

Need another word that means the same as “tortuous”? Find 35 synonyms and 30 related words for “tortuous” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Tortuous” are: byzantine, convoluted, involved, knotty, tangled, twisting, twisty, voluminous, winding, curving, curvy, sinuous, undulating, coiling, meandering, serpentine, snaky, zigzag, spiralling, circuitous, rambling, wandering, indirect, deviating, devious, labyrinthine, mazy, roundabout, complicated, complex, confusing, lengthy, overlong, verbose, difficult to follow**

## Tortuous as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Tortuous" as an adjective

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

- *Marked by repeated turns and bends.*
- *Highly complex or intricate and occasionally devious.*
- *Not straightforward.*
- *Excessively lengthy and complex.*
- *Full of twists and turns.*



## Synonyms of "Tortuous" as an adjective (35 Words)

<b>byzantine</b>	Highly complex or intricate and occasionally devious.
<b>circuitous</b>	Deviating from a straight course. <i>A <b>circuitous</b> line of reasoning.</i>
<b>coiling</b>	In the shape of a coil.
<b>complex</b>	Complicated in structure; consisting of interconnected parts. <i>The situation is more <b>complex</b> than it appears.</i>
<b><u>complicated</u></b>	Difficult to analyze or understand. <i>A <b>complicated</b> stereo system.</i>
<b>confusing</b>	Lacking clarity of meaning; causing confusion or perplexity. <i>Being hospitalized can be <b>confusing</b> and distressing for a small child.</i>
<b>convoluted</b>	Intricately folded, twisted, or coiled. <i><b>Convoluted</b> reasoning.</i>
<b>curving</b>	Having or marked by a curve or smoothly rounded bend.
<b>curvy</b>	(of a woman's body) having a large bosom and pleasing curves. <i><b>Curvy</b> lines.</i>
<b>deviating</b>	Markedly different from an accepted norm.
<b><u>devious</u></b>	Showing a skilful use of underhand tactics to achieve goals. <i>He s as <b>devious</b> as a politician needs to be.</i>
<b>difficult to follow</b>	Hard to control.
<b><u>indirect</u></b>	Descended from a common ancestor but through different lines. <i>Reflection from the ceiling provided a soft <b>indirect</b> light.</i>
<b><u>involved</u></b>	Emotionally involved. <i>The plot was too <b>involved</b>.</i>
<b>knotty</b>	Full of knots. <i>A <b>knotty</b> legal problem.</i>
<b><u>labyrinthine</u></b>	Relating to or affecting or originating in the inner ear. <i>A <b>labyrinthine</b> network of tortuous footpaths.</i>
<b>lengthy</b>	(especially in reference to time) of considerable or unusual length, especially so as to be tedious. <i><b>Lengthy</b> delays.</i>
<b>mazy</b>	Like a maze; labyrinthine. <i>The <b>mazy</b> old fishing quarter.</i>
<b>meandering</b>	Proceeding in a convoluted or undirected fashion. <i>A brilliant sample of <b>meandering</b> discourse.</i>

<b>overlong</b>	Too long. <i>An <b>overlong</b> sermon.</i>
<b>rambling</b>	Spreading out in different directions or distributed irregularly. <i>A <b>rambling</b> speech about this and that.</i>
<b>roundabout</b>	Not following a short direct route; circuitous. <i>A <b>roundabout</b> route avoided rush hour traffic.</i>
<b>serpentine</b>	Of or like a serpent or snake. <i>A <b>serpentine</b> wall.</i>
<b>sinuous</b>	Gracefully thin and bending and moving with ease. <i>The <b>sinuous</b> grace of a cat.</i>
<b>snaky</b>	Of the supposed nature of a snake in showing coldness, venom, or cunning. <i><b>Snaky</b> ridges in the sand.</i>
<b>spiralling</b>	Having or forming a spiral shape. <i>He needed to relax after the <b>spiralling</b> tensions of the day.</i>
<b>tangled</b>	In a confused mass. <i>Pushed back her <b>tangled</b> hair.</i>
<b>twisting</b>	Marked by repeated turns and bends.
<b>twisty</b>	Marked by repeated turns and bends. <i>A <b>twisty</b> country road.</i>
<b>undulating</b>	Having a smoothly rising and falling form or outline. <i>The <b>undulating</b> country lanes of Northern Ireland.</i>
<b>verbose</b>	Using or containing too many words. <i>Much academic language is obscure and <b>verbose</b>.</i>
<b>voluminous</b>	Large in number or quantity (especially of discourse). <i>A subject of <b>voluminous</b> legislation.</i>
<b>wandering</b>	Travelling aimlessly from place to place; itinerant. <i><b>Wandering</b> tribes.</i>
<b>winding</b>	Of a path e.g. <i><b>Winding</b> roads are full of surprises.</i>
<b>zigzag</b>	Having the form of a zigzag veering alternately to right and left. <i>When chased by a predator some animals take a <b>zigzag</b> course.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Tortuous" as an adjective

- *Tortuous legal procedures.*
- *A tortuous argument.*
- *Tortuous negotiations lasting for months.*
- *A tortuous road up the mountain.*
- *The route is remote and tortuous.*
- *His tortuous reasoning.*



## Associations of "Tortuous" (30 Words)

- abstruse** Difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge.  
*An **abstruse** philosophical inquiry.*
- backhanded** Roundabout or ambiguous.  
*A **backhanded** pass.*
- circuitous** (of a route or journey) longer than the most direct way.  
*A **circuitous** line of reasoning.*
- complex** Make an atom or compound form a complex with another.  
*A **complex** mass of diverse laws and customs.*
- complexity** The state or quality of being intricate or complicated.  
*He enjoyed the **complexity** of modern computers.*
- complicated** Consisting of many interconnecting parts or elements; intricate.  
*A **complicated** problem.*

<b>convoluted</b>	Rolled longitudinally upon itself. <i><b>Convoluted</b> reasoning.</i>
<b>convolution</b>	A thing that is complex and difficult to follow. <i>The <b>convolutions</b> of farm policy.</i>
<b>crooked</b>	Annoyed; exasperated. <i>A dress with a <b>crooked</b> hemline.</i>
<b>discursive</b>	Digressing from subject to subject. <i>A rambling <b>discursive</b> book.</i>
<b>esoterica</b>	Secrets known only to an initiated minority. <i>A professor of such <b>esoterica</b> as angelology and comparative shamanism.</i>
<b>gnarled</b>	Used of old persons or old trees; covered with knobs or knots. <i>The <b>gnarled</b> old oak tree.</i>
<b>indirect</b>	Extended senses; not direct in manner or language or behavior or action. <i>Doubtless they had some <b>indirect</b> purpose in mind.</i>
<b>intricacy</b>	The quality of being intricate. <i>The <b>intricacy</b> of the procedure.</i>
<b>intricate</b>	Very complicated or detailed. <i><b>Intricate</b> lacework.</i>
<b>involution</b>	The process of raising a quantity to some assigned power. <i>Periods of artistic <b>involution</b>.</i>
<b>knotty</b>	Tangled in knots or snarls. <i>A <b>knotty</b> legal problem.</i>
<b>labyrinth</b>	A complex structure in the inner ear which contains the organs of hearing and balance. It consists of bony cavities the bony labyrinth filled with fluid and lined with sensitive membranes the membranous labyrinth. <i>You lose yourself in a <b>labyrinth</b> of little streets.</i>
<b>labyrinthine</b>	(of a network) like a labyrinth; irregular and twisting. <i>A <b>labyrinthine</b> network of tortuous footpaths.</i>
<b>maze</b>	A confusing mass of information. <i>The house has a <b>maze</b> and a walled Italian garden.</i>
<b>meander</b>	An aimless amble on a winding course. <i>Kids <b>meandered</b> in and out.</i>
<b>perplexity</b>	An entangled state. <i>She paused in <b>perplexity</b>.</i>
<b>priggish</b>	Self-righteously moralistic and superior. <i>A <b>priggish</b> little pedant.</i>

<b>problematic</b>	Constituting or presenting a problem. <i>The situation was <b>problematic</b> for teachers.</i>
<b>ravel</b>	Unravel fray. <i>Can you <b>unravel</b> the mystery.</i>
<b>serpentine</b>	Complex, cunning, or treacherous. <i>His charm was too subtle and <b>serpentine</b> for me.</i>
<b>sinuosity</b>	Having curves. <i>He hated the <b>sinuosity</b> of mountain roads.</i>
<b>sinuous</b>	Gracefully thin and bending and moving with ease. <i>The river follows a <b>sinuous</b> trail through the dale.</i>
<b>tangled</b>	Twisted together untidily; matted. <i>His hair was a <b>tangled</b> mess.</i>
<b>winding</b>	The act of winding or twisting. <i>Our bedroom was at the top of a <b>winding</b> staircase.</i>