

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

Table Of Contents:

- [Tangential as an Adjective](#)
- [Definitions of "Tangential" as an adjective](#)
- [Synonyms of "Tangential" as an adjective \(13 Words\)](#)
- [Usage Examples of "Tangential" as an adjective](#)
- [Associations of "Tangential" \(30 Words\)](#)

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)

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

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

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

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

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