

Need another word that means the same as “useless”? Find 31 synonyms and 30 related words for “useless” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Useless” are: futile, pointless, purposeless, impractical, vain, in vain, to no purpose, to no avail, unavailing, bootless, nugatory, hopeless, unusable, ineffectual, inefficacious, impotent, fruitless, unprofitable, profitless, unproductive, unachievable, sisyphian, incompetent, ineffective, worthless, incapable, inept, inadequate, weak, bad, no good**

## Useless as an Adjective

### Definitions of "Useless" as an adjective

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

- *Having no beneficial use or incapable of functioning usefully.*
- *Having no ability or skill in a specified activity or area.*
- *Not fulfilling or not expected to achieve the intended purpose or desired outcome.*



## Synonyms of "Useless" as an adjective (31 Words)

- bad** Feeling physical discomfort or pain though is occasionally used colloquially for bad.  
*A **bad** diet.*
- bootless** Unproductive of success.  
*Remonstrating with him seems ever to have been a **bootless** task.*
- fruitless** Failing to achieve the desired results; unproductive or useless.  
*A banana leaf from a **fruitless** palm.*
- futile** Producing no result or effect.  
*A **futile** attempt to keep fans from mounting the stage.*
- hopeless** (informal to emphasize how bad it is) beyond hope of management or reform.  
*The situation is **hopeless**.*
- impotent** (of a man) abnormally unable to achieve an erection.  
*He was seized with an **impotent** anger.*

<b><u>impractical</u></b>	Not practical; not workable or not given to practical matters. <i><b>Impractical</b> high heels.</i>
<b>in vain</b>	Currently fashionable.
<b><u>inadequate</u></b>	Lacking the quality or quantity required; insufficient for a purpose. <i><b>Inadequate</b> funding.</i>
<b><u>incapable</u></b>	Unable to behave rationally or manage one's affairs. <i><b>Incapable</b> of carrying a tune.</i>
<b>incompetent</b>	Showing lack of skill or aptitude. <i>An <b>incompetent</b> secret service.</i>
<b><u>ineffective</u></b>	Lacking the ability or skill to perform effectively; inadequate. <i>An <b>ineffective</b> administration.</i>
<b><u>ineffectual</u></b>	Lacking in power or forcefulness. <i>An <b>ineffectual</b> campaign.</i>
<b>inefficacious</b>	Not producing the desired effect. <i>Laws that are <b>inefficacious</b> in stopping crime.</i>
<b>inept</b>	Not elegant or graceful in expression. <i><b>Inept</b> handling of the account.</i>
<b>no good</b>	Quantifier; used with either mass nouns or plural count nouns for indicating a complete or almost complete lack or zero quantity of.
<b>nugatory</b>	Useless or futile. <i>A <b>nugatory</b> law.</i>
<b><u>pointless</u></b>	Having little or no sense, use, or purpose. <i>My pencils are all <b>pointless</b>.</i>
<b>profitless</b>	Without profit or reward. <i>A long and <b>profitless</b> public row.</i>
<b>purposeless</b>	Having no aim or plan. <i>A life essentially <b>purposeless</b>.</i>
<b>sisyphean</b>	Both extremely effortful and futile.
<b>to no avail</b>	Quantifier; used with either mass nouns or plural count nouns for indicating a complete or almost complete lack or zero quantity of.
<b>to no purpose</b>	Quantifier; used with either mass nouns or plural count nouns for indicating a complete or almost complete lack or zero quantity of.
<b>unachievable</b>	(of an aim or objective) too difficult to be achieved. <i>An <b>unachievable</b> political goal.</i>
<b>unavailing</b>	Achieving little or nothing; ineffective. <i>An <b>unavailing</b> attempt.</i>

- unproductive** Not producing desired results.  
***Unproductive** meetings.*
- unprofitable** (of a business or activity) not yielding profit or financial gain.  
*The mines became increasingly **unprofitable**.*
- unusable** Not fit to be used.  
*The steps were overgrown and **unusable**.*
- vain** Having no likelihood of fulfilment; empty.  
*A **vain** boast.*
- weak** Relating to or denoting the weakest of the known kinds of force between particles which acts only at distances less than about 10 cm is very much weaker than the electromagnetic and the strong interactions and conserves neither strangeness parity nor isospin.  
*Their problems arose from fielding **weak** teams in league matches.*
- worthless** Lacking in usefulness or value.  
*That promise is **worthless**.*





## Usage Examples of "Useless" as an adjective

- *A piece of useless knowledge.*
- *He was useless at football.*
- *We tried to pacify him but it was useless.*
- *She is useless in an emergency.*
- *A kitchen full of useless gadgets.*



## Associations of "Useless" (30 Words)

**bootless**

Unproductive of success.

*Remonstrating with him seems ever to have been a **bootless** task.*

<b><u>breakage</u></b>	The quantity broken. <i>There had been three <b>breakages</b> in the overhead wires.</i>
<b><u>counterproductive</u></b>	Having the opposite of the desired effect. <i>Child experts fear the Executive s plans may prove <b>counterproductive</b>.</i>
<b>execrable</b>	Extremely bad or unpleasant. <i><b>Execrable</b> crimes.</i>
<b>fruitless</b>	(of a tree or plant) not producing fruit. <i>A banana leaf from a <b>fruitless</b> palm.</i>
<b><u>futile</u></b>	Producing no result or effect. <i>A <b>futile</b> effort.</i>
<b>futilely</b>	In a futile and unproductive manner.
<b><u>garbage</u></b>	Rubbish or waste, especially domestic refuse. <i>A <b>garbage</b> dump.</i>
<b>gratuitous</b>	Unnecessary and unwarranted. <i><b>Gratuitous</b> violence.</i>
<b><u>ineffective</u></b>	Lacking in power or forcefulness. <i>A weak and <b>ineffective</b> president.</i>
<b><u>ineffectual</u></b>	(of a person) lacking the ability or qualities to fulfil a role or handle a situation. <i>An <b>ineffectual</b> campaign.</i>
<b><u>inefficiency</u></b>	The state of not achieving maximum productivity; failure to make the best use of time or resources. <i>The idea is to eliminate <b>inefficiency</b> creating a seamless manufacturing process.</i>
<b>infertile</b>	(of land) unable to sustain crops or vegetation. <i>An <b>infertile</b> couple.</i>
<b><u>invalid</u></b>	No longer valid. <i>An officer <b>invalided</b> by a chest wound.</i>
<b>misfire</b>	(of a nerve cell) fail to transmit an electrical impulse at an appropriate moment. <i>He didn t know that his plan had <b>misfired</b>.</i>
<b>nihilism</b>	The doctrine of an extreme Russian revolutionary party c.1900 which found nothing to approve of in the established social order.
<b>nugatory</b>	Useless or futile. <i>The teacher shortages will render <b>nugatory</b> the hopes of implementing the new curriculum.</i>



<b><u>obsolete</u></b>	Cause a product or idea to become obsolete by replacing it with something new. <i>The phrase was <b>obsolete</b> after 1625.</i>
<b>paltry</b>	Contemptibly small in amount. <i>A <b>paltry</b> wage.</i>
<b>powerless</b>	Without ability, influence, or power. <i>Troops were <b>powerless</b> to stop last night's shooting.</i>
<b>superfluous</b>	More than is needed, desired, or required. <i>The purchaser should avoid asking for <b>superfluous</b> information.</i>
<b><u>trivia</u></b>	Something of small importance. <i>We fill our days with meaningless <b>trivia</b>.</i>
<b><u>trivial</u></b>	Concerned with trivialities. <i><b>Trivial</b> details.</i>
<b>unavailing</b>	Producing no result or effect. <i>An <b>unavailing</b> attempt.</i>
<b><u>unproductive</u></b>	Not producing or able to produce large amounts of goods, crops, or other commodities. <i><b>Unproductive</b> land must be reforested.</i>
<b>vain</b>	Having no likelihood of fulfilment; empty. <i>A <b>vain</b> attempt.</i>
<b>valueless</b>	Of no value. <i>Cherished but <b>valueless</b> heirlooms.</i>
<b><u>void</u></b>	Declare that (something) is not valid or legally binding. <i>What were once the masterpieces of literature are now <b>void</b> of meaning.</i>
<b><u>wasted</u></b>	(of an action) not producing the desired result. <i>A <b>wasted</b> effort.</i>
<b>worthless</b>	Morally reprehensible. <i>A <b>worthless</b> idler.</i>



