

Need another word that means the same as “piercing”? Find 72 synonyms and 30 related words for “piercing” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Piercing” are: cutting, keen, knifelike, lancinate, lancinating, stabbing, acute, discriminating, incisive, penetrating, penetrative, sharp, shrewd, discerning, perceptive, probing, searching, observant, alert, intent, inquisitive, percipient, perspicacious, intelligent, quick-witted, insightful, astute, clever, smart, trenchant, subtle, quick, ready, clear, sensitive, thoughtful, deep, profound, shrill, high-pitched, shattering, strident, loud, strong, freezing, frosty, frigid, chill, chilling, glacial, arctic, wintry, biting, stinging, numbing, harsh, fierce, raw, bitter, intense, excruciating, agonizing, shooting, severe, extreme, harrowing, searing, racking, insufferable, unbearable, unendurable, torturous

Piercing as an Adjective

Definitions of "Piercing" as an adjective

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

- *Having or showing shrewdness or keen intelligence.*
- *(of a sound) extremely high or loud.*
- *(of wind or extreme cold) seeming to cut through one.*
- *(of a feeling) intense, typically in a distressing way.*
- *Having or demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions.*
- *Painful as if caused by a sharp instrument.*



Synonyms of "Piercing" as an adjective (72 Words)

acute

Denoting or designed for patients with an acute form of a disease.
*The problem is **acute** and getting worse.*

agonizing

Extremely painful.
*There is an **agonizing** choice to make.*

alert

Able to think clearly; intellectually active.
*Constantly **alert** and vigilant like a sentinel on duty.*

arctic

Of or relating to the Arctic.
*An **arctic** climate.*

astute

Marked by practical hardheaded intelligence.
*An **astute** tenant always reads the small print in a lease.*

biting

(of insects and certain other animals) able to wound the skin with a sting or fangs.
*He leant forward to protect himself against the **biting** wind.*

bitter

Causing a sharply painful or stinging sensation; used especially of cold.
*I don t feel jealous or **bitter**.*

chill

Chilly.
*In general I am a pretty **chill** guy.*

chilling	Horrifying or frightening. <i>A chilling account of the prisoners fate.</i>
clear	Clear and distinct to the senses easily perceptible. <i>I have clear title to this property.</i>
clever	Sensible; well advised. <i>She was an extremely clever and studious young woman.</i>
cutting	Capable of cutting something. <i>A cutting wind.</i>
deep	Relatively deep or strong affecting one deeply. <i>A deep pink.</i>
discerning	Having or showing good judgement. <i>A discerning eye for color.</i>
discriminating	Showing or indicating careful judgment and discernment especially in matters of taste. <i>The discriminating eye of the connoisseur.</i>
excruciating	Extremely painful. <i>Excruciating back pain.</i>
extreme	(of a person or their opinions) far from moderate, especially politically. <i>Extreme opinions.</i>
fierce	Showing a heartfelt and powerful intensity. <i>The fire door had a fierce pneumatic return.</i>
freezing	Below 0°C. <i>He was freezing and miserable.</i>
frigid	Unable to be sexually aroused (typically used of a woman). <i>The air was frigid and spectators shivered against the cold.</i>
frosty	Covered with frost. <i>The dog crouched in the frosty grass.</i>
glacial	Very cold; icy. <i>Glacial winds.</i>
harrowing	Extremely painful. <i>It was a harrowing experience.</i>
harsh	(of a climate or conditions) difficult to survive in; hostile. <i>A harsh penalty.</i>
high-pitched	Set at a sharp or high angle or slant.
incisive	Suitable for cutting or piercing. <i>Incisive teeth.</i>

inquisitive	Unduly curious about the affairs of others; prying. <i>I didn't like to seem inquisitive.</i>
insightful	Having or showing an accurate and deep understanding; perceptive. <i>An insightful parent.</i>
insufferable	Having or showing unbearable arrogance or conceit. <i>The heat would be insufferable by July.</i>
intelligent	Having or showing intelligence, especially of a high level. <i>An intelligent guess.</i>
intense	Extremely sharp or intense. <i>Intense emotion.</i>
intent	Attentively occupied with. <i>The government was intent on achieving greater efficiency.</i>
keen	Painful as if caused by a sharp instrument. <i>Her keen intellect.</i>
knifelike	Having a sharp or distinct edge. <i>Knifelike cold.</i>
lancinate	Painful as if caused by a sharp instrument.
lancinating	Painful as if caused by a sharp instrument. <i>Lancinating pain.</i>
loud	Used chiefly as a direction or description in music loud with force. <i>Loud trombones.</i>
numbing	So frightened as to be unable to move; stunned or paralyzed with terror; petrified. <i>The numbing effect of alcohol.</i>
observant	(of individuals) adhering strictly to laws and rules and customs. <i>Observant of the speed limit.</i>
penetrating	(of a person's eyes or expression) reflecting an apparent ability to see into another's mind; intense. <i>The problem of penetrating damp.</i>
penetrative	Having or demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions. <i>The gunpowder weapons have extra penetrative power.</i>
perceptive	Of or relating to perception. <i>An extraordinarily perceptive account of their relationship.</i>
percipient	Characterized by ease and quickness in perceiving. <i>A percipient author.</i>
perspicacious	Mentally acute or penetratingly discerning. <i>Much too perspicacious to be taken in by such a spurious argument.</i>

probing	Diligent and thorough in inquiry or investigation. <i>She asks some probing questions.</i>
profound	(of a subject or idea) demanding deep study or thought. <i>Profound crevasses.</i>
quick	Moving quickly and lightly. <i>A quick mind.</i>
quick-witted	Mentally nimble and resourceful.
racking	Causing great physical or mental suffering.
raw	(of the edge of a piece of cloth) not having a hem or selvedge. <i>Raw recruits.</i>
ready	In need of or having a desire for. <i>He was ready to believe her.</i>
searching	Thoroughly scrutinizing, especially in a disconcerting way. <i>A searching investigation of their past dealings.</i>
searing	Extremely hot or intense. <i>The searing heat of the sun.</i>
<u>sensitive</u>	Kept secret or with restrictions on disclosure to avoid endangering security. <i>A sensitive voltmeter.</i>
<u>severe</u>	Severely simple. <i>She wore another severe suit grey this time.</i>
<u>sharp</u>	Keenly and painfully felt as if caused by a sharp edge or point. <i>There was a sharp crack of thunder.</i>
shattering	Very shocking or upsetting. <i>He found it a shattering experience.</i>
shooting	(of a pain) sudden and piercing. <i>Shooting beams of light played over the sea.</i>
shrewd	Mischievous; malicious. <i>A bayonet s shrewd thrust.</i>
<u>shrill</u>	Having or emitting a high-pitched and sharp tone or tones. <i>A shrill gaiety.</i>
smart	Improperly forward or bold. <i>He set off at a smart pace.</i>
stabbing	(of a pain or sensation) sharp and sudden. <i>A stabbing remark.</i>
stinging	Having a sting; capable of wounding or piercing with a sting. <i>A swarm of stinging insects.</i>

strident	Conspicuously and offensively loud; given to vehement outcry. <i>Public pronouncements on the crisis became less strident.</i>
strong	Strong and sure. <i>Strong lager.</i>
<u>subtle</u>	Crafty; cunning. <i>Subtle lighting.</i>
thoughtful	Taking heed giving close and thoughtful attention. <i>A thoughtful paper.</i>
<u>torturous</u>	Extremely painful. <i>A torturous five days of fitness training.</i>
<u>trenchant</u>	Vigorous or incisive in expression or style. <i>A trenchant argument.</i>
<u>unbearable</u>	Not able to be endured or tolerated. <i>The heat was getting unbearable.</i>
unendurable	Not able to be tolerated or endured. <i>Cries of unendurable suffering.</i>
wintry	Characteristic of or occurring in winter. <i>Suffered severe wintry weather.</i>



Usage Examples of "Piercing" as an adjective

- *Piercing knifelike pains.*
- *Her piercing analysis.*
- *Piercing criticism.*
- *Piercing cold.*
- *The piercing cold of winter.*
- *I recall one moment of piercing sadness.*
- *A tall blonde with piercing eyes.*
- *She let out a piercing scream.*



Associations of "Piercing" (30 Words)

acute	Denoting or designed for patients with an acute form of a disease. <i>An acute observer of politics and politicians.</i>
acutely	In an acute manner. <i>He was acutely insightful.</i>
appreciative	Feeling or showing gratitude or pleasure. <i>An appreciative laugh from the audience.</i>
bethink	Cause oneself to consider something. <i>He bethought himself of the verse from the Book of Proverbs.</i>
biting	(of wit or criticism) harsh or cruel. <i>A biting aphorism.</i>
diacritical	Capable of distinguishing.
discerning	Quick to understand. <i>A discerning eye for color.</i>

discriminating	Showing or indicating careful judgment and discernment especially in matters of taste. <i>The discriminating eye of the connoisseur.</i>
incisive	(of an account) accurate and sharply focused. <i>The songs offer incisive pictures of American ways.</i>
infiltrate	Cause (a liquid) to enter by penetrating the interstices. <i>Virtually no water infiltrates deserts such as the Sahara.</i>
insightful	Having or showing an accurate and deep understanding; perceptive. <i>An insightful parent.</i>
keenness	Thinness of edge or fineness of point. <i>He has expressed his keenness to retain his job.</i>
penetrating	Having or demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions. <i>A penetrating odor.</i>
perceptive	Of or relating to perception. <i>A perceptive observation.</i>
perforate	Perforated. <i>Perforate the sheets of paper.</i>
permeate	Spread or diffuse through. <i>An atmosphere of distrust has permeated this administration.</i>
pervade	(especially of a smell) spread through and be perceived in every part of. <i>A smell of stale cabbage pervaded the air.</i>
pierce	Make a hole into. <i>The scream pierced the night.</i>
pointed	(of a remark or look) expressing criticism in a direct and unambiguous way. <i>Pointed comments were made about racial discrimination within the army.</i>
pungent	Having a sharply strong taste or smell. <i>The pungent smell of frying onions.</i>
sharp	A thing with a sharp edge such as a blade or a fragment of glass. <i>Fresh goats milk cheese has a slightly sharper flavour than fromage frais.</i>
shrewd	(especially of weather) piercingly cold. <i>A shrewd east wind.</i>
shrill	A shrill sound or cry. <i>A concession to their shrill demands.</i>
sickle	A short-handled farming tool with a semicircular blade, used for cutting corn, lopping, or trimming.

spinous	Having spines. <i>The dorsal fin is spinous.</i>
spiny	Full of or covered with prickles. <i>A spiny problem.</i>
thorny	Bristling with perplexities. <i>Tangled thorny branches.</i>
trident	A three-pronged spear, especially as an attribute of Poseidon (Neptune) or Britannia.
understanding	Characterized by understanding based on comprehension and discernment and empathy. <i>People expect their doctor to be understanding.</i>

