

Need another word that means the same as “tough”? Find 113 synonyms and 30 related words for “tough” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Tough” are: baffling, elusive, knotty, problematic, problematical, rugged, hard, ruffianly, toughened, sturdy, bad, durable, strong, resilient, resistant, firm, solid, substantial, sound, stout, indestructible, unbreakable, rigid, stiff, inflexible, chewy, leathery, gristly, stringy, fibrous, sinewy, cartilaginous, hardy, gritty, determined, resolute, dogged, stalwart, arduous, onerous, difficult, demanding, heavy, taxing, burdensome, tiring, exhausting, punishing, wearying, laborious, strenuous, exacting, troublesome, formidable, stressful, herculean, thorny, tricky, ticklish, prickly, perplexing, puzzling, mystifying, bothersome, irksome, intractable, strict, stern, severe, harsh, hard-hitting, adamant, unyielding, unbending, uncompromising, unsentimental, unsympathetic, rough, rowdy, unruly, disorderly, violent, wild, lawless, criminal, street fighter, goon, hood, hoodlum, punk, strong-armed, thug, toughie, bully, hooligan, roughneck, ruffian, yob, yobbo, yobo, brute, bully boy, gangster, desperado, put up with it, grin and bear it, keep at it, keep going, stay with it, see it through, see it through to the end**

## **Tough as a Noun**

## Definitions of "Tough" as a noun

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), "tough" as a noun can have the following definitions:

- *A rough and violent man.*
- *A cruel and brutal fellow.*
- *Someone who learned to fight in the streets rather than being formally trained in the sport of boxing.*
- *An aggressive and violent young criminal.*



## Synonyms of "Tough" as a noun (21 Words)

### **brute**

Something awkward, difficult, or unpleasant.  
*What an unfeeling little **brute** you are.*

<b>bully</b>	A person who habitually seeks to harm or intimidate those whom they perceive as vulnerable. <i>He is a ranting domineering <b>bully</b>.</i>
<b>bully boy</b>	A hired thug.
<b>desperado</b>	A desperate or reckless person, especially a criminal.
<b>gangster</b>	A criminal who is a member of gang. <i><b>Gangster</b> movies.</i>
<b>goon</b>	An awkward stupid person. <i>I don t want to deal with Jack today he s such a <b>goon</b>.</i>
<b>hood</b>	A structure or marking resembling a hood on the head or neck of an animal. <i>A jacket with a detachable <b>hood</b>.</i>
<b>hoodlum</b>	An aggressive and violent young criminal. <i>They were the professional gangsters of New York <b>hoodlums</b> and racketeers.</i>
<b>hooligan</b>	A violent young troublemaker, typically one of a gang. <i><b>Hooligan</b> behaviour.</i>
<b>punk</b>	An admirer or player of punk rock typically characterized by coloured spiked hair and clothing decorated with safety pins or zips. <i>There s never been a better time to take our streets back from the <b>punks</b>.</i>
<b>rough</b>	A disreputable and violent person. <i>I did a <b>rough</b> to work out the scale of the lettering.</i>
<b>roughneck</b>	A rough and uncouth person. <i>The usual <b>roughnecks</b> and gangsters.</i>
<b>rowdy</b>	A cruel and brutal fellow. <i>We are accused of being rowdies in the pub.</i>
<b>ruffian</b>	A violent criminal or troublemaker.
<b>street fighter</b>	People living or working on the same street.
<b>strong-armed</b>	An aggressive and violent young criminal.
<b>toughie</b>	An aggressive and violent young criminal. <i>Who do you admire most That s a <b>toughie</b>.</i>
<b>job</b>	A rude, noisy, and aggressive young person.
<b>yobo</b>	A cruel and brutal fellow.



## Usage Examples of "Tough" as a noun

- *A gang of toughs.*





## **Tough as a Verb**

### **Definitions of "Tough" as a verb**

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), "tough" as a verb can have the following definitions:

- *Endure a period of hardship or difficulty.*



## Synonyms of "Tough" as a verb (7 Words)

**grin and bear it**

To draw back the lips and reveal the teeth, in a smile, grimace, or snarl.

**keep at it**

Fail to spoil or rot.

**keep going**

Maintain by writing regular records.

**put up with it**

Estimate.

**see it through**

Imagine; conceive of; see in one's mind.

**see it through to the end**

Observe as if with an eye.

**stay with it**

Dwell.





## Tough as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Tough" as an adjective

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

- *Not given to gentleness or sentimentality.*
- *Feeling physical discomfort or pain ('tough' is occasionally used colloquially for 'bad).*
- *(of food, especially meat) difficult to cut or chew.*
- *Violent and lawless.*
- *Able to endure hardship or pain.*
- *Used to express a lack of sympathy with someone.*
- *Physically toughened.*
- *Resistant to cutting or chewing.*
- *Very difficult; severely testing stamina or resolution.*

- *Strong and prone to violence.*
- *Demonstrating a strict and uncompromising approach.*
- *Unfortunate or hard to bear.*
- *(of an area) notorious for violence and crime.*
- *Used to express sympathy with someone in a difficult situation.*
- *Making great mental demands; hard to comprehend or solve or believe.*
- *Difficult and requiring determination or effort.*
- *(of a substance or object) strong enough to withstand adverse conditions or rough handling.*
- *Substantially made or constructed.*
- *Having the confidence and determination to cope in difficult situations.*



## Synonyms of "Tough" as an adjective (85 Words)

### [adamant](#)

Refusing to be persuaded or to change one's mind.  
*He is **adamant** that he is not going to resign.*



<b><u>arduous</u></b>	Characterized by effort to the point of exhaustion; especially physical effort. <i>An <b>arduous</b> journey.</i>
<b>bad</b>	Feeling physical discomfort or pain though is occasionally used colloquially for bad. <i>A <b>bad</b> listener.</i>
<b>baffling</b>	Making great mental demands; hard to comprehend or solve or believe. <i>The crime is a <b>baffling</b> mystery for the police.</i>
<b>bothersome</b>	Annoying; troublesome. <i>Most childhood stomach aches though <b>bothersome</b> aren't serious.</i>
<b>burdensome</b>	Undesirably restrictive. <i>The <b>burdensome</b> task of preparing the income tax return.</i>
<b>cartilaginous</b>	(of a vertebrate animal) having a skeleton of cartilage.
<b>chewy</b>	Requiring much chewing. <i>The rye bread has a nice <b>chewy</b> texture.</i>
<b>criminal</b>	(of an action or situation) deplorable and shocking. <i>A <b>criminal</b> offence.</i>
<b>demanding</b>	Requiring more than usually expected or thought due; especially great patience and effort and skill. <i>He was a <b>demanding</b> baby and rarely slept through the night.</i>
<b>determined</b>	Having been learned or found or determined especially by investigation. <i>A <b>determined</b> effort to reduce inflation.</i>
<b>difficult</b>	Characterized by or causing hardships or problems. <i>The questions are too <b>difficult</b> for the children.</i>
<b>disorderly</b>	Undisciplined and unruly. <i>A <b>disorderly</b> pile of books.</i>
<b><u>dogged</u></b>	Having or showing tenacity and grim persistence. <i><b>Dogged</b> persistence.</i>
<b><u>durable</u></b>	Able to withstand wear, pressure, or damage; hard-wearing. <i>Porcelain enamel is strong and <b>durable</b>.</i>
<b><u>elusive</u></b>	Making great mental demands; hard to comprehend or solve or believe. <i>A haunting <b>elusive</b> odor.</i>
<b>exacting</b>	Severe and unremitting in making demands. <i>An <b>exacting</b> job.</i>
<b>exhausting</b>	Producing exhaustion. <i>An <b>exhausting</b> job in the hot sun.</i>

<b>fibrous</b>	Full of sinews; especially impossible to chew. <i>A good <b>fibrous</b> root system.</i>
<b>firm</b>	Marked by firm determination or resolution not shakable. <i>We became <b>firm</b> friends.</i>
<b>formidable</b>	Inspiring fear. <i>The <b>formidable</b> prospect of major surgery.</i>
<b>gristly</b>	Difficult to chew. <i><b>Gristly</b> bits of beef.</i>
<b>gritty</b>	Willing to face danger. <i>Her eyes felt <b>gritty</b>.</i>
<b>hard</b>	Unfortunate or hard to bear. <i>Had <b>hard</b> luck.</i>
<b>hard-hitting</b>	Aggressively and persistently persuasive.
<b>hardy</b>	(of a plant) able to survive outside during winter. <i>A <b>hardy</b> breed of cattle.</i>
<b>harsh</b>	Disagreeable to the senses. <i><b>Harsh</b> irritating smoke filled the hallway.</i>
<b>heavy</b>	Large and powerful especially designed for heavy loads or rough work. <i><b>Heavy</b> traffic.</i>
<b>herculean</b>	Extremely difficult; requiring the strength of a Hercules. <i>A <b>herculean</b> task.</i>
<b>indestructible</b>	Very long lasting. <i><b>Indestructible</b> plastic containers.</i>
<b>inflexible</b>	Incapable of adapting or changing to meet circumstances. <i>An <b>inflexible</b> iron bar.</i>
<b>intractable</b>	Not tractable; difficult to manage or mold. <i>The most <b>intractable</b> issue of our era.</i>
<b>irksome</b>	Irritating; annoying. <i>Petty regulations were becoming very <b>irksome</b>.</i>
<b>knotty</b>	Extremely difficult or complex. <i>A <b>knotty</b> problem.</i>
<b>laborious</b>	Characterized by effort to the point of exhaustion; especially physical effort. <i>The work is very slow and <b>laborious</b>.</i>
<b>lawless</b>	Disobedient to or defiant of law. <i><b>Lawless</b> bands roaming the plains.</i>



<b>leathery</b>	Resembling or made to resemble leather; tough but pliable. <i>Brown <b>leathery</b> skin.</i>
<b>mystifying</b>	Of an obscure nature. <i>Rituals totally <b>mystifying</b> to visitors from other lands.</i>
<b>onerous</b>	Not easily borne; wearing. <i>My duties weren't <b>onerous</b> I only had to greet the guests.</i>
<b>perplexing</b>	Lacking clarity of meaning; causing confusion or perplexity. <i>A <b>perplexing</b> problem.</i>
<b>prickly</b>	Resembling prickles. <i>My skin feels <b>prickly</b>.</i>
<b>problematic</b>	Open to doubt or debate. <i>If you ever get married which seems to be extremely <b>problematic</b>.</i>
<b>problematical</b>	Open to doubt or debate. <i>The weighting of votes was particularly <b>problematical</b>.</i>
<b><u>punishing</u></b>	Characterized by effort to the point of exhaustion; especially physical effort. <i>Set a <b>punishing</b> pace.</i>
<b><u>puzzling</u></b>	Not clear to the understanding. <i>A <b>puzzling</b> statement.</i>
<b><u>resilient</u></b>	(of a person or animal) able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions. <i>Babies are generally far more <b>resilient</b> than new parents realize.</i>
<b><u>resistant</u></b>	Disposed to or engaged in defiance of established authority. <i>Some of the old Churches are <b>resistant</b> to change.</i>
<b><u>resolute</u></b>	Characterized by quickness and firmness. <i>Stood <b>resolute</b> against the enemy.</i>
<b>rigid</b>	Incapable of adapting or changing to meet circumstances. <i>A face <b>rigid</b> with pain.</i>
<b>rough</b>	Not fully worked out or including every detail. <i>The lifeboat crew braved <b>rough</b> seas to rescue a couple.</i>
<b><u>rowdy</u></b>	Noisy and disorderly. <i>It was a <b>rowdy</b> but good natured crowd.</i>
<b>ruffianly</b>	Violent and lawless. <i>The more <b>ruffianly</b> element.</i>
<b><u>rugged</u></b>	Very difficult; severely testing stamina or resolution. <i>The binoculars are compact lightweight and <b>rugged</b>.</i>

<b>severe</b>	Severely simple. <i>A <b>severe</b> attack of asthma.</i>
<b>sinewy</b>	(of a person or animal) lean and muscular. <i>A short <b>sinewy</b> sunburnt man.</i>
<b>solid</b>	Of good quality and condition solidly built. <i><b>Solid</b> gold.</i>
<b>sound</b>	In excellent physical condition. <i>A <b>sound</b> argument.</i>
<b>stalwart</b>	Dependable. <i>He was of <b>stalwart</b> build.</i>
<b>stern</b>	Of a stern or strict bearing or demeanor forbidding in aspect. <i>A <b>stern</b> face.</i>
<b>stiff</b>	(of a semi-liquid substance) viscous; thick. <i>A palace guardsman <b>stiff</b> as a poker.</i>
<b>stout</b>	Dependable. <i><b>Stout</b> hearts.</i>
<b>strenuous</b>	Characterized by or performed with much energy or force. <i>The government made <b>strenuous</b> efforts to upgrade the quality of the teaching profession.</i>
<b>stressful</b>	Causing mental or emotional stress. <i>Corporate finance work can be <b>stressful</b>.</i>
<b>strict</b>	Characterized by strictness severity or restraint. <i>A <b>strict</b> vegetarian.</i>
<b>stringy</b>	Lean and sinewy. <i>The meat was a bit <b>stringy</b> but delicious.</i>
<b>strong</b>	Strong and sure. <i>His imagery made a <b>strong</b> impression on the critics.</i>
<b>sturdy</b>	Having rugged physical strength; inured to fatigue or hardships. <i>The bike is <b>sturdy</b> enough to cope with bumpy tracks.</i>
<b>substantial</b>	Strongly built or made. <i>The first meal of the day should be <b>substantial</b>.</i>
<b>taxing</b>	Not easily borne; wearing. <i>A <b>taxing</b> schedule.</i>
<b>thorny</b>	Causing distress, difficulty, or trouble. <i>Tangled <b>thorny</b> branches.</i>



<b>ticklish</b>	(of a situation or problem) difficult or tricky and requiring careful handling. <i>I m <b>ticklish</b> on the feet.</i>
<b>tiring</b>	Causing one to need rest or sleep; fatiguing. <i>It had been a <b>tiring</b> day.</i>
<b>toughened</b>	Physically toughened.
<b>tricky</b>	Marked by skill in deception. <i>A <b>tricky</b> recipe to follow.</i>
<b>troublesome</b>	Causing difficulty or annoyance. <i>A <b>troublesome</b> situation.</i>
<b>unbending</b>	Incapable of adapting or changing to meet circumstances. <i>An <b>unbending</b> will to dominate.</i>
<b>unbreakable</b>	Not liable to break or able to be broken easily. <i><b>Unbreakable</b> plastic dinnerwear.</i>
<b>uncompromising</b>	Not making concessions. <i>Took an <b>uncompromising</b> stance in the peace talks.</i>
<b>unruly</b>	Unwilling to submit to authority. <i>The little boy s parents think he is spirited but his teacher finds him <b>unruly</b>.</i>
<b>unsentimental</b>	Facing facts or difficulties realistically and with determination. <i>The speeches were short and <b>unsentimental</b>.</i>
<b>unsympathetic</b>	Not showing approval or favour towards an idea or action. <i>A job temperamentally <b>unsympathetic</b> to him.</i>
<b>unyielding</b>	Stubbornly unyielding T S Eliot. <i>An <b>unyielding</b> head support.</i>
<b>violent</b>	Marked by extreme intensity of emotions or convictions inclined to react violently fervid. <i><b>Violent</b> passions.</i>
<b>wearying</b>	Producing exhaustion. <i>A long <b>wearying</b> journey.</i>
<b>wild</b>	Produced from wild animals or plants without cultivation. <i><b>Wild</b> geese.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Tough" as an adjective

- *A tough character.*
- *Police have been getting tough with drivers.*
- *He was feeling tough after a restless night.*
- *The tough bottoms of his feet.*
- *It was a tough job.*
- *Tough new laws on tobacco advertising.*
- *Poor kid. It's tough on her.*
- *A tough break.*
- *He liked editors who were tough enough to make the grade.*
- *Some plastics are as tough as metal.*
- *I feel the way I feel, and if you don't like it, tough.*
- *She was as tough as old boots.*
- *A tough all-weather fabric.*
- *A tough part of the town.*



- *Tough young teenagers.*
- *The hastily prepared steak was tough.*
- *It's a tough life.*
- *Tough rucksacks for climbers.*
- *Tough street gangs.*
- *The competition was tough.*
- *We have six tough matches in a row.*



## Associations of "Tough" (30 Words)

**brave**

People who are brave.  
*He put up a **brave** fight before losing.*

**brogan**

A thick and heavy shoe.

**burly**

Muscular and heavily built.  
*Had a tall **burly** frame.*

**firm**

Marked by firm determination or resolution not shakable.  
*We **firmly** believed it.*

**gruff**

Brusque and surly and forbidding.  
*She spoke with a **gruff** masculine voice.*

<b>hard</b>	Causing great damage or hardship. <i>Prejudices die <b>hard</b>.</i>
<b>hardened</b>	Used of persons emotionally hardened. <i><b>Hardened</b> criminals.</i>
<b>hardheaded</b>	Guided by practical experience and observation rather than theory. <i>A <b>hardheaded</b> appraisal of our position.</i>
<b>hardy</b>	Having rugged physical strength; inured to fatigue or hardships. <i>Strawberries are <b>hardy</b> and easy to grow.</i>
<b>husky</b>	(of a voice or utterance) sounding low-pitched and slightly hoarse. <i>The <b>husky</b> stem of a palm tree.</i>
<b>inflexible</b>	Resistant to being bent. <i>An <b>inflexible</b> law.</i>
<b>inured</b>	Made tough by habitual exposure- Robert Lynd- V.S.Pritchett. <i>A peasant dark lean faced wind <b>inured</b>.</i>
<b>manliness</b>	The fact of being typically male; masculinity. <i>The author s alleged lack of <b>manliness</b>.</i>
<b><u>masculine</u></b>	A masculine word or form. <i>He is outstandingly handsome and robust very <b>masculine</b>.</i>
<b><u>muscular</u></b>	Having a robust muscular body build characterized by predominance of structures bone and muscle and connective tissue developed from the embryonic mesodermal layer. <i>The <b>muscular</b> and passionate Fifth Symphony.</i>
<b>potent</b>	Having great power, influence, or effect. <i>A <b>potent</b> cup of tea.</i>
<b>raspy</b>	Unpleasantly harsh or grating in sound. <i>A persistent <b>raspy</b> cough.</i>
<b><u>resolute</u></b>	Firm in purpose or belief; characterized by firmness and determination. <i>Faced with a <b>resolute</b> opposition.</i>
<b>rigidity</b>	The physical property of being stiff and resisting bending. <i>The <b>rigidity</b> of the school system.</i>
<b>rigidness</b>	The physical property of being stiff and resisting bending.
<b>robust</b>	Uncompromising and forceful. <i>A <b>robust</b> metal cabinet.</i>
<b><u>rowdy</u></b>	Noisy and disorderly. <i>It was a <b>rowdy</b> but good natured crowd.</i>
<b><u>solid</u></b>	Of good quality and condition solidly built. <i>The bank is <b>solid</b> and will survive this attack.</i>

<b><u>stalwart</u></b>	Used especially of persons. <i>The <b>stalwarts</b> of the Labour Party.</i>
<b>strong</b>	Relating to or denoting the strongest of the known kinds of force between particles which acts between nucleons and other hadrons when closer than about 10 cm so binding protons in a nucleus despite the repulsion due to their charge and which conserves strangeness parity and isospin. <i>Gave a <b>strong</b> pull on the rope.</i>
<b><u>sturdy</u></b>	Not making concessions. <i>The bike is <b>sturdy</b> enough to cope with bumpy tracks.</i>
<b><u>uncompromising</u></b>	Not making concessions. <i>The <b>uncompromising</b> ugliness of the era's buildings.</i>
<b>unyielding</b>	Stubbornly unyielding T S Eliot. <i>His <b>unyielding</b> faith.</i>
<b><u>vigorous</u></b>	Strong and active physically or mentally. <i>Gave her skirt a <b>vigorous</b> shake.</i>
<b><u>virile</u></b>	Characterized by energy and vigor. <i>He was a powerful <b>virile</b> man.</i>



