

Need another word that means the same as “tangential”? Find 13 synonyms and 30 related words for “tangential” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Tangential” are: digressive, secondary, subsidiary, incidental, marginal, minor, unimportant, lesser, inessential, immaterial, superficial, ancillary, borderline**

## Tangential as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Tangential" as an adjective

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

- *Diverging from a previous course or line; erratic.*
- *Hardly touching a matter; peripheral.*
- *Relating to or along a tangent.*
- *Of superficial relevance if any.*
- *Of or relating to or acting along or in the direction of a tangent.*

### Synonyms of "Tangential" as an adjective (13 Words)

<a href="#">ancillary</a>	Providing necessary support to the primary activities or operation of an organization, system, etc. <i>An <b>ancillary</b> pump.</i>
<a href="#">borderline</a>	Only just acceptable in quality or as belonging to a category. <i><b>Borderline</b> grades.</i>
<a href="#">digressive</a>	Characterized by digression; tending to depart from the subject. <i>Amusingly <b>digressive</b> with satirical thrusts at women s fashions among other things.</i>

<b><u>immaterial</u></b>	(often followed by `to') lacking importance; not mattering one way or the other. <b><i>Immaterial</i></b> apparitions.
<b>incidental</b>	Following or accompanying as a consequence. <b><i>Incidental</i></b> expenses.
<b>inessential</b>	Not basic or fundamental. <b><i>Inessential</i></b> information.
<b><u>lesser</u></b>	Used in names of animals and plants which are smaller than similar kinds e.g lesser spotted woodpecker lesser celandine. <i>The <b>lesser</b> anteater.</i>
<b><u>marginal</u></b>	(of a parliamentary or council seat) held by a small majority and therefore at risk in an election. <i>It seems likely to make only a <b>marginal</b> difference.</i>
<b><u>minor</u></b>	Of a premise containing the minor term in a categorical syllogism. <b><i>Minor</i></b> back roads.
<b><u>secondary</u></b>	Having a reversible chemical reaction and therefore able to store energy. <i>The lead acid accumulator used in cars consists of <b>secondary</b> cells.</i>
<b>subsidiary</b>	(of a company) controlled by a holding or parent company. <i>A <b>subsidiary</b> flue of the main chimney.</i>
<b><u>superficial</u></b>	Concerned with or comprehending only what is apparent or obvious; not deep or penetrating emotionally or intellectually. <i>He had only the most <b>superficial</b> knowledge of foreign countries.</i>
<b><u>unimportant</u></b>	Lacking in importance or significance. <i>The question seems <b>unimportant</b>.</i>

## Usage Examples of "Tangential" as an adjective

- *Tangential thoughts.*
- *A tangential remark.*
- *The reforms were tangential to efforts to maintain a basic standard of life.*
- *A tangential line.*

## Associations of "Tangential" (30 Words)

<b><u>away</u></b>	Out of the way especially away from one's thoughts. <i>They walked <b>away</b> from the vicarage in silence.</i>
<b>daydream</b>	Indulge in a daydream. <i>Stop <b>daydreaming</b> and pay attention.</i>

<b><u>digress</u></b>	Lose clarity or turn aside especially from the main subject of attention or course of argument in writing, thinking, or speaking. <i>I have <b>digressed</b> a little from my original plan.</i>
<b>digressive</b>	Characterized by digression; tending to depart from the subject. <i>Amusingly <b>digressive</b> with satirical thrusts at women s fashions among other things.</i>
<b><u>discursive</u></b>	Digressing from subject to subject. <i>Students often write dull second hand <b>discursive</b> prose.</i>
<b>distract</b>	Divert one's attention from something unpleasant by doing something different or more pleasurable. <i>I tried to <b>distract</b> myself by concentrating on Jane.</i>
<b>except</b>	Take exception to. <i>Five classes of advertisement are <b>excepted</b> from control.</i>
<b>excursive</b>	Tending to depart from the main point or cover a wide range of subjects. <i>His <b>excursive</b> remarks.</i>
<b><u>extraction</u></b>	The ethnic origin of someone's family. <i>The dentist gave her a local anesthetic prior to the <b>extraction</b>.</i>
<b>fancied</b>	Formed or conceived by the imagination. <i>A <b>fancied</b> wrong.</i>
<b>fanciful</b>	Not based on fact; unreal- F.D.Roosevelt. <i>A <b>fanciful</b> pattern with intertwined vines and flowers.</i>
<b><u>fictitious</u></b>	Not real or true; imaginary or fabricated. <i>A <b>fictitious</b> address.</i>
<b>idealistic</b>	Characterized by idealism; unrealistically aiming for perfection. <i><b>Idealistic</b> young doctors who went to work for the rebels.</i>
<b><u>imaginary</u></b>	A number of the form $a+bi$ where $a$ and $b$ are real numbers and $i$ is the square root of $-1$ . <i>A small child s <b>imaginary</b> friends.</i>
<b><u>immaterial</u></b>	(often followed by `to') lacking importance; not mattering one way or the other. <i>Whether you choose to do it or not is a matter that is quite <b>immaterial</b> or indifferent.</i>
<b>improbable</b>	Too improbable to admit of belief. <i>The characters have <b>improbable</b> names.</i>
<b>inapplicable</b>	Not capable of being applied. <i>Rules <b>inapplicable</b> to day students.</i>

<b>incommensurate</b>	Out of keeping or proportion with. <i>Man's influence on the earth's surface seems <b>incommensurate</b> with his scale.</i>
<b>indirect</b>	(of costs) deriving from overhead charges or subsidiary work. <i>Though his methods are <b>indirect</b> they are not dishonest.</i>
<b>insubstantial</b>	Lacking strength and solidity. <i>Vinyl siding has become the standard bearer for cheap <b>insubstantial</b> construction.</i>
<b>irrelevant</b>	Not connected with or relevant to something. <i>An <b>irrelevant</b> comment.</i>
<b>meandering</b>	Following a winding course. <i>A florid and rather <b>meandering</b> melody.</i>
<b>moot</b>	A mock judicial proceeding set up to examine a hypothetical case as an academic exercise. <i>He organized the weekly <b>moot</b>.</i>
<b>rambling</b>	Spreading out in different directions or distributed irregularly. <i><b>Rambling</b> roses.</i>
<b>roam</b>	Use a mobile phone on another operator's network, typically while abroad. <i>The cattle <b>roam</b> across the prairie.</i>
<b>sidetrack</b>	A short stretch of railroad track used to store rolling stock or enable trains on the same line to pass. <i>The horse took a <b>sidetrack</b> which led uphill.</i>
<b>unsuitable</b>	Not meant or adapted for a particular purpose. <i>The movie is <b>unsuitable</b> for children.</i>
<b>visionary</b>	Relating to or having the ability to see visions in a dream or trance, or as a supernatural apparition. <i>A <b>visionary</b> leader.</i>
<b>wandering</b>	Travelling aimlessly from place to place; itinerant. <i>The river followed its <b>wandering</b> course.</i>
<b>winding</b>	The act of winding or twisting. <i>A <b>winding</b> country road.</i>