

Need another word that means the same as “underlying”? Find 18 synonyms and 30 related words for “underlying” in this overview.

Table Of Contents:

- [Underlying as an Adjective](#)
- [Definitions of "Underlying" as an adjective](#)
- [Synonyms of "Underlying" as an adjective \(18 Words\)](#)
- [Usage Examples of "Underlying" as an adjective](#)
- [Associations of "Underlying" \(30 Words\)](#)

**The synonyms of “Underlying” are: implicit in, inherent, fundamental, rudimentary, basic, basal, primary, prime, first, cardinal, central, principal, chief, key, elementary, elemental, intrinsic, essential**

## Underlying as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Underlying" as an adjective

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

- *Located beneath or below.*
- *Significant as a cause or basis of something but not necessarily manifest or obvious.*
- *Being or involving basic facts or principles.*
- *Lying or situated under something.*
- *In the nature of something though not readily apparent.*

### Synonyms of "Underlying" as an adjective (18 Words)

#### [basal](#)

Of or being the essential or basic part.  
A **basal** reader.

#### [basic](#)

Reduced to the simplest and most significant form possible without loss of generality.  
A coarse grained **basic** plutonic rock.

#### [cardinal](#)

Serving as an essential component.  
**Cardinal** numbers.

<b><u>central</u></b>	At the point or in the area that is in the middle of something. <i>The <b>central</b> cause of the problem.</i>
<b>chief</b>	Most important. <i>The <b>chief</b> aim of living.</i>
<b><u>elemental</u></b>	Related to or embodying the powers of nature. <i>A thunderstorm is the inevitable outcome of battling <b>elemental</b> forces.</i>
<b><u>elementary</u></b>	Of or pertaining to or characteristic of elementary school or elementary education. <i>The <b>elementary</b> rights of citizenship.</i>
<b>essential</b>	Absolutely necessary; vitally necessary. <i><b>Essential</b> tools and materials.</i>
<b>first</b>	Ranking above all others. <i>The <b>first</b> verse.</i>
<b>fundamental</b>	So basic as to be hard to alter, resolve, or overcome. <i>An example that was <b>fundamental</b> to the argument.</i>
<b>implicit in</b>	Implied though not directly expressed; inherent in the nature of something.
<b><u>inherent</u></b>	(of an adjective) having the same meaning in both attributive and predicative uses. <i>The president's <b>inherent</b> foreign affairs power.</i>
<b><u>intrinsic</u></b>	Situated within or belonging solely to the organ or body part on which it acts. <i>Access to the arts is <b>intrinsic</b> to a high quality of life.</i>
<b>key</b>	Serving as an essential component. <i>She became a <b>key</b> figure in the suffragette movement.</i>
<b><u>primary</u></b>	Of primary importance. <i>His expert handling of the <b>primary</b> and secondary literature is clear on every page.</i>
<b>prime</b>	Of first importance; main. <i>The <b>prime</b> minister.</i>
<b>principal</b>	First in order of importance; main. <i>The <b>principal</b> example.</i>
<b><u>rudimentary</u></b>	Relating to an immature, undeveloped, or basic form. <i><b>Rudimentary</b> plans.</i>

## Usage Examples of "Underlying" as an adjective

- An underlying meaning.
- Underlying principles.

- *The flu can be particularly severe for the elderly and those with underlying conditions.*
- *Guaranteeing more dollars may temporarily ease their troubles but will not alleviate the underlying causes of their poverty.*
- *Underlying problems need to be addressed.*
- *The underlying muscles of the face.*

## Associations of "Underlying" (30 Words)

<b><u>basal</u></b>	Especially of leaves; located at the base of a plant or stem; especially arising directly from the root or rootstock or a root-like stem. <i><b>Basal</b> placentation.</i>
<b><u>base</u></b>	A known line used as a geometrical base for trigonometry. <i><b>Base</b> coins of aluminum.</i>
<b><u>basic</u></b>	Pertaining to or constituting a base or basis. <i><b>Basic</b> changes in public opinion occur because of changes in priorities.</i>
<b>basilar</b>	Of or relating to or located at the base. <i>The <b>basilar</b> membrane of the cochlea.</i>
<b>constitutive</b>	Relating to an enzyme or enzyme system that is continuously produced in an organism, regardless of the needs of cells. <i>Language is <b>constitutive</b> of thought.</i>
<b><u>elemental</u></b>	(of an emotion) powerful and primitive. <i>A magical <b>elemental</b> desire.</i>
<b><u>elementary</u></b>	Of or pertaining to or characteristic of elementary school or elementary education. <i>The six stages take students from <b>elementary</b> to advanced level.</i>
<b>elements</b>	Violent or severe weather viewed as caused by the action of the four elements. <i>They felt the full fury of the <b>elements</b>.</i>
<b>essential</b>	Basic and fundamental. <i><b>Essential</b> tools and materials.</i>
<b><u>essentially</u></b>	In essence; at bottom or by one's (or its) very nature. <i><b>Essentially</b> they are amateurs.</i>
<b>essentialness</b>	Basic importance.
<b>fundamental</b>	A fundamental note tone or frequency. <i>The theories are based on a <b>fundamental</b> error.</i>
<b>indispensability</b>	The quality possessed by something that you cannot possibly do without.

<b><u>indispensable</u></b>	Not to be dispensed with; essential. <i>Foods <b>indispensable</b> to good nutrition.</i>
<b><u>integral</u></b>	The result of a mathematical integration $F(x)$ is the integral of $f(x)$ if $dF/dx = f(x)$ . <i>A local motion keepeth bodies <b>integral</b>.</i>
<b><u>main</u></b>	Any very large body of (salt) water. <i>The camcorder can be run directly off the <b>mains</b>.</i>
<b>meaningful</b>	Communicating something that is not directly expressed. <i><b>Meaningful</b> elements in a language.</i>
<b>necessary</b>	The basic requirements of life, such as food and warmth. <i>A bag containing my wallet the money the <b>necessary</b>.</i>
<b>necessity</b>	Anything indispensable. <i>A good book is a <b>necessity</b> when travelling.</i>
<b><u>originally</u></b>	From or in the beginning; at first. <i>Potatoes <b>originally</b> came from South America.</i>
<b>premise</b>	State or presuppose something as a premise. <i>The reforms were <b>premised</b> on our findings.</i>
<b><u>prerequisite</u></b>	Something that is required in advance. <i>Latin was a <b>prerequisite</b> for admission.</i>
<b><u>primary</u></b>	A primary feather. <i><b>Primary</b> sources.</i>
<b>radically</b>	In a thorough or fundamental way; completely. <i>The two situations are <b>radically</b> different.</i>
<b>requisite</b>	Anything indispensable. <i>She believed privacy to be a <b>requisite</b> for a peaceful life.</i>
<b>rudiment</b>	The remains of a body part that was functional at an earlier stage of life. <i>The fetal lung <b>rudiment</b>.</i>
<b><u>rudimentary</u></b>	Relating to an immature, undeveloped, or basic form. <i>These <b>rudimentary</b> truths.</i>
<b><u>staple</u></b>	Attach or secure with a staple or staples. <i>Merrill <b>stapled</b> a batch of papers together.</i>
<b><u>substantive</u></b>	Any word or group of words functioning as a noun. <i><b>Substantive</b> law.</i>
<b><u>vital</u></b>	Fatal. <i>He felt the familiar knot contract in his <b>vitals</b>.</i>