

Need another word that means the same as “sly”? Find 37 synonyms and 30 related words for “sly” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Sly” are: crafty, cunning, dodgy, foxy, guileful, knavish, slick, tricky, tricky, wily, clever, artful, conniving, scheming, devious, designing, deceitful, duplicitous, dishonest, disingenuous, underhand, sneaky, untrustworthy, roguish, mischievous, impish, puckish, playful, teasing, naughty, wicked, waggish, surreptitious, furtive, stealthy, covert, secret**

## Sly as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Sly" as an adjective

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

- *Showing in an insinuating way that one has some secret knowledge that may be harmful or embarrassing.*
- *(of an action) surreptitious.*
- *Marked by skill in deception.*
- *Having or showing a cunning and deceitful nature.*



## Synonyms of "Sly" as an adjective (37 Words)

<b>artful</b>	Marked by skill in achieving a desired end especially with cunning or craft. <i>An <b>artful</b> choice of metaphors.</i>
<b>clever</b>	Showing inventiveness and skill. <i>Joe had a feeling it wasn't too <b>clever</b> leaving Dolly alone.</i>
<b><u>conniving</u></b>	Acting together in secret toward a fraudulent or illegal end. <i>A heartless and <b>conniving</b> woman.</i>
<b><u>covert</u></b>	Not openly acknowledged or displayed. <i><b>Covert</b> operations against the dictatorship.</i>
<b>crafty</b>	Marked by skill in deception. <i>A market full of <b>crafty</b> pots and interesting earrings.</i>
<b><u>cunning</u></b>	Attractive especially by means of smallness or prettiness or quaintness. <i>Plants have evolved <b>cunning</b> defences.</i>
<b>deceitful</b>	Guilty of or involving deceit; deceiving or misleading others. <i>Smooth shining and <b>deceitful</b> as thin ice.</i>

<b>designing</b>	Concealing crafty designs for advancing your own interest. <i>A <b>designing</b> little minx.</i>
<b><u>devious</u></b>	Showing a skilful use of underhand tactics to achieve goals. <i>They arrived at the town by a <b>devious</b> route.</i>
<b>dishonest</b>	Behaving or prone to behave in an untrustworthy, deceitful, or insincere way. <i>He was a <b>dishonest</b> hypocrite prepared to exploit his family.</i>
<b><u>disingenuous</u></b>	Not straightforward or candid; giving a false appearance of frankness. <i>An ambitious <b>disingenuous</b> philistine and hypocritical operator who exemplified the most disagreeable traits of his time.</i>
<b>dodgy</b>	Of uncertain outcome; especially fraught with risk- New Yorker. <i>Activities like these could be <b>dodgy</b> for your heart.</i>
<b><u>duplicitous</u></b>	Deceitful. <i>A <b>duplicitous</b> philanderer.</i>
<b>foxy</b>	Reddish brown in colour. <i>A <b>foxy</b> lady.</i>
<b><u>furtive</u></b>	Secret and sly or sordid. <i>They spent a <b>furtive</b> day together.</i>
<b>guileful</b>	Marked by skill in deception. <i>A supremely <b>guileful</b> and deceptive politician.</i>
<b>impish</b>	Inclined to do slightly naughty things for fun; mischievous. <i>He had an <b>impish</b> look about him.</i>
<b>knavish</b>	Marked by skill in deception. <i>His <b>knavish</b> tricks will be frustrated.</i>
<b><u>mischievous</u></b>	Causing or showing a fondness for causing trouble in a playful way. <i>A <b>mischievous</b> allegation for which there is not a shred of evidence.</i>
<b><u>naughty</u></b>	Badly behaved. <i>A <b>naughty</b> wink.</i>
<b><u>playful</u></b>	Intended for one's own or others' amusement rather than seriously. <i>A <b>playful</b> tomboy who loves to dress up.</i>
<b>puckish</b>	Playful, especially in a mischievous way. <i>A <b>puckish</b> sense of humour.</i>
<b>roguish</b>	Lacking principles or scruples. <i>He gave her a <b>roguish</b> smile.</i>
<b>scheming</b>	Concealing crafty designs for advancing your own interest. <i>A <b>scheming</b> gold digger.</i>

<b>secret</b>	Of information given in confidence or in secret. <i>A <b>secret</b> agent.</i>
<b><u>slick</u></b>	Made slick by e g ice or grease. <i>A <b>slick</b> commercial.</i>
<b>sneaky</b>	Marked by quiet and caution and secrecy; taking pains to avoid being observed. <i><b>Sneaky</b> underhand tactics.</i>
<b><u>stealthy</u></b>	Behaving or done in a cautious and surreptitious manner, so as not to be seen or heard. <i><b>Stealthy</b> footsteps.</i>
<b>surreptitious</b>	Conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods. <i>Low wages were supplemented by <b>surreptitious</b> payments from tradesmen.</i>
<b><u>teasing</u></b>	Playfully vexing (especially by ridicule). <i><b>Teasing</b> comments.</i>
<b>tricksy</b>	Ingenious, intricate, or complicated. <i>A <b>tricksy</b> little device.</i>
<b><u>tricky</u></b>	Having concealed difficulty. <i>Applying eyeliner can be a <b>tricky</b> business.</i>
<b>underhand</b>	With the palm of the hand upward or outward. <i>An <b>underhand</b> pitch.</i>
<b>untrustworthy</b>	Not worthy of trust or belief. <i>These <b>untrustworthy</b> impressions were instinctive.</i>
<b>waggish</b>	Witty or joking- James Fenimore Cooper. <i>Muskrat Castle as the house has been facetiously named by some <b>waggish</b> officer.</i>
<b>wicked</b>	Highly offensive; arousing aversion or disgust. <i>A <b>wicked</b> and unscrupulous politician.</i>
<b>wily</b>	Skilled at gaining an advantage, especially deceitfully. <i>His <b>wily</b> opponents.</i>





## Usage Examples of "Sly" as an adjective

- *A sly sip of water.*
- *Sly as a fox.*
- *A sly, manipulative woman.*
- *He gave a sly grin.*



## Associations of "Sly" (30 Words)

<b>artful</b>	Marked by skill in achieving a desired end especially with cunning or craft. <i>The <b>artful</b> dodger.</i>
<b>artfully</b>	In a disingenuous manner. <i>Her foot pointed <b>artfully</b> toward tapering toes.</i>
<b>astute</b>	Marked by practical hardheaded intelligence. <i>An <b>astute</b> businessman.</i>
<b>beguile</b>	Attract; cause to be enamored. <i>To <b>beguile</b> some of the time they went to the cinema.</i>
<u><a href="#">chicanery</a></u>	The use of tricks to deceive someone (usually to extract money from them). <i>Storylines packed with political <b>chicanery</b>.</i>
<u><a href="#">covert</a></u>	A covering that serves to conceal or shelter something. <i><b>Covert</b> actions by the CIA.</i>

<b>crafty</b>	(of something pleasurable) consumed or done in an unplanned, surreptitious way. <i>A market full of <b>crafty</b> pots and interesting earrings.</i>
<b><u>cunning</u></b>	Skill in achieving one's ends by deceit. <i><b>Cunning</b> kittens.</i>
<b>difficult</b>	(of a person) not easy to please or satisfy; awkward. <i>Nesting places on the cliffs are <b>difficult</b> of access.</i>
<b><u>duplicity</u></b>	Deceitfulness. <i>The president was accused of <b>duplicity</b> in his dealings with Congress.</i>
<b><u>elusive</u></b>	Skillful at eluding capture. <i>Success will become ever more <b>elusive</b>.</i>
<b>esoteric</b>	Confined to and understandable by only an enlightened inner circle. <i>A compilation of <b>esoteric</b> philosophical theories.</i>
<b>esoterica</b>	Secrets known only to an initiated minority. <i>A professor of such <b>esoterica</b> as angelology and comparative shamanism.</i>
<b>fraudulence</b>	A fraudulent or duplicitous representation.
<b><u>furtive</u></b>	Attempting to avoid notice or attention, typically because of guilt or a belief that discovery would lead to trouble; secretive. <i>The look in his eyes became <b>furtive</b>.</i>
<b>guile</b>	The use of tricks to deceive someone (usually to extract money from them). <i>He used all his <b>guile</b> and guts to free himself from the muddle he was in.</i>
<b>ingenious</b>	(of a person) clever, original, and inventive. <i><b>Ingenious</b> devices.</i>
<b><u>insidious</u></b>	Beguiling but harmful. <i><b>Insidious</b> pleasures.</i>
<b>machievellian</b>	A follower of Machiavelli's principles.
<b><u>manipulative</u></b>	Exercising unscrupulous control or influence over a person or situation. <i>The early <b>manipulative</b> techniques of a three year old child.</i>
<b><u>obscure</u></b>	Make obscure or unclear. <i>An <b>obscure</b> turn of phrase.</i>
<b><u>secretive</u></b>	Inclined to secrecy or reticence about divulging information. <i>She was very <b>secretive</b> about her past.</i>
<b>shrewd</b>	Having or showing sharp powers of judgement; astute. <i>She was <b>shrewd</b> enough to guess the motive behind his gesture.</i>
<b>skulduggery</b>	Verbal misrepresentation intended to take advantage of you in some way. <i>A firm that investigates commercial <b>skulduggery</b>.</i>



**slyly**

In a cunning and deceitful or manipulative manner.  
*He **slyly** manipulates votes.*

**subtle**

Able to make fine distinctions.  
*A **subtle** difference.*

**trickery**

The use of tricks to deceive someone (usually to extract money from them).  
*The dealer resorted to **trickery**.*

**tricky**

Not to be trusted.  
*I wouldn't trust her she's **tricky**.*

**wile**

The use of tricks to deceive someone (usually to extract money from them).  
*The devious **wiles** of the politicians.*

**wily**

Skilled at gaining an advantage, especially deceitfully.  
*A **wily** old attorney.*

