

Need another word that means the same as “sharpen”? Find 18 synonyms and 30 related words for “sharpen” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Sharpen” are: heighten, focalise, focalize, focus, point, taper, make sharp, make sharper, hone, whet, strop, grind, file, improve, brush up, polish up, better, enhance**

## Sharpen as a Verb

### Definitions of "Sharpen" as a verb

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

- *Raise the pitch of (a note) by a semitone.*
- *Put (an image) into focus.*
- *Make or become sharp or sharper.*
- *Make sharp or sharper.*
- *Make crisp or more crisp and precise.*
- *Make (one's senses) more acute.*
- *Raise the pitch of (musical notes).*
- *Give a point to.*
- *Become sharp or sharper.*
- *Improve or cause to improve.*
- *Make (images or sounds) sharp or sharper.*



## Synonyms of "Sharpen" as a verb (18 Words)

<b>better</b>	Get better. <i>The residents are mostly Londoners who have <b>bettered</b> themselves.</i>
<b>brush up</b>	Rub with a brush, or as if with a brush.
<b>enhance</b>	Intensify, increase, or further improve the quality, value, or extent of. <i>His refusal does nothing to <b>enhance</b> his reputation.</i>
<b><u>file</u></b>	Smooth with a file. <i><b>File</b> one's fingernails.</i>
<b>focalise</b>	Concentrate on a particular place or spot.
<b>focalize</b>	Confine (a disease or infection) to a particular site in the body. <i>The narrative discourse is <b>focalized</b> around the consciousness of the central protagonist.</i>
<b>focus</b>	Put an image into focus. <i>She <b>focused</b> her eyes on his face.</i>

<b>grind</b>	Created by grinding. <i>There were sweaty bodies everywhere bumping and <b>grinding</b> to the music.</i>
<b>heighten</b>	Make (something) higher. <i><b>Heightened</b> interest.</i>
<u>hone</u>	Sharpen with a hone. <i>The detectives <b>honed</b> in on the suspect.</i>
<b>improve</b>	To make better. <i>The editor <b>improved</b> the manuscript with his changes.</i>
<b>make sharp</b>	Reach a destination, either real or abstract.
<b>make sharper</b>	Calculate as being.
<b>point</b>	Give a point to. <i><b>Point</b> a gun.</i>
<b>polish up</b>	Improve or perfect by pruning or polishing.
<b>strop</b>	Sharpen on or with a strop. <i><b>Strop</b> razors.</i>
<u>taper</u>	Gradually lessen. <i>The tail <b>tapers</b> to a rounded tip.</i>
<b>whet</b>	Sharpen by rubbing as on a whetstone. <i>She took out her dagger and began to <b>whet</b> its blade in even rhythmic strokes.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Sharpen" as a verb

- *Students will sharpen up their reading skills.*
- *We had to sharpen our arguments.*
- *She sharpened her pencil.*
- *This drug will sharpen your vision.*
- *The debate sharpened.*
- *Sharpen the knives.*
- *Her tone sharpened.*
- *They've got to sharpen up in front of the goal.*





## Associations of "Sharpen" (30 Words)

<b>abrasive</b>	Causing abrasion. <i>The trees were <b>abrasive</b> to the touch.</i>
<b>awl</b>	A pointed tool for marking surfaces or for punching small holes.
<b>ax</b>	Chop or split with an ax. <i>The NSF <b>axed</b> the research program and stopped funding it.</i>
<b>chop</b>	Form or shape by chopping. <i>All these projects are destined for the <b>chop</b>.</i>
<b>clipper</b>	A fast sailing ship used in former times. <i>A set of hair <b>clippers</b>.</i>
<b>crush</b>	The act of crushing. <i>The car <b>crushed</b> the toy.</i>
<b>drudgery</b>	Hard menial or dull work. <i>Domestic <b>drudgery</b>.</i>
<b>finely</b>	In a subtle or sensitive manner. <i><b>Finely</b> tailored suits.</i>

<b>flour</b>	Grind grain into flour. <i>Manioc <b>flour</b>.</i>
<b>fork</b>	Lift with a pitchfork. <i>He has <b>forked</b> my bishop and knight.</i>
<b>grind</b>	Make a grating or grinding sound by rubbing together. <i>There were sweaty bodies everywhere bumping and <b>grinding</b> to the music.</i>
<b>hammer</b>	The sport of throwing a hammer. <i><b>Hammer</b> the metal flat.</i>
<b>heighten</b>	Increase. <i>The athletes kept jumping over the steadily <b>heightened</b> bars.</i>
<a href="#"><u>hone</u></a>	Sharpen with a hone. <i>The detectives <b>honed</b> in on the suspect.</i>
<a href="#"><u>knife</u></a>	Cut or move cleanly through something with a knife like action. <i>A shard of steel <b>knifed</b> through the mainsail.</i>
<b>mash</b>	Crush or smash something to a pulp. <i>I ve just <b>mashed</b> a pot of tea.</i>
<b>mill</b>	Grind something in a mill. <i>In the machine shop we <b>mill</b> and grind the castings.</i>
<b>pointed</b>	Having a point. <i>Another <b>pointed</b> look in their direction.</i>
<b>powder</b>	Any of various cosmetic or medical preparations dispensed in the form of a pulverized powder. <i><b>Powder</b> skiing.</i>
<b>pulverize</b>	Reduce to fine particles. <i>He had a winning car and <b>pulverized</b> the opposition.</i>
<b>razor</b>	Cut with a razor. <i>The tapered cut is <b>razored</b> to give movement.</i>
<b>scalpel</b>	A thin straight surgical knife used in dissection and surgery.
<b>scissors</b>	Denoting an action in which two things cross each other or open and close like the blades of a pair of scissors. <i>A dummy <b>scissors</b> from David Thomas deceived the opposition.</i>
<a href="#"><u>sharp</u></a>	A long sharply pointed needle used for general sewing. <i>He heard him playing a little <b>sharp</b> on the high notes.</i>
<a href="#"><u>shred</u></a>	Tear or cut into shreds. <i>Her dress was torn to <b>shreds</b>.</i>
<b>sickle</b>	An edge tool for cutting grass or crops; has a curved blade and a short handle.

**squash**

Edible fruit of a squash plant eaten as a vegetable.

*She needled him with such venom that Seb was visibly **squashed**.*

**tamp**

A tool for tamping e g for tamping tobacco into a pipe bowl or a charge into a drill hole etc.

*When the hole was **tamped** to the top gunpowder was inserted.*

**trident**

A three-pronged spear, especially as an attribute of Poseidon (Neptune) or Britannia.

**whet**

Sharpen by rubbing as on a whetstone.

*The selection of quotations may **whet** your curiosity to investigate the source material.*

