

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)

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

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

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

Usage Examples of "Surly" as an adjective

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

Associations of "Surly" (30 Words)

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

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

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