

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

Table Of Contents:

- [Unable as an Adjective](#)
- [Definitions of "Unable" as an adjective](#)
- [Synonyms of "Unable" as an adjective \(12 Words\)](#)
- [Usage Examples of "Unable" as an adjective](#)
- [Associations of "Unable" \(30 Words\)](#)

**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.  
*Felt **impotent** rage.*
- inadequate** (of a person) unable to deal with a situation or with life.  
*I felt like a fraud **inadequate** to the task.*
- incompetent** Not doing a good job.  
***Incompetent** witnesses.*
- ineffective** Not producing an intended effect.  
*An **ineffective** administration.*
- ineffectual** Producing no result or effect.  
*An **ineffectual** campaign.*
- 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.  
*Troops were **powerless** to stop last night's shooting.*

**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.*

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

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