

Need another word that means the same as “sham”? Find 54 synonyms and 30 related words for “sham” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Sham” are: fake, postiche, faker, fraud, imposter, impostor, pretender, pseud, pseudo, role player, shammer, pretence, act, fiction, simulation, imposture, feint, lie, counterfeit, charlatan, masquerader, dissembler, wolf in sheep's clothing, assumed, false, fictitious, fictive, pretended, feigned, simulated, artificial, bogus, synthetic, spurious, ersatz, insincere, not genuine, manufactured, contrived, affected, plastic, make-believe, assume, feign, simulate, affect, dissemble, pretend, put on, make a pretence of, imitate**

## Sham as a Noun

### Definitions of "Sham" as a noun

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), “sham” as a noun can have the following definitions:

- *A person who makes deceitful pretenses.*
- *Pretence.*
- *A thing that is not what it is purported to be.*

- *Something that is a counterfeit; not what it seems to be.*
- *A person who pretends to be someone or something they are not.*



### **Synonyms of "Sham" as a noun (23 Words)**

**act**

A document attesting a legal transaction.  
*He put on quite an **act** for her benefit.*

<b>charlatan</b>	A person falsely claiming to have a special knowledge or skill. <i>A self confessed con artist and <b>charlatan</b>.</i>
<b>counterfeit</b>	A fraudulent imitation of something else. <i>He knew the tapes to be <b>counterfeits</b>.</i>
<b>dissembler</b>	A person who professes beliefs and opinions that he or she does not hold in order to conceal his or her real feelings or motives.
<b>fake</b>	Something that is a counterfeit; not what it seems to be. <i><b>Fakes</b> of Old Masters.</i>
<b>faker</b>	A person who makes deceitful pretenses. <i>He labelled his opponent a political <b>faker</b> and a moral fraud.</i>
<b>feint</b>	A mock attack or movement in warfare, made in order to distract or deceive an enemy. <i>A brief <b>feint</b> at the opponent s face.</i>
<b>fiction</b>	A belief or statement that is false but is often held to be true because it is expedient to do so. <i>The notion of the country being a democracy is a polite <b>fiction</b>.</i>
<b>fraud</b>	Wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain. <i>Mediums exposed as tricksters and <b>frauds</b>.</i>
<b>imposter</b>	A person who makes deceitful pretenses.
<b>impostor</b>	A person who makes deceitful pretenses. <i>The charity has warned anyone approached by the <b>impostor</b> to contact police immediately.</i>
<b>imposture</b>	Pretending to be another person. <i>In a day and a night of violence and <b>imposture</b> William Bentley also succeeds in capturing a smuggler.</i>
<b>lie</b>	The way direction or position in which something lies. <i>He was familiarizing himself with the <b>lie</b> of the streets.</i>
<b>masquerader</b>	A participant in a masquerade.
<b>postiche</b>	A covering or bunch of human or artificial hair used for disguise or adornment.
<b>pretence</b>	A false display of feelings, attitudes, or intentions. <i>Before the age of two children start to engage in <b>pretence</b>.</i>
<b>pretender</b>	A person who makes deceitful pretenses. <i>The <b>pretender</b> to the throne.</i>

<b>pseud</b>	A person who makes deceitful pretenses. <i>At the height of the band's career he was thought to be the biggest <b>pseud</b> in rock.</i>
<b>pseudo</b>	A pretentious or insincere person. <i>The arty chat of a campus <b>pseudo</b>.</i>
<b>role player</b>	What something is used for.
<b>shammer</b>	Someone shirking their duty by feigning illness or incapacity.
<b>simulation</b>	The technique of representing the real world by a computer program. <i><b>Simulation</b> models will allow researchers to test different strategies.</i>
<b>wolf in sheep's clothing</b>	Austrian composer (1860-1903).



## Usage Examples of "Sham" as a noun

- *Our current free health service is a sham.*

- *George abhorred sham and affectation.*
- *He was a sham, totally unqualified for his job as a senior doctor.*



## Sham as a Verb

### Definitions of "Sham" as a verb

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), "sham" as a verb can have the following definitions:

- *Make believe with the intent to deceive.*
- *Pretend to be or to be experiencing.*
- *Make a pretence of.*
- *Falsely present something as the truth.*



## Synonyms of "Sham" as a verb (11 Words)

<b>affect</b>	Have an effect upon. <i>Your attitude will <b>affect</b> how successful you are.</i>
<b><u>assume</u></b>	Occupy or take on. <i>He <b>assumed</b> to himself the right to fill all positions in the town.</i>
<b>counterfeit</b>	Imitate fraudulently. <i>No pretence could have <b>counterfeited</b> such terror.</i>
<b>dissemble</b>	Behave unnaturally or affectedly. <i>An honest sincere person with no need to <b>dissemble</b>.</i>
<b>fake</b>	Tamper, with the purpose of deception. <i>A <b>faked</b> exit visa.</i>
<b>feign</b>	Make a pretence of. <i>She <b>feigned</b> nervousness.</i>
<b>imitate</b>	Copy (a person's speech or mannerisms), especially for comic effect. <i>The mime <b>imitated</b> the passers by.</i>

**make a pretence of** Carry out or commit.

**pretend**

Represent fictitiously as in a play or pretend to be or act like.  
*I cannot **pretend** to say that you are wrong.*

**put on**

Make an investment.

**simulate**

Make a pretence of.  
*Red ochre intended to **simulate** blood.*

## Usage Examples of "Sham" as a verb

- *The opossum escapes danger by shamming dead.*
- *He shammed a headache.*
- *Was he ill or was he shamming?*
- *She shams indifference.*

## Sham as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Sham" as an adjective

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

- *Bogus; false.*
- *Adopted in order to deceive.*

### Synonyms of "Sham" as an adjective (20 Words)

**affected**

Speaking or behaving in an artificial way to make an impression.  
*The gesture appeared both **affected** and stagy.*

**artificial**

Artificially formal.  
***Artificial** sweeteners.*

**assumed**

Adopted in order to deceive.  
*An **assumed** name.*

**bogus**

Not genuine or true (used in a disapproving manner when deception has been attempted).  
*A **bogus** insurance claim.*

**contrived**

Created or arranged in a way that seems artificial and unrealistic.  
***Contrived** coyness.*

<b>ersatz</b>	Artificial and inferior. <i>Ersatz</i> coffee.
<b>fake</b>	Not genuine; imitation or counterfeit. <i>It isn't <b>fake</b> anything it's real synthetic fur.</i>
<b>false</b>	Used in names of plants animals and gems that superficially resemble the thing properly so called e.g false oat. <i>A <b>false</b> start.</i>
<b>feigned</b>	Simulated or pretended; insincere. <i><b>Feigned</b> sympathy.</i>
<b>fictitious</b>	Adopted in order to deceive. <i>Reports of a deal were dismissed as <b>fictitious</b> by the Minister.</i>
<b>fictive</b>	Capable of imaginative creation. <i>The obviously <b>fictive</b> genres poetry drama and the novel.</i>
<b>insincere</b>	Not expressing genuine feelings. <i>She flashed him an <b>insincere</b> smile.</i>
<b>make-believe</b>	Imagined as in a play.
<b>manufactured</b>	(of something abstract) made or produced in a merely mechanical way. <i><b>Manufactured</b> consumer goods.</i>
<b>not genuine</b>	Being or reflecting the essential or genuine character of something- G.K.Chesterton.
<b>plastic</b>	Made of plastic. <i>The writer is drawn to words as a <b>plastic</b> medium.</i>
<b>pretended</b>	Adopted in order to deceive. <i>Eating ice cream with <b>pretended</b> unconcern.</i>
<b>simulated</b>	Manufactured in imitation of some other material. <i>A <b>simulated</b> leather handbag.</i>
<b>spurious</b>	Ostensibly valid, but not actually valid. <i>The dominions of both rulers passed away to their <b>spurious</b> or doubtful offspring.</i>
<b>synthetic</b>	(of a language) characterized by the use of inflections rather than word order to express grammatical structure. <i><b>Synthetic</b> rubber.</i>

## Usage Examples of "Sham" as an adjective

- A clergyman who arranged a sham marriage.
- Sham modesty.



## Associations of "Sham" (30 Words)

<b>assumed</b>	Adopted in order to deceive. <i>The <b>assumed</b> rate of return.</i>
<b>baloney</b>	Pretentious or silly talk or writing. <i>I don't buy it it's all a load of <b>baloney</b>.</i>
<b>concoct</b>	Make a concoction of by mixing. <i>She began to <b>concoct</b> a dinner likely to appeal to him.</i>
<b>counterfeit</b>	Not genuine; imitating something superior. <i>He knew the tapes to be <b>counterfeits</b>.</i>
<b>dissemble</b>	Conceal or disguise one's true feelings or beliefs. <i>An honest sincere person with no need to <b>dissemble</b>.</i>
<b>factitious</b>	Artificially created or developed. <i>Brokers created a <b>factitious</b> demand for stocks.</i>
<b>fake</b>	Make (an event) appear to happen. <i>It isn't <b>fake</b> anything it's real synthetic fur.</i>
<b>faux</b>	Made in imitation; artificial. <i>A rope of <b>faux</b> pearls.</i>
<b>feign</b>	Make believe with the intent to deceive. <i>She <b>feigned</b> nervousness.</i>
<b>fictitious</b>	Formed or conceived by the imagination. <i>A <b>fictitious</b> address.</i>
<b>figment</b>	A contrived or fantastic idea. <i>It really was Ross and not a <b>figment</b> of her overheated imagination.</i>
<b>forgery</b>	A forged document, signature, banknote, or work of art. <i>He was found guilty of <b>forgery</b>.</i>
<b>fraud</b>	A person who makes deceitful pretenses. <i>He was convicted of <b>fraud</b>.</i>
<b>hypocrisy</b>	Insincerity by virtue of pretending to have qualities or beliefs that you do not really have. <i>She was irritated to be accused of <b>hypocrisy</b>.</i>
<b>hypocrite</b>	A person who professes beliefs and opinions that he or she does not hold in order to conceal his or her real feelings or motives. <i>The story tells of respectable Ben who turns out to be a cheat and a <b>hypocrite</b>.</i>
<b>imitate</b>	Take or follow as a model. <i>She <b>imitated</b> my Scots accent.</i>

<b><u>imitation</u></b>	Not genuine or real being an imitation of the genuine article. <i>Decorated with <b>imitation</b> palm leaves.</i>
<b>imitative</b>	Following a model or example without any attempt at originality. <i>Acting is an <b>imitative</b> art.</i>
<b>impersonate</b>	Represent another person with comic intentions. <i>She <b>impersonates</b> Madonna.</i>
<b>impostor</b>	A person who makes deceitful pretenses. <i>The charity has warned anyone approached by the <b>impostor</b> to contact police immediately.</i>
<b>inauthentic</b>	Not in fact what it is said to be. <i>These books were fabricated and contained <b>inauthentic</b> material.</i>
<b>phony</b>	Fraudulent; having a misleading appearance.
<b><u>pretend</u></b>	Represent fictitiously as in a play or pretend to be or act like. <i>She turned the pages and <b>pretended</b> to read.</i>
<b>pretended</b>	Not genuine; assumed. <i>A <b>pretended</b> interest.</i>
<b>pretender</b>	A person who claims or aspires to a title or position. <i>The <b>pretender</b> to the throne.</i>
<b>pretension</b>	The advancing of a claim. <i>He spoke simply without <b>pretension</b>.</i>
<b>pseudo</b>	A pretentious or insincere person. <i>We are talking about real journalists and not the <b>pseudo</b> kind.</i>
<b>simulate</b>	Pretend to have or feel (an emotion). <i>Red ochre intended to <b>simulate</b> blood.</i>
<b>simulated</b>	(of an emotion) pretended or feigned. <i>She howled in <b>simulated</b> anguish.</i>
<b>spurious</b>	Born out of wedlock- E.A.Freeman. <i>Separating authentic and <b>spurious</b> claims.</i>