

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.*

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

