

Need another word that means the same as “superficial”? Find 42 synonyms and 30 related words for “superficial” in this overview.

Table Of Contents:

- [Superficial as an Adjective](#)
- [Definitions of "Superficial" as an adjective](#)
- [Synonyms of "Superficial" as an adjective \(42 Words\)](#)
- [Usage Examples of "Superficial" as an adjective](#)
- [Associations of "Superficial" \(30 Words\)](#)

The synonyms of “Superficial” are: casual, cursory, passing, perfunctory, trivial, surface, exterior, external, outer, outside, outermost, peripheral, slight, apparent, specious, seeming, outward, ostensible, cosmetic, sketchy, desultory, unconsidered, token, slapdash, slipshod, offhand, inadequate, imperfect, shallow, on the surface, skin-deep, minimal, artificial, facile, glib, flippant, thoughtless, empty-headed, frivolous, silly, inane, fatuous

Superficial as an Adjective

Definitions of "Superficial" as an adjective

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

- *Appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely.*
- *Occurring on or near the surface of the skin.*
- *Existing or occurring at or on the surface.*
- *Of, affecting, or being on or near the surface.*
- *Hasty and without attention to detail; not thorough.*
- *Not thorough, deep, or complete; cursory.*
- *Of little substance or significance.*
- *Denoting a quantity of a material expressed in terms of area covered rather than linear dimension or volume.*
- *Situated or occurring on the skin or immediately beneath it.*
- *Lacking depth of character or understanding.*
- *Concerned with or comprehending only what is apparent or obvious; not deep or*

penetrating emotionally or intellectually.

Synonyms of "Superficial" as an adjective (42 Words)

<u>apparent</u>	Seeming real or true, but not necessarily so. <i>For no apparent reason she laughed.</i>
<u>artificial</u>	Artificially formal. <i>That artificial humility that her husband hated.</i>
<u>casual</u>	Appropriate for ordinary or routine occasions. <i>Casual clothes.</i>
cosmetic	Serving to improve the appearance of the body, especially the face. <i>Cosmetic surgery.</i>
cursor	Hasty and therefore not thorough or detailed. <i>A casual or cursor inspection failed to reveal the house s structural flaws.</i>
desultory	Occurring randomly or occasionally. <i>A few people were left dancing in a desultory fashion.</i>
empty-headed	Lacking seriousness; given to frivolity.
<u>exterior</u>	Forming, situated on, or relating to the outside of something. <i>Exterior noise.</i>
<u>external</u>	Purely outward or superficial- A.R.Gurney,Jr. <i>The external walls.</i>
<u>facile</u>	(of a person) having a superficial or simplistic knowledge or approach. <i>A man of facile and shallow intellect.</i>
fatuous	Silly and pointless. <i>A fatuous comment.</i>
flippant	Not showing a serious or respectful attitude. <i>A flippant remark.</i>
frivolous	Not having any serious purpose or value. <i>The frivolous fun loving flappers of the twenties.</i>
<u>glib</u>	Having only superficial plausibility. <i>A glib response to a complex question.</i>
<u>imperfect</u>	(of a gift, title, etc.) transferred without all the necessary conditions or requirements being met. <i>An imperfect grasp of English.</i>
<u>inadequate</u>	Lacking the requisite qualities or resources to meet a task. <i>A sad solitary inadequate man.</i>

inane	Devoid of intelligence. <i>Don't badger people with inane questions.</i>
<u>minimal</u>	Characterized by the repetition and gradual alteration of short phrases. <i>A minimal charge for the service.</i>
offhand	With little or no preparation or forethought. <i>She treated most men with offhand contempt.</i>
on the surface	On the surface.
<u>ostensible</u>	Represented or appearing as such; pretended. <i>His ostensible purpose was charity his real goal popularity.</i>
outer	Further from the centre or inside. <i>Outer reality.</i>
outermost	Situated at the farthest possible point from a center. <i>The outermost layer of the earth.</i>
<u>outside</u>	Leading to or from the outside. <i>An outside chance.</i>
outward	Relating to the external appearance of something rather than its true nature. <i>An outward journey.</i>
passing	Going past. <i>She detested him more with every passing second.</i>
<u>perfunctory</u>	(of an action) carried out without real interest, feeling, or effort. <i>Perfunctory courtesy.</i>
peripheral	Relating to or situated on the edge or periphery of something. <i>Peripheral suburbs.</i>
<u>seeming</u>	Appearing as such but not necessarily so. <i>An angry seeming man.</i>
<u>shallow</u>	Varying only slightly from a specified or understood line or direction, especially the horizontal. <i>Being fairly shallow the water was warm.</i>
silly	Helpless; defenceless (typically used of a woman, child, or animal). <i>His mother worried herself silly over him.</i>
<u>sketchy</u>	(of a picture) resembling a sketch; consisting of outline without much detail. <i>A sketchy pencil drawing by Toulouse Lautrec.</i>
skin-deep	Penetrating no deeper than the skin.
slapdash	Done too hurriedly and carelessly. <i>Slapdash work.</i>

slight	Small in degree; inconsiderable. <i>There s a slight chance it will work.</i>
slipshod	Marked by great carelessness. Slipshod spelling.
specious	Based on pretense; deceptively pleasing. A specious argument.
surface	Relating to or found on the surface of something. Surface mail.
thoughtless	Showing lack of careful thought. <i>To think a few minutes of thoughtless pleasure could end in this.</i>
token	Insignificantly small a matter of form only tokenish is informal. A tokenish gesture.
trivial	Concerned with trivialities. A trivial young woman.
unconsidered	Without proper consideration or reflection. Unconsidered words.

Usage Examples of "Superficial" as an adjective

- *Superficial knowledge.*
- *Perhaps I was a superficial person.*
- *A superficial mind.*
- *His thinking was superficial and fuzzy.*
- *Superficial similarities.*
- *Only superficial differences.*
- *The superficial report didn't give the true picture.*
- *Superficial burns.*
- *A few superficial editorial changes.*
- *He had only the most superficial knowledge of foreign countries.*
- *In his paper, he showed a very superficial understanding of psychoanalytic theory.*
- *The building suffered only superficial damage.*
- *The superficial muscle groups.*
- *Superficial facial injuries.*
- *The resemblance between the breeds is superficial.*

Associations of "Superficial" (30 Words)

aquifer	A body of permeable rock which can contain or transmit groundwater.
auricular	Relating to the ear or hearing. <i>The Catholic doctrine of the necessity of private auricular confession.</i>
bark	Tan a skin with bark tannins. <i>He began barking out his orders.</i>
bluster	Show off. <i>You threaten and bluster but won't carry it through.</i>
bombast	Pompous or pretentious talk or writing. <i>The bombast of gung ho militarism.</i>
dabbler	Any of numerous shallow-water ducks that feed by upending and dabbling.
dilettante	An amateur who engages in an activity without serious intentions and who pretends to have knowledge. <i>A wealthy literary dilettante.</i>
epidermis	The outer layer of the skin covering the exterior body surface of vertebrates.
exaggeration	Extravagant exaggeration. <i>He was prone to exaggeration.</i>
external	Coming or derived from a source outside the subject affected. <i>For external application only.</i>
externalize	Regard as objective. <i>Such neuroses are externalized as interpersonal conflicts.</i>
fustian	Thick, hard-wearing twilled cloth with a short nap, usually dyed in dark colours. <i>A smokescreen of fustian and fantasy.</i>
grandiloquent	Lofty in style. <i>A grandiloquent and boastful manner.</i>
guise	An external form, appearance, or manner of presentation, typically concealing the true nature of something. <i>He visited in the guise of an inspector.</i>
integument	A tough outer protective layer, especially that of an animal or plant. <i>This chemical compound is found in the integument of the seed.</i>
meretricious	Based on pretense; deceptively pleasing. <i>Meretricious souvenirs for the tourist trade.</i>
ostensible	Appearing as such but not necessarily so. <i>His ostensible purpose was charity his real goal popularity.</i>

outer	A shot that strikes the outer. <i>The outer layer of the skin.</i>
outward	Outwards. <i>The outward voyage.</i>
<u>outwardly</u>	In outward appearance. <i>Outwardly the figure is smooth.</i>
pompous	Puffed up with vanity. <i>A pompous speech.</i>
pretentious	(of a display) tawdry or vulgar. <i>The pretentious jargon of wine experts.</i>
putative	Generally considered or reputed to be. <i>The foundling's putative father.</i>
<u>rant</u>	A spell of ranting a tirade. <i>She was still ranting on about the unfairness of it all.</i>
rind	The hard outer edge of cheese or bacon. <i>When the meat ran out they had to rind trees and chew the inner bark for nourishment.</i>
<u>seeming</u>	Appearing as such but not necessarily so. <i>An angry seeming man.</i>
<u>semblance</u>	Resemblance similarity. <i>She tried to force her thoughts back into some semblance of order.</i>
<u>shallow</u>	Become shallow. <i>The lake shallowed over time.</i>
smatter	To talk foolishly. <i>She smatters Russian.</i>
<u>surface</u>	Put a coat on cover the surface of furnish with a surface. <i>The cloth had a pattern of red dots on a white surface.</i>