

Need another word that means the same as “substitute”? Find 46 synonyms and 30 related words for “substitute” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Substitute” are: backup, backup man, fill-in, relief, reliever, stand-in, reserve, second-stringer, replacement, deputy, proxy, surrogate, cover, standby, locum, locum tenens, understudy, stopgap, alternative, ancillary, deputise, deputize, step in, fill in, stand in, sub, exchange, interchange, replace, use as a replacement, switch, provide cover, take over, act, act as deputy, act as stand-in, sit in, act as understudy, be a proxy, act as locum tenens, alternate, utility, ersatz**

## Substitute as a Noun

### Definitions of "Substitute" as a noun

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

- *A deputy.*
- *A sports player nominated as eligible to replace another after a match has begun.*
- *A person or thing acting or serving in place of another.*
- *Someone who takes the place of another (as when things get dangerous or difficult).*

- *A person or thing that takes or can take the place of another.*
- *An athlete who plays only when a starter on the team is replaced.*
- *A person or thing that becomes the object of love or another emotion which is deprived of its natural outlet.*



## Synonyms of "Substitute" as a noun (20 Words)

<b>alternative</b>	One of two or more available possibilities. <i>Audiobooks are an interesting <b>alternative</b> to reading.</i>
<b><u>ancillary</u></b>	A person whose work provides necessary support to the primary activities of an organization, system, etc. <i>The system measures engine power at the flywheel with all <b>ancillaries</b> (fan, standard exhaust, etc.) connected.</i>
<b><u>backup</u></b>	The procedure for making backup copies of files or other items of data. <i>No police <b>backup</b> could be expected.</i>
<b>backup man</b>	A male subordinate.

<b>cover</b>	A natural object that covers or envelops. <i>They made a <b>cover</b> of a Beatles song.</i>
<b>deputy</b>	Someone authorized to exercise the powers of sheriff in emergencies. <i>The <b>deputy</b> prime minister.</i>
<b>fill-in</b>	Someone who takes the place of another (as when things get dangerous or difficult).
<b>locum</b>	Someone (physician or clergyman) who substitutes temporarily for another member of the same profession.
<b>locum tenens</b>	Someone (physician or clergyman) who substitutes temporarily for another member of the same profession.
<b>proxy</b>	A figure that can be used to represent the value of something in a calculation. <i>Britons overseas may register to vote by <b>proxy</b>.</i>
<b>relief</b>	A piece of sculpture in relief. <i>The kiss and tell tale gave the nation some light <b>relief</b> from page after page of war coverage.</i>
<b>reliever</b>	Someone who takes the place of another (as when things get dangerous or difficult). <i>The team needs a right handed <b>reliever</b>.</i>
<b>replacement</b>	Filling again by supplying what has been used up. <i>A hip <b>replacement</b>.</i>
<a href="#"><u>reserve</u></a>	A district that is reserved for particular purpose. <i>The men were stationed as a central <b>reserve</b> ready to be transported wherever necessary.</i>
<b>second-stringer</b>	An athlete who plays only when a starter on the team is replaced.
<b>stand-in</b>	Someone who takes the place of another (as when things get dangerous or difficult).
<b>standby</b>	A person or thing ready to be deployed immediately, especially if needed as backup in an emergency. <i>Passengers were obliged to go on <b>standby</b>.</i>
<b>stopgap</b>	Something contrived to meet an urgent need or emergency. <i>Transplants are only a <b>stopgap</b> until more sophisticated alternatives can work.</i>
<b>surrogate</b>	A person appointed to represent or act on behalf of others. <i>The guidelines clearly mention the rights of <b>surrogates</b> and prospective parents.</i>
<b>understudy</b>	An actor able to replace a regular performer when required. <i>He has played as <b>understudy</b> to Celtic's usual goalkeeper.</i>



### **Usage Examples of "Substitute" as a noun**

- *Soya milk is used as a substitute for dairy milk.*
- *Stewart was the Rovers substitute.*
- *A father substitute.*
- *A sheriff substitute.*



## Substitute as a Verb

### Definitions of "Substitute" as a verb

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

- *Replace (an atom or group in a molecule, especially a hydrogen atom) with another.*
- *Replace (a sports player) with a substitute during a match.*
- *Use or add in place of.*
- *Replace (someone or something) with another.*
- *Act as a substitute.*
- *Be a substitute.*
- *Put in the place of another; switch seemingly equivalent items.*
- *Act or serve as a substitute.*



## Synonyms of "Substitute" as a verb (22 Words)

**act**

Perform an action or work out or perform an action.  
*They challenged a man who was seen **acting** suspiciously.*

**act as deputy**

Perform on a stage or theater.

**act as locum tenens**

Discharge one's duties.

**act as stand-in**

Be suitable for theatrical performance.

**act as understudy**

Perform on a stage or theater.

**be a proxy**

Represent, as of a character on stage.

**cover**

Form a cover over.

*The period **covered** the turn of the century.*

**deputise**

Appoint as a substitute.

**deputize**

Temporarily act or speak on behalf of someone else.

*The post holder is required to **deputize** for the manager in their absence.*

**exchange**

Exchange or replace with another usually of the same kind or category.

***Exchange** employees between branches of the company.*

<b>fill in</b>	Assume, as of positions or roles.
<b>interchange</b>	(of two or more people) exchange (things) with each other. <i><b>Interchange</b> this screw for one of a smaller size.</i>
<b>provide cover</b>	Determine (what is to happen in certain contingencies), especially by including a proviso condition or stipulation.
<b>replace</b>	Put (something) back in a previous place or position. <i>He <b>replaced</b> the old razor blade.</i>
<b>sit in</b>	Take a seat.
<b>stand in</b>	Be standing; be upright.
<b>step in</b>	Treat badly.
<b>sub</b>	Subedit. <i>Who ll <b>sub</b> me till Thursday.</i>
<b>switch</b>	Beat or flick with or as if with a switch. <i><b>Switch</b> to a different brand of beer.</i>
<b>take over</b>	Take on a certain form, attribute, or aspect.
<b>understudy</b>	Be an understudy or alternate for a role. <i>He had to <b>understudy</b> Prospero.</i>
<b>use as a replacement</b>	Put into service; make work or employ for a particular purpose or for its inherent or natural purpose.



## Usage Examples of "Substitute" as a verb

- *Customs officers substituted the drugs with another substance.*
- *Dried rosemary can be substituted for the fresh herb.*
- *Three of the hydrogen atoms of the methane molecule have been substituted by chlorine, bromine or iodine atoms.*
- *The skim milk substitutes for cream—we are on a strict diet.*
- *The young teacher had to substitute for the sick colleague.*
- *He was substituted eleven minutes from time.*
- *This was substituted by a new clause.*
- *Substitute regular milk for fat-free milk.*
- *I found someone to substitute for me.*





## Substitute as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Substitute" as an adjective

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

- *Artificial and inferior.*
- *Capable of substituting in any of several positions on a team.*
- *Serving or used in place of another.*



### Synonyms of "Substitute" as an adjective (4 Words)

- alternate** Of leaves or shoots placed alternately on the two sides of the stem.  
*Alternate bouts of intense labour and of idleness.*
- alternative** Necessitating a choice between mutually exclusive possibilities.  
*Alternative possibilities were neutrality or war.*
- ersatz** (of a product) made or used as a substitute, typically an inferior one, for something else.  
*Ersatz coffee.*
- utility** Used of beef; usable but inferior.  
*Utility clothing.*



## Usage Examples of "Substitute" as an adjective

- *Substitute coffee.*

## Associations of "Substitute" (30 Words)

### agent

Any agent or representative of a federal agency or bureau.  
*His **agent** was able to negotiate a long term contract.*

### alternate

Be an understudy or alternate for a role.  
*Bouts of depression **alternate** with periods of elation.*

<b>alternating</b>	(of a current) reversing direction. <i>A season of <b>alternating</b> hot days and cool nights.</i>
<b>alternative</b>	Relating to activities that depart from or challenge traditional norms. <i>An <b>alternative</b> life style.</i>
<b>alternatively</b>	As another option or possibility. <i><b>Alternatively</b> we could buy a used car.</i>
<b>deputy</b>	A member of the lower chamber of a legislative assembly (such as in France). <i>The <b>deputy</b> prime minister.</i>
<b>displace</b>	Take the place of or have precedence over. <i>His aides were discredited and <b>displaced</b>.</i>
<b>exchange</b>	Exchange or replace with another usually of the same kind or category. <i>They provided me with currency <b>exchange</b> at competitive rates.</i>
<b>fungible</b>	A commodity that is freely interchangeable with another in satisfying an obligation. <i>It is by no means the world s only <b>fungible</b> commodity.</i>
<b>indirect</b>	Avoiding direct mention or exposition of a subject. <i>Known as a shady <b>indirect</b> fellow.</i>
<b>instead</b>	On the contrary. <i>Walk to work <b>instead</b> of going by car.</i>
<b>interchange</b>	Put in the place of another; switch seemingly equivalent items. <i>I listened in shock to this venomous <b>interchange</b>.</i>
<b>permutation</b>	The action of changing the arrangement, especially the linear order, of a set of items. <i>His thoughts raced ahead to fifty different <b>permutations</b> of what he must do.</i>
<b>permute</b>	Change the order or arrangement of. <i>We wish to <b>permute</b> the order of the bytes.</i>
<b>proxy</b>	A document authorizing a person to vote on another's behalf. <i>Britons overseas may register to vote by <b>proxy</b>.</i>
<b>replace</b>	Put (something) back in a previous place or position. <i>Smith <b>replaced</b> Miller as CEO after Miller left.</i>
<b>replacement</b>	A person or thing that takes the place of another. <i>The <b>replacement</b> of lost blood by a transfusion of donor blood.</i>
<b>replenishment</b>	Restoration of a stock or supply to a former level or condition. <i>A target for <b>replenishment</b> of depleted fish stocks.</i>

<b>reversal</b>	A change to an opposite direction, position, or course of action. <i>A <b>reversal</b> by the House of Lords of the Court of Appeal s decision.</i>
<b>secondary</b>	A secondary feather. <i>The stone will be hauled to a <b>secondary</b> crusher.</i>
<b>substitution</b>	The act of putting one thing or person in the place of another. <i>The <b>substitution</b> of rail services with buses.</i>
<b>successor</b>	A person or thing that succeeds another. <i>He was President Lincoln s <b>successor</b>.</i>
<b>supersede</b>	Take the place or move into the position of.
<b>supersede</b>	Take the place of (a person or thing previously in authority or use); supplant. <i>The older models of car have now been <b>superseded</b>.</i>
<b>supplant</b>	Take the place or move into the position of. <i>Domestic production has been <b>supplanted</b> by imports and jobs have been lost.</i>
<b>surrogate</b>	Denoting a child to whom a woman gives birth as a surrogate mother. <i>Paperwork that will allow them to move forward with the <b>surrogate</b> process.</i>
<b>swap</b>	Exchange or give (something) in exchange for. <i><b>Swap</b> one of your sandwiches for a cheese and pickle.</i>
<b>transpose</b>	Cause (two or more things) to exchange places. <i>An evacuation order <b>transposed</b> the school from Kent to Shropshire.</i>
<b>transposition</b>	A kind of mutation in which a chromosomal segment is transferred to a new position on the same or another chromosome. <i>He wrote a textbook on the electrical effects of <b>transposition</b>.</i>
<b>vicarious</b>	Experienced at secondhand. <i><b>Vicarious</b> atonement.</i>