

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.*

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

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

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

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