

Need another word that means the same as “rub”? Find 36 synonyms and 30 related words for “rub” in this overview.

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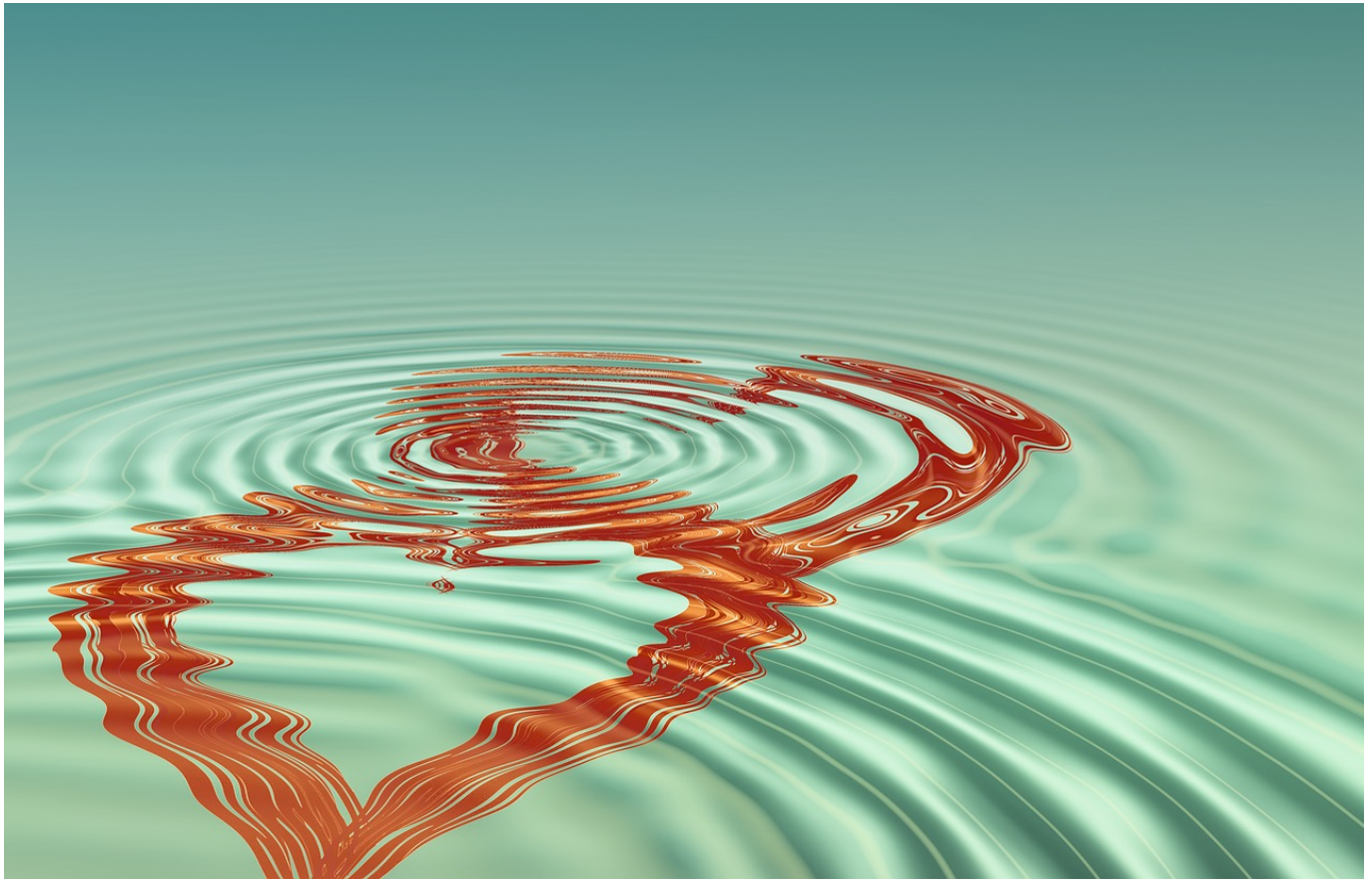
The synonyms of “Rub” are: chafe, fray, fret, scratch, itch, massage, knead, apply, put on, smear, smooth, spread, work in, cream in, clean, mop, sponge, swab, pinch, scrape, abrade, hang-up, hitch, snag, wipe, polish, buffing, problem, difficulty, trouble, drawback, hindrance, obstacle, obstruction, impediment

Rub as a Noun

Definitions of "Rub" as a noun

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), “rub” as a noun can have the following definitions:

- *The act of rubbing or wiping.*
- *A mixture of spices and other seasonings that is applied to the surface of meat or fish before cooking.*
- *The central problem or difficulty in a situation.*
- *(in bowling) an uneven patch of ground that impedes or diverts a bowl.*
- *An unforeseen obstacle.*
- *An act of rubbing.*
- *An ointment designed to be rubbed on the skin to ease pain.*



Synonyms of "Rub" as a noun (15 Words)

buffing

An implement consisting of soft material mounted on a block; used for polishing (as in manicuring).

difficulty

A condition or state of affairs almost beyond one's ability to deal with and requiring great effort to bear or overcome.

*Had **difficulty** walking.*

drawback

A feature that renders something less acceptable; a disadvantage or problem.

*They had been complaining of difficulties in getting quick reimbursement of duty **drawback**.*

hang-up

An unforeseen obstacle.

hindrance

Any obstruction that impedes or is burdensome.

*A **hindrance** to the development process.*

hitch

An act of hitch hiking.

*Everything went without a **hitch**.*

- impediment** Something immaterial that interferes with or delays action or progress.
*A serious **impediment** to scientific progress.*
- massage** The rubbing and kneading of muscles and joints of the body with the hands, especially to relieve tension or pain.
***Massage** can ease tiredness.*
- obstacle** Something immaterial that stands in the way and must be circumvented or surmounted.
*The poverty of a district is an **obstacle** to good education.*
- obstruction** The physical condition of blocking or filling a passage with an obstruction.
*Walkers could proceed with the minimum of **obstruction**.*
- polish** A preparation used in polishing.
*They performed with great **polish**.*
- problem** An inquiry starting from given conditions to investigate or demonstrate a fact, result, or law.
*Motivation of staff can also be a **problem**.*
- snag** A rent or tear in fabric caused by a snag.
*Keep an emery board handy in case of nail **snags**.*
- trouble** A source of difficulty.
*The kid had been no **trouble** up to now.*
- wipe** A cinematographic effect in which an existing picture seems to be wiped out by a new one as the boundary between them moves across the screen.
*Bert was giving the machine a final **wipe** over with an oily rag.*



Usage Examples of "Rub" as a noun

- *She pulled out a towel and gave her head a quick rub.*
- *He will be using coffee in a rub for a rack of lamb.*
- *A muscle rub.*
- *He gave the hood a quick rub.*
- *That was the rub—she had not cared enough.*



Rub as a Verb

Definitions of "Rub" as a verb

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), "rub" as a verb can have the following definitions:

- *Work an ingredient into (a mixture) by breaking and blending it with firm movements of one's fingers.*
- *Move (one's hand, a cloth, or another object) back and forth against a surface.*
- *Cause friction.*
- *Make dry, clean, or smooth by rubbing.*
- *(of a bowl) be slowed or diverted by the unevenness of the ground.*
- *Reproduce the design of (a sepulchral brass or a stone) by rubbing paper laid on it with coloured wax, pencil, or chalk, etc.*
- *Apply firm pressure to the surface of (something), using a repeated back and forth motion.*
- *Scrape or rub as if to relieve itching.*
- *Move over something with pressure.*
- *Apply (ointment, polish, or a similar substance) with a back and forth motion.*
- *(of shoes or other hard items in contact with the skin) cause pain through friction.*
- *(with reference to two things) move or cause to move to and fro against each other with a certain amount of friction.*



Synonyms of "Rub" as a verb (21 Words)

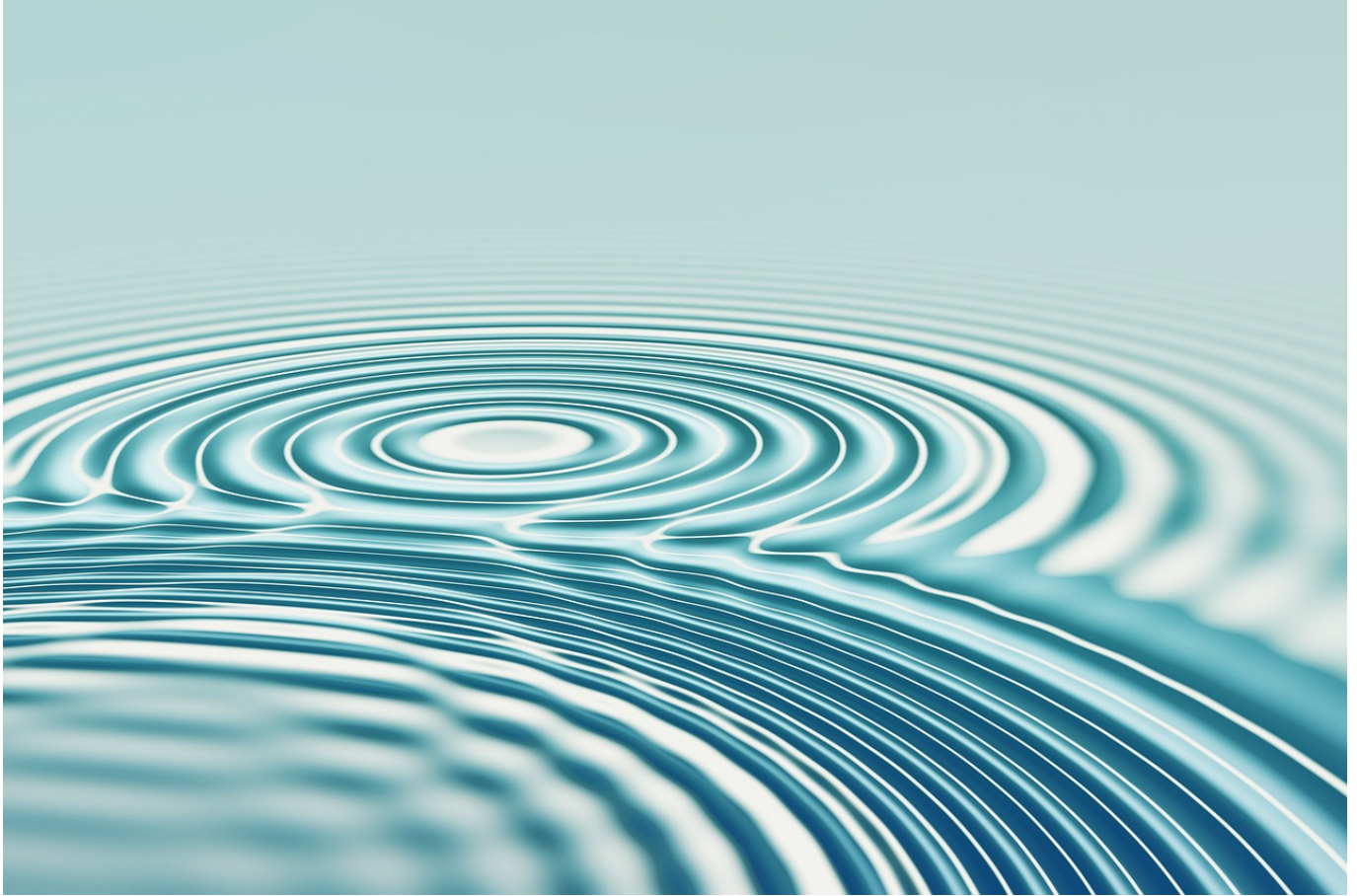
- abrade** Rub hard or scrub.
*It was a landscape slowly **abraded** by a fine stinging dust.*
- apply** Apply oneself to.
*Please **apply** yourself to your homework.*
- chafe** Cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations.
*Her arms **chafed** where the rope bit into them.*
- clean** Be cleanable.
*The boys **cleaned** the sandwich platters.*
- cream in** Put on cream, as on one's face or body.
- fray** (of a male deer) rub (a bush or small tree) with the head in order to remove the velvet from newly formed antlers, or to mark territory during the rut.
*The friction **frayed** the sleeve.*
- fret** Provide a musical instrument with frets.
*She **fretted** about the cost of groceries.*

itch	Cause to perceive an itch. <i>Paul was itching to get outside.</i>
knead	Make bread or pottery by kneading flour or clay. <i>She kneaded his back.</i>
massage	Give a massage to. <i>The accounts had been massaged to suit the government.</i>
mop	To wash or wipe with or as if with a mop. <i>She mopped the floor and cleaned out two cupboards.</i>
pinch	Make ridges into by pinching together. <i>If I scraped and pinched a bit I might manage.</i>
put on	Attribute or give.
scrape	Bend the knees and bow in a servile manner. <i>For some years he scraped a living as a tutor.</i>
scratch	Play a record using the scratch technique. <i>Banks seem prepared to scratch stabilization charges.</i>
smear	Stain by smearing or daubing with a dirty substance. <i>Smear the wall with paint.</i>
smooth	Make smooth or smoother as if by rubbing. <i>A conference would be held to smooth the way for the establishment of the provisional government.</i>
sponge	Give a decorative effect to a painted surface by applying a different shade of paint with a sponge. <i>I ll go and sponge this orange juice off my dress.</i>
spread	Cover by spreading something over. <i>The Marines spread out across the docks.</i>
swab	Wash with a swab or a mop. <i>The crew were swabbing down the decks.</i>
work in	Exert oneself by doing mental or physical work for a purpose or out of necessity.



Usage Examples of "Rub" as a verb

- *Sift the flour into a bowl and rub in the fat.*
- *He was rubbing an old brass.*
- *I rubbed myself dry.*
- *She took out her sun cream and rubbed some on her nose.*
- *He rubbed at the earth on his jeans.*
- *He rubbed a finger round the rim of his mug.*
- *Badly fitting shoes can rub painfully.*
- *She rubbed her arm, where she had a large bruise.*
- *Many insects make noises by rubbing parts of their bodies together.*
- *She found a towel and began rubbing her hair.*
- *Rub my hands.*
- *The ice breaks into small floes that rub against each other.*
- *Rub oil into her skin.*



Associations of "Rub" (30 Words)

- caress** Touch or stroke lightly in a loving or endearing manner.
*The **caresses** of the breeze played over his face.*
- chafe** (with reference to a part of the body) make or become sore by rubbing against something.
*The collar **chafed** his neck.*
- dab** A brief application of a piece of absorbent material to a surface.
*Apply concealer with light **dabs**.*
- delete** Remove (a product, especially a recording) from the catalogue of those available for purchase.
*If one important gene is **deleted** from an animal's DNA other genes can stand in.*
- discomfort** A state of unease, worry, or embarrassment.
*His remarks caused her **discomfort**.*

efface	Remove completely from recognition or memory. <i>To efface oneself is not the easiest of duties which the teacher can undertake.</i>
encourage	Spur on. <i>The intention is to encourage new writing talent.</i>
encouraged	Inspired with confidence.
eradicate	Kill in large numbers. <i>This disease has been eradicated from the world.</i>
erasable	Capable of being effaced. <i>A signal too loud to be erasable in a single pass through the erase head.</i>
<u>erase</u>	Remove from memory or existence. <i>The tape could be magnetically erased and reused.</i>
<u>excise</u>	Levy an excise tax on. <i>The surgeon excised the tumor.</i>
expulsion	The action or process of forcing someone to leave a place. <i>His expulsion from the union.</i>
<u>expunge</u>	Obliterate or remove completely (something unwanted or unpleasant). <i>The kind of man that could expunge an unsatisfactory incident from his memory.</i>
<u>fray</u>	A noisy fight. <i>As the temperature rose tempers frayed.</i>
friction	Effort expended in moving one object over another with pressure. <i>A considerable amount of friction between father and son.</i>
fumble	An act of managing or dealing with something clumsily. <i>He fumbled about in the dark but could not find her.</i>
<u>irritation</u>	An uncomfortable feeling of mental painfulness or distress. <i>The minor irritations of life.</i>
itch	Be the site of or cause an itch. <i>She is itching to start the project.</i>
itching	An irritating cutaneous sensation that produces a desire to scratch.
<u>massage</u>	Give a massage to. <i>She massaged his sore back.</i>
<u>obliterate</u>	Make invisible or indistinct; conceal or cover. <i>The special stamp should be placed on the left hand side and not be used to obliterate the postage stamp.</i>
pat	Pat or squeeze fondly or playfully especially under the chin. <i>He patted the bench beside him and I sat down.</i>

- rap** Genre of African American music of the 1980s and 1990s in which rhyming lyrics are chanted to a musical accompaniment several forms of rap have emerged.
*Social services were smarting from an Ombudsman s **rap**.*
- scratch** A mark or wound made by scratching.
*Tabitha wondered how long the woman had been **scratching** a living on the waterways.*
- strike** A pitch that passes through the strike zone.
***Strike** a medal.*
- tap** Cut a female screw thread with a tap.
*The FBI was **tapping** the phone line of the suspected spy.*
- touch** An act of touching someone or something.
*He **touched** back a cross field ball.*
- wipe** Pass a swipe card over an electronic reader.
***Wipe** the blackboard.*

