

Need another word that means the same as “shortcoming”? Find 15 synonyms and 30 related words for “shortcoming” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Shortcoming” are: defect, fault, flaw, imperfection, deficiency, limitation, blemish, failing, drawback, weakness, foible, fallibility, frailty, vice, infirmity**

## Shortcoming as a Noun

### Definitions of "Shortcoming" as a noun

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

- *A failing or deficiency.*
- *A fault or failure to meet a certain standard, typically in a person's character, a plan, or a system.*



## Synonyms of "Shortcoming" as a noun (15 Words)

### **blemish**

A small mark or flaw which spoils the appearance of something.  
*Local government is not without **blemish**.*

### **defect**

A shortcoming, imperfection, or lack.  
*That interpretation is an unfortunate **defect** of our lack of information.*

### **deficiency**

The state of needing something that is absent or unavailable.  
*A budget **deficiency** of 96 billion.*

### **drawback**

An amount of excise or import duty remitted on goods exported.  
*He pointed out all the **drawbacks** to my plan.*

### **failing**

A flaw or weak point.  
*Pride is a terrible **failing**.*

### **fallibility**

The tendency to make mistakes or be wrong.  
*Studies on the **fallibility** of memory and perception.*

<b><u>fault</u></b>	(electronics) equipment failure attributable to some defect in a circuit (loose connection or insulation failure or short circuit etc. <i>The <b>fault</b> of the keen therapist is to start to intervene during the assessment phase.</i>
<b>flaw</b>	An imperfection in a plan or theory or legal document that causes it to fail or that reduces its effectiveness. <i>A <b>flaw</b> caused the crystal to shatter.</i>
<b>foible</b>	A behavioral attribute that is distinctive and peculiar to an individual. <i>They have to tolerate each other's little <b>foibles</b>.</i>
<b>frailty</b>	Moral weakness. <i>The increasing <b>frailty</b> of old age.</i>
<b>imperfection</b>	A fault, blemish, or undesirable feature. <i>The <b>imperfections</b> and injustices in our political system.</i>
<b>infirmity</b>	Physical or mental weakness. <i>Old age and <b>infirmity</b> come to men and women alike.</i>
<b>limitation</b>	The quality of being limited or restricted. <i>It is a good plan but it has serious <b>limitations</b>.</i>
<b>vice</b>	A bad or neurotic habit of stabled horses, typically arising as a result of boredom. <i>A mobile phone network is being used to peddle <b>vice</b>.</i>
<b><u>weakness</u></b>	A penchant for something even though it might not be good for you. <i>He has a <b>weakness</b> for chocolate.</i>

## Usage Examples of "Shortcoming" as a noun

- *He is so forthright about his shortcomings, it's hard to chastise him.*

## Associations of "Shortcoming" (30 Words)

<b><u>blemish</u></b>	Add a flaw or blemish to make imperfect or defective. <i>The offences were an uncharacteristic <b>blemish</b> on an otherwise clean record.</i>
<b><u>con</u></b>	A swindle in which you cheat at gambling or persuade a person to buy worthless property. <i>She was jailed for <b>conning</b> her aunt out of 500 000.</i>
<b>defect</b>	A shortcoming, imperfection, or lack. <i>Visual <b>defects</b>.</i>

<b><u>defective</u></b>	(of a word) not having all the inflections normal for the part of speech. <i>I returned the appliance because it was <b>defective</b>.</i>
<b>deficiency</b>	The amount by which something, especially revenue, falls short; a deficit. <i>A budget <b>deficiency</b> of 96 billion.</i>
<b>demerit</b>	A fault or disadvantage. <i>They discussed the merits and <b>demerits</b> of her novel.</i>
<b>disadvantage</b>	Put at a disadvantage hinder harm. <i>The pension scheme tends to <b>disadvantage</b> women.</i>
<b><u>downside</u></b>	A negative aspect of something that is generally positive. <i>He says being a rock star is a fun line of work when you re young but admits fame can have its <b>downsides</b>.</i>
<b><u>drawback</u></b>	The quality of being a hindrance. <i>They had been complaining of difficulties in getting quick reimbursement of duty <b>drawback</b>.</i>
<b><u>error</u></b>	A measure of the estimated difference between the observed or calculated value of a quantity and its true value. <i>The decisions of the appeal committee disclosed no <b>error</b> of law.</i>
<b>failing</b>	A weakness, especially in a person's character; a shortcoming. <i>Received <b>failing</b> grades.</i>
<b><u>fault</u></b>	Of a rock formation be broken by a fault or faults. <i>A fire caused by an electrical <b>fault</b>.</i>
<b>flaw</b>	Add a flaw or blemish to make imperfect or defective. <i>A <b>flaw</b> in the glass.</i>
<b><u>flawed</u></b>	(of a person) having a weakness in character. <i>A <b>flawed</b> diamond.</i>
<b>gaffe</b>	An unintentional act or remark causing embarrassment to its originator; a blunder. <i>His comments are a major diplomatic <b>gaffe</b>.</i>
<b><u>harm</u></b>	Cause or do harm to. <i>This could <b>harm</b> his World Cup prospects.</i>
<b><u>imperfect</u></b>	The imperfect tense. <i><b>Imperfect</b> mortals.</i>
<b><u>inadequacy</u></b>	The state or quality of being inadequate; lack of the quantity or quality required. <i>Juvenile offenses often reflect an <b>inadequacy</b> in the parents.</i>
<b>ineptitude</b>	Having no qualities that would render it valuable or useful. <i>The sheer <b>ineptitude</b> of their economic plan.</i>

<b>injury</b>	A casualty to military personnel resulting from combat. <i>An ankle <b>injury</b>.</i>
<b>insufficiency</b>	Lack of an adequate quantity or number. <i><b>Insufficiency</b> of adequate housing.</i>
<b><u>insufficient</u></b>	Of a quantity not able to fulfill a need or requirement. <i><b>Insufficient</b> funds.</i>
<b>lacking</b>	Deficient or inadequate. <i>Workers were asked in what way they found their managers <b>lacking</b>.</i>
<b>lapse</b>	Pass by. <i>He let his membership of CND <b>lapse</b>.</i>
<b>misconceive</b>	Fail to understand (something) correctly. <i>Criticism of the trade surplus in Washington is <b>misconceived</b>.</i>
<b><u>misunderstanding</u></b>	A failure to understand something correctly. <i>A <b>misunderstanding</b> of the government's plans.</i>
<b>nitpick</b>	Engage in fussy or pedantic fault-finding. <i>The state is <b>nitpicking</b> about minor administrative matters.</i>
<b><u>shortage</u></b>	The property of being an amount by which something is less than expected or required. <i>Food <b>shortages</b>.</i>
<b>undermanned</b>	Inadequate in number of workers or assistants etc.
<b>unforced</b>	Not resulting from undue effort; not forced. <i>An <b>unforced</b> cheerfulness.</i>