

Need another word that means the same as “tentative”? Find 19 synonyms and 30 related words for “tentative” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Tentative” are: doubtful, probationary, provisional, provisional, unconfirmed, unsettled, indefinite, preliminary, subject to confirmation, hesitant, uncertain, cautious, unconfident, timid, hesitating, faltering, shaky, unsteady, halting**

## Tentative as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Tentative" as an adjective

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

- *Under terms not final or fully worked out or agreed upon.*
- *Not certain or fixed; provisional.*
- *Done without confidence; hesitant.*
- *Unsettled in mind or opinion.*



## Synonyms of "Tentative" as an adjective (19 Words)

**cautious**

(of a person) careful to avoid potential problems or dangers.  
*A **cautious** driver.*

**doubtful**

Fraught with uncertainty or doubt.  
*Of **doubtful** legality.*

**faltering**

Moving unsteadily or hesitantly.  
*She tells her plight in **faltering** tones.*

**halting**

Fragmentary or halting from emotional strain.  
*She speaks **halting** English with a heavy accent.*

**hesitant**

Lacking decisiveness of character; unable to act or decide quickly or firmly.  
*Her slow **hesitant** way of speaking.*

**hesitating**

Lacking decisiveness of character; unable to act or decide quickly or firmly.  
*Her **hesitating** gait.*

<b>indefinite</b>	Not decided or not known. <i>Plans are <b>indefinite</b>.</i>
<b><u>preliminary</u></b>	Denoting an action or event preceding or in preparation for something more important; designed to orient or acquaint with a situation before proceeding. <i>The discussions were seen as <b>preliminary</b> to the policy paper.</i>
<b>probationary</b>	Relating to a process of testing or observing the character or abilities of a person who is new to a role or job. <i>She recently completed her two year <b>probationary</b> period with the police.</i>
<b>provisional</b>	Denoting the unofficial wings of the IRA and Sinn Fein established in 1969 and advocating terrorism. <i>Norman as yet had only a <b>provisional</b> licence.</i>
<b>provisionary</b>	Under terms not final or fully worked out or agreed upon. <i>A <b>provisionary</b> party member.</i>
<b><u>shaky</u></b>	Not secure; beset with difficulties. <i>She managed a <b>shaky</b> laugh.</i>
<b>subject to confirmation</b>	Possibly accepting or permitting.
<b><u>timid</u></b>	Lacking self-confidence. <i>Problems that call for bold not <b>timid</b> responses.</i>
<b><u>uncertain</u></b>	Not able to be relied on; not known or definite. <i>Plans are still <b>uncertain</b>.</i>
<b><u>unconfident</u></b>	Not confident; hesitant. <i>The airmen were young but not <b>unconfident</b>.</i>
<b>unconfirmed</b>	Not confirmed as to truth or validity. <i>An <b>unconfirmed</b> letter of credit.</i>
<b>unsettled</b>	Not settled or established. <i>One question remains <b>unsettled</b>.</i>
<b><u>unsteady</u></b>	Subject to change or variation. <i>Nathan pushed the mug into her <b>unsteady</b> hand.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Tentative" as an adjective

- *Drew a few tentative conclusions.*
- *He eventually tried a few tentative steps round his hospital room.*
- *A tentative conclusion.*
- *Just a tentative schedule.*



## Associations of "Tentative" (30 Words)

### armistice

A state of peace agreed to between opponents so they can discuss peace terms.

*The Italian government signed an **armistice** with the Allies.*

### brevity

The use of brief expressions.

*For **brevity** it is worth using these little symbols.*

### brief

Instruct a barrister by brief.

*She **briefed** him on last week s decisions.*

### cessation

A stopping.

*The **cessation** of hostilities.*

### conditional

A sentence containing a conditional clause.

***Conditional** acceptance of the terms.*

### discontinuance

The act of discontinuing or breaking off; an interruption (temporary or permanent).

<b>ephemeral</b>	An ephemeral plant. <i>Works of more than <b>ephemeral</b> interest.</i>
<b>episodic</b>	Limited in duration to a single episode. <i>An account concerned primarily with <b>episodic</b> events such as the succession of rulers.</i>
<b>evanescent</b>	Denoting a field or wave which extends into a region where it cannot propagate and whose amplitude therefore decreases with distance. <i><b>Evanescent</b> beauty.</i>
<b>fleeting</b>	Lasting for a very short time. <i>For a <b>fleeting</b> moment I saw the face of a boy.</i>
<b>fugitive</b>	Someone who is sought by law officers; someone trying to elude justice. <i>The <b>fugitive</b> effects of light.</i>
<b>hesitant</b>	Tentative, unsure, or slow in acting or speaking. <i>Her slow <b>hesitant</b> way of speaking.</i>
<b>illusive</b>	Deceptive; illusory. <i>An <b>illusive</b> haven.</i>
<b>illusory</b>	Based on or having the nature of an illusion. <i>Secret activities offer presidents the alluring but often <b>illusory</b> promise that they can achieve foreign policy goals without the bothersome debate and open decision that are staples of democracy.</i>
<b>interim</b>	An interim dividend profit etc. <i>In the <b>interim</b> I'll just keep my fingers crossed.</i>
<b>limited</b>	Denoting a limited company used after a company name. <i><b>Limited</b> war.</i>
<b>makeshift</b>	Acting as an interim and temporary measure. <i>The rock served as a <b>makeshift</b> hammer.</i>
<b>momentary</b>	Lasting for a very short time; brief. <i>A <b>momentary</b> glimpse.</i>
<b>provisional</b>	A provisional stamp. <i>Norman as yet had only a <b>provisional</b> licence.</i>
<b>provisory</b>	Provisional. <i>A <b>provisory</b> clause.</i>
<b>short</b>	Short circuit or cause to short circuit. <i>He was <b>short</b> and stocky.</i>
<b>stopgap</b>	Something contrived to meet an urgent need or emergency. <i>Transplants are only a <b>stopgap</b> until more sophisticated alternatives can work.</i>

<b>succinctness</b>	Terseness and economy in writing and speaking achieved by expressing a great deal in just a few words.
<b>temporary</b>	A person employed on a temporary basis typically an office worker who finds employment through an agency. <i>Employed on a <b>temporary</b> basis.</i>
<b>transience</b>	The state or fact of lasting only for a short time; transitoriness. <i>The <b>transience</b> of life and happiness.</i>
<b><u>transient</u></b>	Lasting only for a short time; impermanent. <i><b>Transient</b> laborers.</i>
<b>transitional</b>	Of or relating to or characterized by transition. <i>A <b>transitional</b> government was appointed.</i>
<b>transitory</b>	Lasting a very short time. <i>Love is <b>transitory</b> but it is eternal.</i>
<b><u>truce</u></b>	An agreement between enemies or opponents to stop fighting or arguing for a certain time. <i>The guerrillas called a three day <b>truce</b>.</i>
<b>truncate</b>	Make shorter as if by cutting off. <i>A <b>truncate</b> leaf.</i>

