

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.*

indefinite	Not decided or not known. <i>Plans are indefinite.</i>
<u>preliminary</u>	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 preliminary to the policy paper.</i>
probationary	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 probationary period with the police.</i>
provisional	Denoting the unofficial wings of the IRA and Sinn Fein established in 1969 and advocating terrorism. <i>Norman as yet had only a provisional licence.</i>
provisionary	Under terms not final or fully worked out or agreed upon. <i>A provisionary party member.</i>
<u>shaky</u>	Not secure; beset with difficulties. <i>She managed a shaky laugh.</i>
subject to confirmation	Possibly accepting or permitting.
<u>timid</u>	Lacking self-confidence. <i>Problems that call for bold not timid responses.</i>
<u>uncertain</u>	Not able to be relied on; not known or definite. <i>Plans are still uncertain.</i>
<u>unconfident</u>	Not confident; hesitant. <i>The airmen were young but not unconfident.</i>
unconfirmed	Not confirmed as to truth or validity. <i>An unconfirmed letter of credit.</i>
unsettled	Not settled or established. <i>One question remains unsettled.</i>
<u>unsteady</u>	Subject to change or variation. <i>Nathan pushed the mug into her unsteady 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).

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

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

