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edge [ej]

SYNONYMS | EXAMPLES | WORD ORIGIN | IDIOMS [SEE MORE SYNONYMS FOR edge ON THESAURUS.COM](#)

noun

- 1 a line or border at which a surface terminates:
Grass grew along the edges of the road. The paper had deckle edges.
- 2 a brink or verge:
the edge of a cliff; the edge of disaster.

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verb (used with object), edged, edg-ing.

- 13 to put an edge on; sharpen.
- 14 to provide with an edge or border:
to edge a terrace with shrubbery; to edge a skirt with lace.


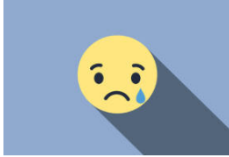
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verb (used without object), edged, edg-ing.

- 17 to move sideways:
to edge through a crowd.
- 18 to advance gradually or cautiously:
a car edging up to a curb.

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Idioms

- 21 **have an edge on**, *Informal* . to be mildly intoxicated with alcoholic liquor:
He had a pleasant edge on from the sherry.
- 22 **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.
- 23 **set one's teeth on edge** . [tooth\(def 21\)](#).



Origin of edge

before 1000; Middle English *egge*, Old English *ecg*; cognate with German *Ecke* corner; akin to Latin *aciēs*, Greek *akís* point

Related forms

- edge-less** , adjective
- out-edge** , verb (used with object), **out-edged**, **out-edg-ing**.

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Word of the Day

petrichor 



I've butchered so many words in my life.

Words We Get Wrong: How Many of These Can You Say?



un-der-edge , noun
un-edge , verb (used with object), **un-edged**, **un-edg-ing**.

Synonyms for edge

SEE MORE SYNONYMS FOR *edge* ON THESAURUS.COM

1. rim, lip.

Synonym study

1. **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*.

Dictionary.com Unabridged

Based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2019

Related Words for edge

perimeter, end, boundary, point, fringe, tip, mouth, side, shore, rim, lip, peak, verge, threshold, corner, line, margin, brink, outskirts, superiority

Examples from the Web for edge

Contemporary Examples of edge

French officials were already on *edge* after a series of apparently unconnected attacks, including the stabbing of police officers.



[U.S. Spies See Al Qaeda Fingerprints on Paris Massacre](#)

Shane Harris, Nancy A. Youssef
January 8, 2015

The rage that Marvin has embodied, a man on the *edge* of eruption, is always a badly wounded man.



[The Story Behind Lee Marvin's Liberty Valance Smile](#)

Robert Ward
January 3, 2015

Marvin hops over the *edge* of his retaining wall, which he built.



[The Story Behind Lee Marvin's Liberty Valance Smile](#)

Robert Ward
January 3, 2015

Another man chimes in: "Today we are living at the *edge* of suffering."



[The Congo's Forgotten Colonial Getaway](#)

Nina Stochlic
December 18, 2014

Qatar is just a little spit of land that looks like a polyp on *edge* of Saudi Arabia.



[U.S. Ally Qatar Shelters Jihadi Moneyman](#)

Jamie Dettmer
December 10, 2014

Historical Examples of edge

The *edge* of the garment was curiously wrought with golden palm leaves.

[Philothea](#)

Lydia Maria Child

Along the *edge* of the green pines and spruce were lavender asters.

[The Spenders](#)

Harry Leon Wilson

Looking around him, he at length, from the *edge* of the valley, descried Robert.

[Brave and Bold](#)

Horatio Alger

Now he scanned the trees on the *edge* of the clearing with painful anxiety.

[Way of the Lawless](#)

Max Brand

And then they came to the *edge* of the cliff, where the heel marks ended.

[Way of the Lawless](#)

Max Brand



Did You Know Real People Write the Dictionary?

Nearby words for edge

edessa
edetate calcium disodium
edetic acid
edgar
edgar atheling
edge
edge city
edge effect
edge in
edge molding
edge out

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British Dictionary definitions for edge

edge

noun

- 1 the border, brim, or margin of a surface, object, etc
- 2 a brink or verge : *the edge of a cliff* ; *the edge of a breakthrough*
- 3 maths
 - a a line along which two faces or surfaces of a solid meet
 - b a line joining two vertices of a graph
- 4 the sharp cutting side of a blade
- 5 keenness, sharpness, or urgency : *the walk gave an edge to his appetite*
- 6 force, effectiveness, or incisiveness : *the performance lacked edge*
- 7 *dialect*
 - a a cliff, ridge, or hillside
 - b (*capital*) (in place names) : *Hade Edge*
- 8 **have the edge on** or **have the edge over** to have a slight advantage or superiority (over)
- 9 **on edge**
 - a nervously irritable; tense
 - b nervously excited or eager
- 10 **set someone's teeth on edge** to make someone acutely irritated or uncomfortable

verb

- 11 (*tr*) to provide an edge or border for
- 12 (*tr*) to shape or trim (the edge or border of something), as with a knife or scissors : *to edge a pie*
- 13 to push (one's way, someone, something, etc) gradually, esp edgeways
- 14 (*tr*) cricket to hit (a bowled ball) with the edge of the bat
- 15 (*tr*) to tilt (a ski) sideways so that one edge digs into the snow
- 16 (*tr*) to sharpen (a knife, etc)

Derived Forms

edgeless , adjective
edger , noun

Word Origin for edge

Old English *ecg*; related to Old Norse *egg*, Old High German *ecka* edge, Latin *aciēs* sharpness, Greek *akis* point

Word Origin and History for edge

n.

Old English *ecg* "corner, edge, point," also "sword" (cf. *ecgplega*, literally "edge play," *ecghete*, literally "edge hate," both used poetically for "battle"), from Proto-Germanic **agjo* (cf. Old Frisian *egg* "edge;" Old Saxon *eggia* "point, edge;" Middle Dutch *egghe*, Dutch *eg*; Old Norse *egg*, see *egg* (v.); Old High German *ecka*, German *Eck* "corner"), from PIE root **ak-* "sharp, pointed" (cf. Sanskrit *asrih* "edge," Latin *acies*, Greek *akis* "point;" see *acrid*).

Spelling development of Old English *-cg* to Middle English *-gg* to Modern English *-dge* represents a widespread shift in pronunciation. To *get the edge on* (someone) is U.S. colloquial, first recorded 1911. *Edge city* is from Joel Garreau's 1992 book of that name. *Razor's edge* as a perilous narrow path translates Greek *epi xyrou akmes*. To *have (one's) teeth on edge* is from late 14c., though "It is not quite clear what is the precise notion originally expressed in this phrase" [OED].

v.

late 13c., "to give an edge to" (implied in past participle *egged*), from *edge* (n.). Meaning "to move edgewise (with the edge toward the spectator), advance slowly" is from 1620s, originally nautical. Meaning "to defeat by a narrow margin" is from 1953. The meaning "urge on, incite" (16c.) often must be a mistake for *egg* (v.). Related: *Edged*; *edging*.

Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2010 Douglas Harper

Idioms and Phrases with edge

edge

In addition to the idioms beginning with edge

edge in

edge out

also see:

cutting edge

over the edge

get a word in edgewise

set one's teeth on edge

have the edge on

take the edge off

on edge

thin edge of the wedge

on the edge

The American Heritage® Idioms Dictionary

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