

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

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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)

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

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

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

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

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