

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

Table Of Contents:

- [Sly as an Adjective](#)
- [Definitions of "Sly" as an adjective](#)
- [Synonyms of "Sly" as an adjective \(37 Words\)](#)
- [Usage Examples of "Sly" as an adjective](#)
- [Associations of "Sly" \(30 Words\)](#)

The synonyms of “Sly” are: crafty, cunning, dodgy, foxy, guileful, knavish, slick, 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)

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

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

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

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

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

