

Need another word that means the same as “scarce”? Find 21 synonyms and 30 related words for “scarce” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Scarce” are: in short supply, short, scant, scanty, meagre, sparse, hard to find, hard to come by, not enough, insufficient, deficient, inadequate, lacking, wanting, rare, few and far between, thin on the ground, barely, hardly, scarcely, just

Scarce as an Adjective

Definitions of "Scarce" as an adjective

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

- *Occurring in small numbers or quantities; rare.*
- *Deficient in quantity or number compared with the demand.*
- *(especially of food, money, or some other resource) insufficient for the demand.*



Synonyms of "Scarce" as an adjective (17 Words)

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| <u>deficient</u> | Falling short of some prescribed norm. <i>Deficient</i> in common sense. |
| few and far between | A quantifier that can be used with count nouns and is often preceded by `a'; a small but indefinite number. |
| hard to come by | Very strong or vigorous. |
| hard to find | Not easy; requiring great physical or mental effort to accomplish or comprehend or endure. |
| in short supply | Holding office. |
| <u>inadequate</u> | Not sufficient to meet a need. An <i>inadequate</i> income. |
| <u>insufficient</u> | Of a quantity not able to fulfill a need or requirement. There was <i>insufficient</i> evidence to convict him. |
| lacking | Nonexistent. There was something <i>lacking</i> in our marriage. |
| meagre | (of something provided or available) lacking in quantity or quality. A <i>meagre</i> diet of bread and beans. |

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| not enough | Sufficient for the purpose. |
| rare | (of meat) cooked a short time; still red inside. <i>What is so rare as a day in June.</i> |
| scant | Barely sufficient or adequate. <i>A scant cup of sugar.</i> |
| scanty | Small or insufficient in quantity or amount. <i>They paid whatever they could out of their scanty wages to their families.</i> |
| short | Tending to crumble or break into flakes due to a large amount of shortening. <i>They have been backed at short odds to win thousands of pounds.</i> |
| sparse | Scanty; in short supply. <i>Areas of sparse population.</i> |
| thin on the ground | Lacking excess flesh-Shakespeare. |
| wanting | Nonexistent. <i>The English batting technique has been found wanting.</i> |



Usage Examples of "Scarce" as an adjective

- *The freshwater shrimp becomes scarce in soft water.*
- *As raw materials became scarce, synthetics were developed.*
- *Fresh vegetables were scarce during the drought.*



Scarce as an Adverb

Definitions of "Scarce" as an adverb

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), "scarce" as an adverb can have the following definitions:

- *Only a very short time before.*
- *Almost not.*
- *Scarcely.*



Synonyms of "Scarce" as an adverb (4 Words)

- barely** In a sparse or scanty way.
*It was **barely** 5 a m.*
- hardly** No or not (suggesting surprise at or disagreement with a statement).
*The little house in which he lived was **hardly** bigger than a hut.*
- just** Indicating exactness or preciseness.
*They were **just** interested in making money.*
- scarcely** Almost not.
*They could **scarcely** all be wrong.*



Usage Examples of "Scarce" as an adverb

- *He was scarce sixteen years old.*
- *They scarcely ever used the emergency generator.*
- *Had scarcely rung the bell when the door flew open.*
- *Would have scarce arrived before she would have found some excuse to leave.*
- *A babe scarce two years old.*



Associations of "Scarce" (30 Words)

- adequacy** The quality of being sufficient for the end in view.
*He questioned the **adequacy** of the usual sentimental interpretation of the Golden Rule.*
- barely** Only a very short time before.
*She nodded **barely** able to speak.*
- coincidentally** Happening at the same time.
*The report should be published **coincidentally** with the letter.*
- curio** A rare, unusual, or intriguing object.
*They had such fun over the wonderful box of **curios** that Jack had sent from India.*

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| deficient | Insufficient or inadequate. <i>A deficient education.</i> |
| hardly | Only a very short time before. <i>The party had hardly started when the police arrived.</i> |
| inadequate | Of insufficient quantity to meet a need. <i>Inadequate funding.</i> |
| infrequently | Not often; rarely. <i>A storage area for infrequently used items.</i> |
| insufficient | Of a quantity not able to fulfill a need or requirement. <i>Insufficient funds.</i> |
| limited | Not unlimited. <i>The legislation has had a limited effect.</i> |
| meager | Deficient in amount or quality or extent. <i>Meager resources.</i> |
| meagerly | Deficient in amount or quality or extent. <i>These voices are meagerly represented at the conference.</i> |
| measly | Contemptibly small in amount. <i>A measly tip.</i> |
| occasional | Occurring from time to time. <i>An occasional worker.</i> |
| paucity | The presence of something in only small or insufficient quantities or amounts. <i>A paucity of information.</i> |
| pittance | A pious bequest to a religious house or order to provide extra food and wine at particular festivals, or on the anniversary of the benefactor's death. <i>He paid his workers a pittance.</i> |
| rare | Recurring only at long intervals. <i>He plays with rare sensitivity.</i> |
| rarefaction | A decrease in the density of something. <i>The cord has undergone rarefaction.</i> |
| rarely | Not often. <i>We rarely met.</i> |
| rareness | Noteworthy scarcity. |
| rarity | Something unusual — perhaps worthy of collecting. <i>The rarity of the condition.</i> |
| scant | Deal with inadequately; neglect. <i>The press regularly scants a host of issues relating to safety and health.</i> |

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| scanty | Short underpants for women or children (usually used in the plural). <i>Her dress was scanty and revealing.</i> |
| <u>seldom</u> | Not often. <i>He was seldom absent.</i> |
| <u>sometimes</u> | On certain occasions or in certain cases but not always. <i>Sometimes I want to do things on my own.</i> |
| <u>sparse</u> | Thinly dispersed or scattered. <i>Areas of sparse population.</i> |
| sparsely | In a thinly dispersed manner; in small numbers. <i>A sparsely populated region.</i> |
| <u>sporadic</u> | Recurring in scattered and irregular or unpredictable instances. <i>Sporadic fighting broke out.</i> |
| sporadically | In a sporadic manner. <i>He worked sporadically at part time jobs.</i> |
| subsist | Be attributable to. <i>The peace subsisted between 1303 and 1324.</i> |

