

Anglo-Saxon suffix **-some**

TABLE 1

<i>SENTENCE</i>
As the ugsome beast drew near, the men began to shake.
With an insincere and fulsome smile, she hugged her rival.
A Doberman pinscher is a fearsome dog.
<i>Psycho</i> , a gruesome movie, is a classic horror film.
Mary found John to be disgusting and loathsome ; she hated him.
“Hello!” he greeted, with a winsome smile.
Slender and lithesome , the model strutted down the catwalk.
“What is that loud and noisome racket?” demanded Fernando.
My neighbor is meddlesome ; he always pokes into my business.
We wanted to hug baby Angie; she was cute and cuddlesome .
Finally, Vicki got rid of the bothersome , pesky fly.
“This backpack is heavy and cumbersome ,” complained Jeffrey.
“Filing all these papers is boring and irksome ,” moaned Mona.
Quarrelsome and irritable, the old men argued for hours.

So, **-some** means “characterized by” (*adjective*).

Etymology and Word Origins

Ugsome: “disgusting, loathsome.” **Ug** came to us from the Old Norse (Norway, Scandinavia) in the form of the root *uggr*, meaning “fear.” It became **uggen** in England, during the period known as Middle English (≈ A.D. 1100–1450). **Ugsome** may be close to extinction, as it is rarely used today. Nonetheless, it may be found in the best dictionaries, along with its relative, **ugsmeness**. Another relative, **ugly**, is alive and well today.