

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

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**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)

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

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

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

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

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