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## trying, *adj.*

**Pronunciation:** /'trʌɪɪŋ/

**Frequency (in current use):**

**Etymology:** < TRY *v.* + -ING suffix<sup>2</sup>.

That tries.

**1.** That tests severely; that is a trial; hard to bear or endure; severe, distressing, painful; that tries one's endurance or patience.

1718 *Mem. Life J. Kettlewell* II. xv. 98 For the Security of the Church..in such a Trying Time.

1798 *Monthly Mag.* Mar. 183 Sudden vicissitudes of temperature must be exceedingly trying to delicate constitutions.

1825 W. HONE *Every-day Bk.* (1826) I. 652 The month of May is..a 'trying' month, to persons..ailing.

1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-eaters of Tsavo* xvi. 175 She was so..exhausted by her trying march..that she was scarcely able to speak.

**2.** Attempting, endeavouring, striving, *rare*.

1577 J. GRANGE *Garden in Golden Aphroditis* sig. Oijj This got I say my trying tongue, whiche tolde hyr many a lye.

1836 E. B. BROWNING *Poet's Vow* IV. iv The old eyes searching..The young ones..To read their look if sound forsook The trying, trembling breath.

1841 [see *tryingly adv.* at Derivatives].

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### DERIVATIVES

'**tryingly** *adv.* in a trying manner or degree; in the way of attempt or endeavour (*rare*); distressingly, painfully.

1841 *Tait's Edinb. Mag.* **8** 109 The small hand put out so tryingly.

1859 K. CORNWALLIS *Panorama New World* I. 359 The climate..is..at times rather tryingly warm.

1885 *My Wife's Niece* II. xi An attitude which showed so freely and tryingly the lines of her figure.

'**tryingness** *n.* trying or distressing quality or character.

1897 M. KINGSLEY *Trav. W. Afr.* xxv. 569 To walk through, give me kokos for good all-round tryingness, particularly when they are wet.

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