

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)

<u>cautious</u>	(of a person) careful to avoid potential problems or dangers. <i>A cautious driver.</i>
doubtful	Fraught with uncertainty or doubt. <i>Of doubtful legality.</i>
faltering	Moving unsteadily or hesitantly. <i>She tells her plight in faltering tones.</i>
halting	Fragmentary or halting from emotional strain. <i>She speaks halting English with a heavy accent.</i>
hesitant	Lacking decisiveness of character; unable to act or decide quickly or firmly. <i>Her slow hesitant way of speaking.</i>
hesitating	Lacking decisiveness of character; unable to act or decide quickly or firmly. <i>Her hesitating gait.</i>

indefinite

Not decided or not known.

*Plans are **indefinite**.*

preliminary

Denoting an action or event preceding or in preparation for something more important; designed to orient or acquaint with a situation before proceeding.

*The discussions were seen as **preliminary** to the policy paper.*

probationary

Relating to a process of testing or observing the character or abilities of a person who is new to a role or job.

*She recently completed her two year **probationary** period with the police.*

provisional

Denoting the unofficial wings of the IRA and Sinn Fein established in 1969 and advocating terrorism.

*Norman as yet had only a **provisional** licence.*

provisionary

Under terms not final or fully worked out or agreed upon.

*A **provisionary** party member.*

shaky

Not secure; beset with difficulties.

*She managed a **shaky** laugh.*

subject to confirmation

Possibly accepting or permitting.

timid

Lacking self-confidence.

*Problems that call for bold not **timid** responses.*

uncertain

Not able to be relied on; not known or definite.

*Plans are still **uncertain**.*

unconfident

Not confident; hesitant.

*The airmen were young but not **unconfident**.*

unconfirmed

Not confirmed as to truth or validity.

*An **unconfirmed** letter of credit.*

unsettled

Not settled or established.

*One question remains **unsettled**.*

unsteady

Subject to change or variation.

*Nathan pushed the mug into her **unsteady** hand.*



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>

