

## Shortcomings vs. Shortfall

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This revision comes from a postgraduate economics essay, by a Korean student:

Original	Revision
... Every model has its own shortfall	... Every model has its own shortcomings

While both **shortfall** and **shortcoming** suggest a failure to reach a target or desired aim, the first is quantitative (answering the question *how much?* and the second qualitative (answering the question *in what way?*), as the following citations show. Note also that the plural **shortcomings** is more common than the singular:

1. need not be due to any moral **shortcoming** in the government. Even assuming ...
  2. The only significant **shortcoming** in the Dearing report was its failure to ...
  3. The most significant **shortcoming** of present-day models is their treatment ...
  4. effects of congestion. These **shortcomings** have been progressively overcome through ...
  5. polytechnic buildings had "**shortcomings** in important areas". Nearly half the sc
  6. new work, despite numerous **shortcomings** in the computers that are supposed to m
  7. One of the major **shortcomings** of the buy-class framework is the way ...
  8. re than compensates for the **shortcomings** of the passive elements. The one proper
  9. In spite of its **shortcomings**, the material contained in the book ...
  10. say, amongst the so obvious **shortcomings**: too big, too old, too nervous, too dull ...
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1. extra loans to prevent the **shortfall** being larger still. Had Eurotunnel failed ...
  2. bid to balance the budget **shortfall** by increasing taxes - already the highest ...
  3. materials instead of cobalt. A **shortfall** in supplies of chromium and manganese, ...
  4. energy shortages caused by a **shortfall** in Soviet oil deliveries.
  5. Social Security's review of the **shortfall** of contributions to contributory benefits, ...
  6. directors with an estimated **shortfall** of £384m.
  7. The \$77bn **shortfall** was the worst since December 1988 ...
  8. on it by the ministry. The **shortfall** was being met by imported eggs from countries ...
  9. economy means that the real **shortfall**, almost certainly, is much higher.
  10. the outlook for the trade **shortfall**, the July deficit was revised upwards to ...