



Start typing any word or phrase

View synonyms for **edge** ↗

American

British

edge



[ ej ]

☒ Phonetic (Standard) ☐ IPA**noun**

- 1 a line or border at which a surface terminates:  
*Grass grew along the edges of the road. The paper had deckle edges.*  
**Synonyms:** lip, rim
- 2 a brink or verge:  
*the edge of a cliff; the edge of disaster.*
- 3 any of the narrow surfaces of a thin, flat object:  
*a book with gilt edges.*
- 4 a line at which two surfaces of a solid object meet:  
*an edge of a box.*
- 5 the thin, sharp side of the blade of a cutting instrument or weapon.
- 6 the sharpness proper to a blade:  
*The knife has lost its edge.*
- 7 sharpness or keenness of language, argument, tone of voice, appetite, desire, etc.:  
*The snack took the edge off his hunger. Her voice had an edge to it.*
- 8 *British Dialect.* a hill or cliff.
- 9 an improved position; advantage:  
*He gained the edge on his opponent.*
- 10 *Cards.*
  - a <sup>Advertisement</sup> advantage, especially the advantage gained by being the age or eldest

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**EX 2017**



## verb (used with object)

**edged, edging.**

- 1 to put an edge on; sharpen.
- 2 to provide with an edge or border:  
     *to edge a terrace with shrubbery; to edge a skirt with lace.*
- 3 to make or force (one's way) gradually by moving sideways.
- 4 *Metalworking.*
  - a to turn (a piece to be rolled) onto its edge.
  - b to roll (a piece set on edge).
  - c to give (a piece) a desired width by passing between vertical rolls.
  - d to rough (a piece being forged) so that the bulk is properly distributed for final forging.

## verb (used without object)

**edged, edging.**

- 1 to move sideways:  
     *to edge through a crowd.*
- 2 to advance gradually or cautiously:  
     *a car edging up to a curb.*

## verb phrase

- 1 to insert or work in or into, especially in a limited period of time:  
     *Can you edge in your suggestion before they close the discussion?*
- 2 to defeat (rivals or opponents) by a small margin:  
     *The home team edged out the visitors in an exciting finish.*

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Other Words From

EX 2017

- **edge less** adjective
- **out edge** verb (used with object) **outedged outedging**
- **un der-edge** noun
- **un-edge** verb (used with object) **unedged unedging**

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## Word History and Origins

### Origin of edge<sup>1</sup>

First recorded before 1000; *Middle English* *egge*, *Old English* *ecg*; cognate with *German Ecke* “corner”; akin to *Latin acus* “needle,” *Greek akís* “point”; [acute \( def \)](#), [egg](#).<sup>2</sup>

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## Idioms and Phrases

### Idioms

- 1 **have an edge on**, *Informal*. to be mildly intoxicated with alcoholic liquor:  
*He had a pleasant edge on from the sherry.*
- 2 **on edge**,  
 a (of a person or a person's nerves) acutely sensitive; nervous; tense.  
 b impatient; eager:  
*The contestants were on edge to learn the results.*
- 3 **set one's teeth on edge**. [tooth \( def 21 \)](#).

### More idioms and phrases containing **edge**

- cutting edge
- get a word in edgewise
- have the edge on
- on edge
- on the edge
- over the edge
- set one's teeth on edge
- take the edge off
- thin edge of the wedge

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## Synonym Study

Edge, border, margin refer to a boundary. An edge is the boundary line of a surface or plane: the edge of a table. Border is the boundary of a surface or the



strip adjacent to it, inside or out: a border of lace. Margin is a limited strip, generally unoccupied, at the extremity of an area: the margin of a page.

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## Related Words

- [creep](#)
- [ease](#)
- [inch](#)

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## More About Edge

### What is a basic definition of *edge*?

The word *edge* most commonly refers to the sharp or angled side of an object or the place where something stops and something else starts—a border or margin. *Edge* is also used as a verb meaning to move sideways. *Edge* has many additional senses as both a noun and verb.

When it's used to refer to the side or tip of an object, the word *edge* often implies that it's sharp or pointy.

- **Real-life example:** The sharp edge of a knife is the part that you use to cut things with.
- **Used in a sentence:** *I accidentally gave myself a paper cut on the edge of the envelope.*

When it refers to the line or border where something stops, *edge* can be used in the context of objects or places. An *edge* may be an intentional boundary or it may simply be the place where something ends. Sometimes, it refers to the farthest possible point you can go before falling off of something—a [verge](#) or [brink](#).

- **Real-life example:** The *edges* of an object are its outermost borders or margins. When you write too close to the *edge* of a piece of paper, you might write on whatever's next to it, like the surface of the table it's on. The *edge* of a road is the point where it stops and something else begins, such as grass or a sidewalk. The *edge* of a cliff is the last point you can stand on before there is no more cliff and you will fall. This sense of the word can also be used in [figurative](#) ways, as in *the edge of reality*.
- **Used in a sentence:** *The pencil rolled over the edge of the desk and fell on the floor.*

*Edge* can also be used as a verb meaning to move slowly or cautiously, such as by moving around the *edges* of something so as not to touch it or fall.

- **Used in a sentence:** *The boy edged past his sleeping father to sneak into the kitchen.*

### Where does *edge* come from?

The first records of the word *edge* come from before the year 1000. It comes from the Old English word *ecg*. This word is related to the German *ecke* (meaning “corner”) and the Greek *akís* (“point”). Most of the many meanings of *edge* relate to an ending point or a side or boundary.

## Did you know ... ?

What are some other forms related to *edge*?

- *edgeless* (adjective)
- *edger* (noun)

What are some synonyms for *edge*?

- end
- margin
- side
- tip
- brink
- verge
- border
- boundary

What are some words that share a root or word element with *edge*?

- edgewise
- edging
- edgy
- on edge

What are some words that often get used in discussing *edge*?

- cliff
- knife
- far
- sharp
- point
- pointy
- advantage

## How is *edge* used in real life?

*Edge* is an extremely common word with many meanings, most of which involve sides, margins, or borders.

Well just took a solid 10 minutes to move my car from the front of the house to the edge of the driveway. 🙄 🐼

— Cassidy (@cassslyons) [December 15, 2013](#)

Geometry makes me want to walk off the edge of a cliff.

— Court (@Court3012) [November 12, 2013](#)

Just drove past some kids as they smashed a bus shelter by accident, then edged slowly away.. It was like something off a film

— Sadie Burgess (@xsadiee) [January 29, 2014](#)

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## Try using *edge*!

Is *edge* used correctly in the following sentence?

*The painters started from the middle and worked their way out to the edges of the floor.*

WORD OF THE DAY 

JANUARY 28, 2025

# divulgate

[dih-vuhl-geyt]

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second person

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third person

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