

Need another word that means the same as “subtlety”? Find 53 synonyms and 30 related words for “subtlety” in this overview.

Table Of Contents:

- [Subtlety as a Noun](#)
- [Definitions of "Subtlety" as a noun](#)
- [Synonyms of "Subtlety" as a noun \(53 Words\)](#)
- [Usage Examples of "Subtlety" as a noun](#)
- [Associations of "Subtlety" \(30 Words\)](#)

**The synonyms of “Subtlety” are: niceness, nicety, nuance, refinement, shade, delicacy, elusiveness, faintness, astuteness, keenness, acuteness, fineness, sharpness, shrewdness, perceptiveness, perception, discernment, sensitivity, discrimination, penetration, percipience, perspicacity, perspicuity, acuity, sagacity, wisdom, cleverness, intelligence, skill, artfulness, dexterity, brightness, finesse, ingenuity, expertise, adroitness, complexity, intricacy, cunning, guile, craftiness, wiliness, deviousness, precision, preciseness, detail, slightness, minuteness, narrowness, tenuousness, indistinctness, indefiniteness, lack of definition**

## Subtlety as a Noun

### Definitions of "Subtlety" as a noun

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

- *The quality or state of being subtle.*
- *The quality of being difficult to detect or analyze.*
- *A subtle distinction, feature, or argument.*
- *A subtle difference in meaning or opinion or attitude.*



## Synonyms of "Subtlety" as a noun (53 Words)

<a href="#">acuity</a>	A quick and penetrating intelligence. <i>Visual <b>acuity</b>.</i>
<b>acuteness</b>	Very hard native crystalline carbon valued as a gem. <i>He argued with great <b>acuteness</b>.</i>
<b>adroitness</b>	Skillful performance or ability without difficulty. <i>He lacks political <b>adroitness</b>.</i>
<b>artfulness</b>	The quality of being adroit in taking unfair advantage.
<b>astuteness</b>	Intelligence manifested by being astute (as in business dealings).
<a href="#">brightness</a>	The quality of being intelligent and quick-witted. <i>His mother called to him from the <b>brightness</b> of the kitchen.</i>
<b>cleverness</b>	The property of being ingenious. <i>The <b>cleverness</b> of her strategy.</i>

<b>complexity</b>	The state or quality of being intricate or complicated. <i>An issue of great <b>complexity</b>.</i>
<b>craftiness</b>	A steep rugged rock or cliff.
<b><u>cunning</u></b>	Skill in achieving one's ends by deceit. <i>What resources of energy and <b>cunning</b> it took just to survive.</i>
<b>delicacy</b>	Accuracy of perception; sensitiveness. <i>I have to treat this matter with the utmost <b>delicacy</b>.</i>
<b>detail</b>	Extended treatment of particulars. <i>A <b>detail</b> was sent to remove the fallen trees.</i>
<b>deviousness</b>	The quality of being oblique and rambling indirectly.
<b><u>dexterity</u></b>	Skill in performing tasks, especially with the hands. <i>Her <b>dexterity</b> with chopsticks.</i>
<b><u>discernment</u></b>	The ability to judge well. <i>A man of <b>discernment</b>.</i>
<b>discrimination</b>	The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of ethnicity, age, sex, or disability. <i><b>Discrimination</b> between right and wrong.</i>
<b><u>elusiveness</u></b>	The quality of being difficult to grasp or pin down. <i>The author's <b>elusiveness</b> may at times be construed as evasiveness.</i>
<b>expertise</b>	Skillfulness by virtue of possessing special knowledge. <i>Technical <b>expertise</b>.</i>
<b>faintness</b>	A feeling of faintness and of being ready to swoon. <i><b>Faintness</b> of heart and infirmity of purpose.</i>
<b>fineness</b>	The property of being very narrow or thin. <i>The <b>fineness</b> of her features.</i>
<b>finesse</b>	Subtly skillful handling of a situation. <i>Orchestral playing of great <b>finesse</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>indefiniteness</b>	The quality of being vague and poorly defined.
<b>indistinctness</b>	The quality of being indistinct and without sharp outlines.
<b>ingenuity</b>	The quality of being clever, original, and inventive. <i>The <b>ingenuity</b> of Haydn's scoring.</i>

<b>intelligence</b>	A unit responsible for gathering and interpreting information about an enemy. <i>Extraterrestrial <b>intelligences</b>.</i>
<b>intricacy</b>	The quality of being intricate. <i>The <b>intricacy</b> of the procedure.</i>
<b>keenness</b>	A positive feeling of wanting to push ahead with something. <i>I admired the <b>keenness</b> of his mind.</i>
<b>lack of definition</b>	The state of needing something that is absent or unavailable.
<b>minuteness</b>	The property of being very small in size. <i>He examined the essay with the greatest <b>minuteness</b>.</i>
<b>narrowness</b>	A narrow strait connecting two bodies of water. <i><b>Narrowness</b> of vision and understanding.</i>
<u><b>niceness</b></u>	The quality of being nice; pleasantness. <i>Her sheer <b>niceness</b> won her many friends.</i>
<b>nicety</b>	Accuracy or precision. <i>She prided herself on her <b>nicety</b> of pronunciation.</i>
<b>nuance</b>	A subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound. <i>Without understanding the finer <b>nuances</b> you can't enjoy the humor.</i>
<b>perception</b>	The ability to see, hear, or become aware of something through the senses. <i>He wouldn't have accepted said my mother with unusual <b>perception</b>.</i>
<b>perceptiveness</b>	A feeling of understanding.
<b>percipience</b>	The quality of having sensitive insight or understanding; perceptiveness. <i>Age has not impaired his <b>percipience</b>.</i>
<b>perspicacity</b>	The capacity to assess situations or circumstances shrewdly and to draw sound conclusions. <i>The <b>perspicacity</b> of her remarks.</i>
<b>perspicuity</b>	Clarity as a consequence of being perspicuous.
<b>preciseness</b>	Clarity as a consequence of precision. <i>He handled it with the <b>preciseness</b> of an automaton.</i>
<u><b>precision</b></u>	Refinement in a measurement, calculation, or specification, especially as represented by the number of digits given. <i>A <b>precision</b> of six decimal figures.</i>
<u><b>refinement</b></u>	Cultured elegance in behaviour or manner. <i>I admired the exquisite <b>refinement</b> of his prose.</i>

<b>sagacity</b>	The quality of being sagacious. <i>A man of great political <b>sagacity</b>.</i>
<b>sensitivity</b>	Sensitivity to emotional feelings of self and others. <i>A galvanometer of extreme <b>sensitivity</b>.</i>
<b>shade</b>	A lampshade. <i>Various <b>shades</b> of blue.</i>
<b>sharpness</b>	A strong odor or taste property. <i>The <b>sharpness</b> of her loss.</i>
<b>shrewdness</b>	The quality of having or showing good powers of judgement. <i>He is a man of some tactical <b>shrewdness</b>.</i>
<b>skill</b>	Ability to produce solutions in some problem domain. <i>The <b>skills</b> of cookery.</i>
<b>slightness</b>	Smallness of stature.
<b>tenuousness</b>	The right to hold property; part of an ancient hierarchical system of holding lands.
<b>wiliness</b>	A hypothetical subatomic particle of large mass that interacts weakly with ordinary matter through gravitation; postulated as a constituent of the dark matter of the universe.
<b>wisdom</b>	An Apocryphal book consisting mainly of a meditation on wisdom although ascribed to Solomon it was probably written in the first century BC. <i>Eastern <b>wisdom</b>.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Subtlety" as a noun

- *The subtleties of English grammar.*
- *You had to admire the subtlety of the distinctions he drew.*
- *The textural subtlety of Degas.*



## Associations of "Subtlety" (30 Words)

<b>abstruse</b>	Difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge. <i>An <b>abstruse</b> philosophical inquiry.</i>
<b>ambiguous</b>	Having more than one possible meaning. <i><b>Ambiguous</b> words.</i>
<b>ambiguously</b>	So as to be open to doubt or uncertainty. <i>This letter is worded <b>ambiguously</b>.</i>
<b><u>ambivalent</u></b>	Uncertain or unable to decide about what course to follow. <i>Was <b>ambivalent</b> about having children.</i>
<b><u>blur</u></b>	Make unclear indistinct or blurred. <i>In front of him the page <b>blurred</b>.</i>

<b>blurred</b>	Indistinct or hazy in outline. <i><b>Blurred</b> vision.</i>
<b>complexity</b>	A factor involved in a complicated process or situation. <i>He enjoyed the <b>complexity</b> of modern computers.</i>
<b>convoluted</b>	Intricately folded, twisted, or coiled. <i><b>Convoluted</b> legal language.</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>faint</b>	(of a sight, smell, or sound) barely perceptible. <i>The fires were <b>fainting</b> there.</i>
<b>hazy</b>	Indistinct or hazy in outline. <i>It was a beautiful day but quite <b>hazy</b>.</i>
<b>illegibility</b>	The quality of writing (print or handwriting) that cannot be deciphered.
<b>imprecision</b>	The quality of lacking precision. <i>All scientific measurements come with some degree of <b>imprecision</b>.</i>
<b>inconspicuous</b>	Not clearly visible or attracting attention. <i>He pushed the string through an <b>inconspicuous</b> hole.</i>
<b>indefinite</b>	Not clearly expressed or defined; vague. <i>Must you be so <b>indefinite</b>.</i>
<b>indeterminate</b>	Not exactly known, established, or defined. <i>An <b>indeterminate</b> stem.</i>
<b>indistinct</b>	Not clear or sharply defined. <i>His speech was slurred and <b>indistinct</b>.</i>
<b>intricacy</b>	The quality of being intricate. <i>The <b>intricacy</b> of the procedure.</i>
<b>intricate</b>	Very complicated or detailed. <i>An <b>intricate</b> network of canals.</i>
<b>noncommittal</b>	Refusing to bind oneself to a particular course of action or view or the like. <i>Her boyfriend was <b>noncommittal</b> about their future together.</i>
<b>nuance</b>	Give nuances to. <i>He was familiar with the <b>nuances</b> of the local dialect.</i>
<b>obscure</b>	Make obscure or unclear. <i>The debate has become <b>obscured</b> by conflicting ideological perspectives.</i>
<b>puzzling</b>	Not clear to the understanding. <i>A <b>puzzling</b> statement.</i>



- recondite** Difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge.  
*Some **recondite** problem in historiography.*
- subtle** (of a mixture or effect) delicately complex and understated.  
*The **subtle** fiend dissembled.*
- trivia** Details, considerations, or pieces of information of little importance or value.  
*We fill our days with meaningless **trivia**.*
- uncertain** Not consistent or dependable.  
*She spoke in no **uncertain** terms.*
- unclear** Not obvious or definite; ambiguous.  
*The reason for their actions is **unclear** to this day.*
- vague** Thinking or communicating in an unfocused or imprecise way.  
***Vague** forms of speech have so long passed for mysteries of science.*
- wispy** Thin and weak.  
*A few **wispy** memories of childhood.*

