></b> tone.
<b>hangdog</b>	Frightened into submission or compliance. The <b><i>hangdog</i></b> look of a condemned man.
<b>penitent</b>	Feeling or expressing remorse for misdeeds. A <b><i>penitent</i></b> expression.
<b>regretful</b>	Feeling or expressing regret or sorrow or a sense of loss over something done or undone. <b><i>Regretful</i></b> over mistakes she had made.

<b>remorseful</b>	Feeling or expressing pain or sorrow for sins or offenses. <i>The defendant was <b>remorseful</b> for what he had done.</i>
<b>repentant</b>	Expressing or feeling sincere regret and remorse; remorseful. <i>He is truly <b>repentant</b> for his incredible naivety and stupidity.</i>
<b>ruthful</b>	Full of compassion or pity; compassionate; merciful. Also as noun (with the with plural agreement): those people who are compassionate or merciful.
<b>shamefaced</b>	Showing a sense of guilt- Eric Linklater. <i>Cheerfully bearing reproaches but <b>shamefaced</b> at praise.</i>
<b>sheepish</b>	Like or suggestive of a sheep in docility or stupidity or meekness or timidity. <i>A <b>sheepish</b> grin.</i>
<b>sorrowful</b>	Feeling or showing grief. <i>A <b>sorrowful</b> tale of death and despair.</i>
<b>sorry</b>	Feeling regret or penitence. <i>I felt <b>sorry</b> for the poor boys working for him.</i>

## Usage Examples of "Rueful" as an adjective

- *She gave a rueful grin.*

## Associations of "Rueful" (30 Words)

<b>apologetic</b>	Constituting a formal defence or justification of a theory or doctrine. <i>She was very <b>apologetic</b> about the whole incident.</i>
<b>apologize</b>	Acknowledge faults or shortcomings or failing. <i>We <b>apologize</b> to him for our error.</i>
<b>atonement</b>	The act of atoning for sin or wrongdoing (especially appeasing a deity). <i>He submitted his resignation as an act of <b>atonement</b>.</i>
<b>bemoan</b>	Express discontent or sorrow over (something). <i>It was no use <b>bemoaning</b> her lot.</i>
<b>compunction</b>	A feeling of guilt or moral scruple that prevents or follows the doing of something bad. <i>They used their tanks without <b>compunction</b>.</i>
<b>confess</b>	Confess to a punishable or reprehensible deed usually under pressure. <i>I damaged your car she <b>confessed</b>.</i>
<b>confession</b>	The religious body or Church sharing a confession of faith. <i>She still had not been to <b>confession</b>.</i>

<b>confessor</b>	A priest who hears confessions and gives absolution and spiritual counsel. <i>If one prisoner confesses and implicates the other the <b>confessor</b> will go free as a reward.</i>
<b>contrite</b>	Feeling or expressing pain or sorrow for sins or offenses. <i>A <b>contrite</b> tone.</i>
<b>contrition</b>	The state of feeling remorseful and penitent. <i>Prayers of <b>contrition</b>.</i>
<b>culprit</b>	A person who is responsible for a crime or other misdeed. <i>The car's front nearside door had been smashed in but the <b>culprits</b> had fled.</i>
<b>forgive</b>	Stop blaming or grant forgiveness. <i>I was willing to <b>forgive</b> all her faults for the sake of our friendship.</i>
<b>penance</b>	Impose a penance on. <i>He had done public <b>penance</b> for those hasty words.</i>
<b>penitence</b>	Remorse for your past conduct. <i>A public display of <b>penitence</b>.</i>
<b>penitent</b>	Feeling or expressing remorse for misdeeds. <i>A <b>penitent</b> expression.</i>
<b>penitential</b>	Relating to or expressing penitence or penance. <i>Wrote a <b>penitential</b> letter apologizing for her hasty words.</i>
<b>regret</b>	Express with regret. <i>I always <b>regretted</b> that I never trained.</i>
<b>regretful</b>	Feeling or expressing regret or sorrow or a sense of loss over something done or undone. <i>Felt <b>regretful</b> over his vanished youth.</i>
<b>regretfully</b>	With regret (used in polite formulas). <i>He sighed <b>regretfully</b>.</i>
<b>remorse</b>	A feeling of deep regret (usually for some misdeed). <i>They were filled with <b>remorse</b> and shame.</i>
<b>remorseful</b>	Feeling or expressing pain or sorrow for sins or offenses. <i>The defendant was <b>remorseful</b> for what he had done.</i>
<b>repent</b>	Turn away from sin or do penitence. <i>He <b>repented</b> of his action.</i>
<b>repentance</b>	The action of repenting; sincere regret or remorse. <i>Each person who turns to God in genuine <b>repentance</b> and faith will be saved.</i>

<b>repentant</b>	Expressing or feeling sincere regret and remorse; remorseful. <i>He is truly <b>repentant</b> for his incredible naivety and stupidity.</i>
<b>rue</b>	Bitterly regret (something one has done or allowed to happen) and wish it undone. <i>Tears of pitying <b>rue</b>.</i>
<b>sceptic</b>	A person who doubts the truth of Christianity and other religions; an atheist.
<b>scruple</b>	Raise scruples. <i>He lied and did not even <b>scruple</b> about it.</i>
<b><u>sin</u></b>	Commit a sin violate a law of God or a moral law. <i>The human capacity for <b>sin</b>.</i>
<b><u>sinner</u></b>	A person who sins (without repenting). <i>God forgives repentant <b>sinner</b>s.</i>
<b><u>sorry</u></b>	Feeling or expressing regret or sorrow or a sense of loss over something done or undone. <i>A <b>sorry</b> excuse.</i>