

Need another word that means the same as “tricky”? Find 32 synonyms and 30 related words for “tricky” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Tricky” are: catchy, slippery, crafty, cunning, dodgy, foxy, guileful, knavish, slick, sly, tricky, wily, difficult, awkward, problematic, delicate, ticklish, sensitive, touchy, risky, uncertain, precarious, touch-and-go, artful, devious, scheming, deceitful, deceptive, duplicitous, dishonest, disingenuous, machiavellian

Tricky as an Adjective

Definitions of "Tricky" as an adjective

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

- *Having concealed difficulty.*
- *Not to be trusted.*
- *Deceitful or crafty.*
- *(of a task, problem, etc.) requiring care and skill because difficult or awkward.*
- *Marked by skill in deception.*
- *Not to be trusted- James Agee.*



Synonyms of "Tricky" as an adjective (32 Words)

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| artful | Clever or skilful, especially in a crafty or cunning way. <i>An artful photograph of a striking woman.</i> |
| awkward | Not elegant or graceful in expression. <i>His clumsy fingers produced an awkward knot.</i> |
| catchy | Likely to attract attention. <i>Catchy pop melodies.</i> |
| crafty | Skilled at the making of decorative objects and other things by hand. <i>A crafty crook faked an injury to escape from prison.</i> |
| <u>cunning</u> | Having or showing skill in achieving one's ends by deceit or evasion. <i>A cunning look came into his eyes.</i> |
| deceitful | Intended to deceive. <i>Such an act would have been deceitful and irresponsible.</i> |
| <u>deceptive</u> | Causing one to believe what is not true or fail to believe what is true. <i>The deceptive calm in the eye of the storm.</i> |

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| delicate | (of colour) subtle and subdued. <i>A delicate flavor.</i> |
| <u>devious</u> | Showing a skilful use of underhand tactics to achieve goals. <i>A devious character.</i> |
| difficult | Characterized by or causing hardships or problems. <i>Lily could be difficult.</i> |
| dishonest | Capable of being corrupted. <i>Dishonest politicians.</i> |
| <u>disingenuous</u> | Not straightforward or candid; giving a false appearance of frankness- David Cannadine. <i>An ambitious disingenuous philistine and hypocritical operator who exemplified the most disagreeable traits of his time.</i> |
| dodgy | Marked by skill in deception. <i>Spurs dodgy defence had thrown away a 2 0 lead.</i> |
| <u>duplicitous</u> | (of a charge or plea) containing more than one allegation. <i>A duplicitous philanderer.</i> |
| foxy | Marked by skill in deception. <i>A foxy lady.</i> |
| guileful | Marked by skill in deception. <i>A supremely guileful and deceptive politician.</i> |
| knaveish | Marked by skill in deception. <i>His knaveish tricks will be frustrated.</i> |
| machiavellian | Of or relating to Machiavelli or the principles of conduct he recommended. |
| <u>precarious</u> | Affording no ease or reassurance. <i>A precarious truce.</i> |
| problematic | Making great mental demands; hard to comprehend or solve or believe. <i>If you ever get married which seems to be extremely problematic.</i> |
| <u>risky</u> | Involving risk or danger. <i>Their risky patter made the guests laugh.</i> |
| scheming | Concealing crafty designs for advancing your own interest. <i>They had mean scheming little minds.</i> |
| <u>sensitive</u> | Easily damaged, injured, or distressed by slight changes. <i>Sensitive to the local community and its needs.</i> |
| <u>slick</u> | Made slick by e g ice or grease. <i>A salesperson may be viewed as a slick confidence trickster.</i> |
| slippery | (of a person) evasive and unpredictable; not to be relied on. <i>The word intended is a decidedly slippery one.</i> |

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| sly | Showing in an insinuating way that one has some secret knowledge that may be harmful or embarrassing. <i>A sly sip of water.</i> |
| ticklish | Difficult to handle; requiring great tact. <i>Hesitates to be explicit on so ticklish a matter.</i> |
| touch-and-go | Functioning correctly and ready for action. |
| touchy | Easily upset or offended; oversensitive. <i>The monarchy has become a touchy topic.</i> |
| tricksy | Ingenious, intricate, or complicated. <i>A tricksy little device.</i> |
| uncertain | Not consistent or dependable. <i>The weather is uncertain.</i> |
| wily | Marked by skill in deception. <i>His wily opponents.</i> |



Usage Examples of "Tricky" as an adjective

- *I wouldn't trust her—she's tricky.*
- *Applying eyeliner can be a tricky business.*
- *A tricky recipe to follow.*
- *Tricky Dick.*
- *The radio is tricky to operate.*



Associations of "Tricky" (30 Words)

- appealing** Attractive or interesting.
*He added an **appealing** and memorable figure to popular American mythology.*
- artful** Clever or skilful, especially in a crafty or cunning way.
*An **artful** photograph of a striking woman.*

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| artfully | In a manner that shows creative skill or taste. <i>Body scanners are turning up artfully concealed items.</i> |
| astute | Marked by practical hardheaded intelligence. <i>An astute tenant always reads the small print in a lease.</i> |
| burden | The central idea that is expanded in a document or discourse. <i>They were not yet burdened with adult responsibility.</i> |
| catchy | Likely to attract attention. <i>Catchy pop melodies.</i> |
| chicanery | The use of deception or subterfuge to achieve one's purpose. <i>Storylines packed with political chicanery.</i> |
| covert | (of a wife) being under the protection of her husband. <i>Covert actions by the CIA.</i> |
| crafty | Involving the making of decorative objects and other things by hand. <i>They are looking for crafty people to join the group to make ornaments.</i> |
| cunning | Having or showing skill in achieving one's ends by deceit or evasion. <i>Plants have evolved cunning defences.</i> |
| difficult | Needing much effort or skill to accomplish, deal with, or understand. <i>A difficult child.</i> |
| duplicity | A fraudulent or duplicitous representation. <i>The president was accused of duplicity in his dealings with Congress.</i> |
| elusive | Difficult to remember. <i>A cabal of conspirators each more elusive than the archterrorist.</i> |
| fraudulence | The quality of being fraudulent. |
| guile | Sly or cunning intelligence. <i>He used all his guile and guts to free himself from the muddle he was in.</i> |
| hard | Causing great damage or hardship. <i>Took a hard look.</i> |
| irresistibly | Incapable of being resisted. <i>Their eyes were drawn irresistibly back to the house.</i> |
| machiavellian | A follower of Machiavelli's principles. |
| manipulative | Exercising unscrupulous control or influence over a person or situation. <i>She was sly selfish and manipulative.</i> |
| onerous | Not easily borne; wearing. <i>He found his duties increasingly onerous.</i> |
| recall | An act or instance of officially recalling someone or something. <i>He recalled how he felt at the time.</i> |

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| remember | Mention as by way of greeting or to indicate friendship. Remember me in your prayers. |
| secretive | (of a state or activity) characterized by the concealment of intentions and information. A secretive smile. |
| skulduggery | Verbal misrepresentation intended to take advantage of you in some way. A firm that investigates commercial skulduggery . |
| sly | (of an action) surreptitious. A sly manipulative woman. |
| slyly | In a cunning and deceitful or manipulative manner. He slyly manipulates votes. |
| subtle | (of a mixture or effect) delicately complex and understated. A subtle poison. |
| trickery | Verbal misrepresentation intended to take advantage of you in some way. The dealer resorted to trickery . |
| wile | The use of tricks to deceive someone (usually to extract money from them). The devious wiles of the politicians. |
| wily | Skilled at gaining an advantage, especially deceitfully. His wily opponents. |

