

Need another word that means the same as “surly”? Find 38 synonyms and 30 related words for “surly” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Surly” are: ugly, bad-tempered, ill-natured, grumpy, glum, crotchety, prickly, cantankerous, irascible, testy, ill-tempered, short-tempered, ungracious, splenetic, choleric, dyspeptic, bilious, crusty, abrupt, brusque, curt, gruff, blunt, churlish, ill-humoured, crabbed, crabby, uncivil, morose, dour, sullen, sulky, moody, sour, unfriendly, unpleasant, scowling, unsmiling

## Surly as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Surly" as an adjective

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

- *Bad-tempered and unfriendly.*
- *Inclined to anger or bad feelings with overtones of menace.*

### Synonyms of "Surly" as an adjective (38 Words)

<b><a href="#">abrupt</a></b>	Sudden and unexpected. <i>Came to an <b>abrupt</b> stop.</i>
<b>bad-tempered</b>	Annoyed and irritable.
<b>bilious</b>	Affected by or associated with nausea or vomiting. <i>A <b>bilious</b> yellow hue.</i>
<b>blunt</b>	Devoid of any qualifications or disguise or adornment. <i>The <b>blunt</b> truth.</i>

<b><u>brusque</u></b>	Abrupt or offhand in speech or manner. <i>She could be <b>brusque</b> and impatient.</i>
<b><u>cantankerous</u></b>	Bad-tempered, argumentative, and uncooperative. <i>He can be a <b>cantankerous</b> old fossil at times.</i>
<b>choleric</b>	Easily moved to anger- H.G.Wells. <i>Men of the <b>choleric</b> type take to kicking and smashing.</i>
<b>churlish</b>	Rude and boorish. <i>It seems <b>churlish</b> to complain.</i>
<b>crabbed</b>	(of handwriting) very small and difficult to decipher. <i>A <b>crabbed</b> unhappy middle age.</i>
<b>crabby</b>	Irritable. <i>He was <b>crabby</b> at having his siesta interrupted.</i>
<b>crotchety</b>	Irritable. <i>He was tired and <b>crotchety</b>.</i>
<b>crusty</b>	Having or acting as a hard outer layer or covering. <i><b>Crusty</b> remarks.</i>
<b><u>curt</u></b>	Marked by rude or peremptory shortness. <i>A response so <b>curt</b> as to be almost rude.</i>
<b>dour</b>	Harshly uninviting or formidable in manner or appearance- J.M.Barrie. <i>The proverbially <b>dour</b> New England Puritan.</i>
<b>dyspeptic</b>	Suffering from dyspepsia.
<b><u>glum</u></b>	Showing a brooding ill humor- Bruce Bli. <i>The princess looked <b>glum</b> but later cheered up.</i>
<b>gruff</b>	Abrupt or taciturn in manner. <i><b>Gruff</b> voices.</i>
<b><u>grumpy</u></b>	Bad-tempered and irritable. <i>He s <b>grumpy</b> because he hasn t heard from you.</i>
<b>ill-humoured</b>	Brusque and surly and forbidding.
<b>ill-natured</b>	Having an irritable and unpleasant disposition.
<b>ill-tempered</b>	Annoyed and irritable.
<b>irascible</b>	Having or showing a tendency to be easily angered. <i>An <b>irascible</b> response.</i>
<b><u>moody</u></b>	Giving an impression of melancholy or mystery. <i>He sat in <b>moody</b> silence.</i>
<b>morose</b>	Sullen and ill-tempered. <i>She was <b>morose</b> and silent when she got home.</i>

<b>prickly</b>	Having or causing a tingling or itching sensation. <i>His hair was <b>prickly</b> and short.</i>
<b>scowling</b>	Sullen or unfriendly in appearance.
<b>short-tempered</b>	Quickly aroused to anger.
<b>sour</b>	Having a rancid smell. <i>The kitchen smelled of <b>sour</b> milk.</i>
<b>splenetic</b>	Very irritable. <i>A <b>splenetic</b> rant.</i>
<b>sulky</b>	Depressingly dark. <i>Disappointment was making her <b>sulky</b>.</i>
<b>sullen</b>	Darkened by clouds. <i>A <b>sullen</b> sunless sky.</i>
<b>testy</b>	Easily irritated; impatient and somewhat bad-tempered. <i>She could see him growing quite <b>testy</b> beneath that polished urbanity.</i>
<b>uncivil</b>	Lacking civility or good manners- Willa Cather. <i>He d been short and <b>uncivil</b> with her.</i>
<b>unfriendly</b>	Not friendly. <i>She shot him an <b>unfriendly</b> glance.</i>
<b>ungracious</b>	Lacking social graces. <i><b>Ungracious</b> behavior.</i>
<b>unpleasant</b>	(of a person or their manner) unfriendly and inconsiderate; rude. <i>The symptoms are extremely <b>unpleasant</b>.</i>
<b>unsmiling</b>	(of a person or their manner or expression) serious or unfriendly; not smiling. <i>A large <b>unsmiling</b> woman.</i>

## Usage Examples of "Surly" as an adjective

- *The porter left with a surly expression.*
- *A surly waiter.*

## Associations of "Surly" (30 Words)

<b>abusive</b>	Involving injustice or illegality. <i>He became quite <b>abusive</b> and swore at her.</i>
<b>blunt</b>	Make dull or blunt. <i>A <b>blunt</b> statement of fact.</i>

<b>boor</b>	A rough and bad-mannered person. <i>At last the big obnoxious <b>boor</b> had been dealt a stunning blow for his uncouth and belligerent manner.</i>
<b>boorish</b>	Ill-mannered and coarse and contemptible in behavior or appearance. <b>Boorish</b> behaviour.
<b>brat</b>	A child, typically one that is badly behaved. <i>She s been acting like a spoiled <b>brat</b> all evening.</i>
<b>brusqueness</b>	An abrupt discourteous manner.
<b>churl</b>	A peasant. <i>This trio are used whenever some <b>churl</b> wants to have a pop at progressive rock.</i>
<b>churlish</b>	Having a bad disposition; surly. <b>Churlish</b> as a bear.
<b>coarse</b>	Relating to the sport of angling for coarse fish. <i>His <b>coarse</b> ugly features contorted with rage.</i>
<b>curt</b>	Rudely brief. <i>A <b>curt</b> reply.</i>
<b>discourteous</b>	Showing no courtesy; rude. <i>A distant and at times <b>discourteous</b> young.</i>
<b>dismissive</b>	Feeling or showing that something is unworthy of consideration. <i>They took <b>dismissive</b> action after the third violation.</i>
<b>disposition</b>	The action of arranging people or things in a particular way. <i>If Napoleon had had railways at his <b>disposition</b> he would have been invincible.</i>
<b>flippancy</b>	Inappropriate levity. <i>She was infuriated by his careless <b>flippancy</b>.</i>
<b>flippant</b>	Not showing a serious or respectful attitude. <i>A <b>flippant</b> remark.</i>
<b>frivolity</b>	The trait of being frivolous; not serious or sensible. <i>A night of fun and <b>frivolity</b>.</i>
<b>frivolousness</b>	The trait of being frivolous; not serious or sensible.
<b>grouch</b>	Show one's unhappiness or critical attitude. <i>My only real <b>grouch</b> was that the children s chorus was less easy on the ear.</i>
<b>impolite</b>	Not polite. <i>It would have been <b>impolite</b> to refuse.</i>

<b>manner</b>	A semantic category of adverbs and adverbials which answer the question 'how. <i>Her dignified <b>manner</b>.</i>
<b>niggard</b>	Ungenerous niggardly.
<b>oafish</b>	Rough or clumsy and unintelligent. <i><b>Oafish</b> behaviour.</i>
<b><u>pejorative</u></b>	Expressing disapproval. <i>Permissiveness is used almost universally as a <b>pejorative</b> term.</i>
<b>rude</b>	Belonging to an early stage of technical development characterized by simplicity and often crudeness. <i>The <b>crude</b> weapons and <b>rude</b> agricultural implements of early man.</i>
<b>rudely</b>	In an impolite manner. <i>He <b>rudely</b> snatched the water pitcher.</i>
<b>uncouth</b>	(of art or language) lacking sophistication or delicacy. <i>His <b>uncouth</b> cell in Fleet prison.</i>
<b>uncultivated</b>	(of land) not used for growing crops. <i><b>Uncultivated</b> land.</i>
<b><u>unrefined</u></b>	Not refined; uncouth. <i><b>Unrefined</b> sugar.</i>
<b><u>villain</u></b>	A wicked or evil person; someone who does evil deliberately. <i>A pantomime <b>villain</b>.</i>