

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)

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

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

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

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

