

Need another word that means the same as “unable”? Find 12 synonyms and 30 related words for “unable” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Unable” are: ineffective, ineffectual, not able, powerless, impotent, not equal to, not up to, inadequate, incompetent, unfit, unfitted, unqualified

Unable as an Adjective

Definitions of "Unable" as an adjective

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

- *Lacking the skill, means, or opportunity to do something.*
- *Lacking in power or forcefulness.*
- *(usually followed by `to') lacking necessary physical or mental ability.*
- *Not having the necessary means or skill or know-how.*
- *Lacking necessary physical or mental ability.*
- *(usually followed by `to') not having the necessary means or skill or know-how.*



Synonyms of "Unable" as an adjective (12 Words)

impotent	Unable to take effective action; helpless or powerless. <i>Felt impotent rage.</i>
<u>inadequate</u>	(of a person) unable to deal with a situation or with life. <i>I felt like a fraud inadequate to the task.</i>
incompetent	Not doing a good job. <i>Incompetent witnesses.</i>
<u>ineffective</u>	Not producing an intended effect. <i>An ineffective administration.</i>
<u>ineffectual</u>	Producing no result or effect. <i>An ineffectual campaign.</i>
not able	Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something.
not equal to	Having the same quantity, value, or measure as another.
not up to	Getting higher or more vigorous.
powerless	Lacking power. <i>Troops were powerless to stop last night's shooting.</i>

unfit

(of a person) not having the requisite qualities or skills to undertake something competently.

*Certified as **unfit** for army service.*

unfitted

(of furniture) not fitted.

***Unfitted** bedroom furniture.*

unqualified

Legally not qualified or sufficient.

*I am singularly **unqualified** to write about football.*



Usage Examples of "Unable" as an adjective

- *Dyslexics are unable to learn to read adequately.*
- *The sun was unable to melt enough snow.*
- *She was unable to conceal her surprise.*
- *Unable to get to town without a car.*
- *Unable to obtain funds.*
- *Like an unable phoenix in hot ashes.*

Associations of "Unable" (30 Words)

blind

Make blind by putting the eyes out.

*This declaration is not a **blind** bit of good to the workers.*

counterproductive	Tending to hinder the achievement of a goal. <i>Child experts fear the Executive's plans may prove counterproductive.</i>
crippled	(of a person) unable to walk or move normally; disabled. <i>The pilot displayed skill and nerve in landing the crippled plane.</i>
crutch	A thing used for support or reassurance. <i>Overalls reinforced with leather where the crutch took the saddle's chafing.</i>
deaf	Make or render deaf. <i>I'm a bit deaf so you'll have to speak up.</i>
delayed	Not as far along as normal in development.
disabled	People collectively who are crippled or otherwise physically handicapped. <i>Technology to help the elderly and the disabled.</i>
dunce	A stupid person; these words are used to express a low opinion of someone's intelligence. <i>He was baffled by arithmetic and they called him a dunce at school.</i>
execrable	Unequivocally detestable- Edmund Burke. <i>Execrable cheap wine.</i>
futile	Producing no result or effect. <i>It is futile to allocate blame for this.</i>
halting	Fragmentary or halting from emotional strain. <i>She speaks halting English with a heavy accent.</i>
handicap	A race or contest in which a handicap is imposed. <i>Not being able to drive was something of a handicap.</i>
handicapped	People collectively who are crippled or otherwise physically handicapped. <i>His third child was born severely handicapped.</i>
harmful	Causing or likely to cause harm. <i>Harmful effects of smoking.</i>
incapable	Not having the temperament or inclination for. <i>Incapable of solution.</i>
incompetence	Inability to do something successfully; ineptitude. <i>Allegations of professional incompetence.</i>
incompetent	An incompetent person. <i>A forgetful and utterly incompetent assistant.</i>

<u>ineffective</u>	Not producing an intended effect. <i>The legal sanctions against oil spills are virtually ineffective.</i>
<u>ineffectual</u>	Not producing an intended effect. <i>An ineffectual ruler.</i>
inept	Generally incompetent and ineffectual. <i>If the rumor is true can anything be more inept than to repeat it now.</i>
infertile	(of land) unable to sustain crops or vegetation. <i>Barren and infertile soils.</i>
<u>lame</u>	Make a person or animal lame. <i>I made really stupid posters with lame slogans.</i>
<u>paralyzed</u>	Affected with paralysis.
powerless	Without ability, influence, or power. <i>Troops were powerless to stop last night's shooting.</i>
unavailing	Producing no result or effect. <i>Their efforts were unavailing.</i>
<u>unproductive</u>	Not producing or capable of producing. <i>Unproductive land must be reforested.</i>
<u>useless</u>	Not fulfilling or not expected to achieve the intended purpose or desired outcome. <i>We tried to pacify him but it was useless.</i>
vain	Having or showing an excessively high opinion of one's appearance, abilities, or worth. <i>Vain about her clothes.</i>
wheelchair	A movable chair mounted on large wheels; for invalids or those who cannot walk; frequently propelled by the occupant.