

sheer

I

1. [[iə] *n мор.*
 1. резкое отклонение от курса; рыскание
 2. кривизна борта, продольная погибь
2. [[iə] *v мор.*
 1. резко отклониться от курса; рыскать (*мж.* sheer away)
 2. иметь погибь

II

1. [[iə] *a*
 1. настоящий, сущий; абсолютный, полнейший
sheer ignorance - полнейшее невежество
sheer folly - чистейшее безумие
sheer waste of time - совершенно бесполезная трата времени
it is sheer nonsense - это сущая чепуха
 2. единственный, только один
by sheer force - одной только силой
from sheer habit - просто по привычке
he won through sheer determination - он победил только благодаря упорству
 3. неразведённый, чистый (*о спирте и т. п.*)
 4. лёгкий, прозрачный (*о тканях*)
sheer stockings - чулки «паутинка»
 5. отвесный, перпендикулярный
sheer cliff - отвесная скала
2. [[iə] *adv*
 1. прямо, отвесно
 2. совершенно, абсолютно

sheer

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

sheer [sheer sheers sheered sheering sheerest] *adjective, adverb, verb BrE*[[ʃiə(r)]^u *NAme* [[ʃɪr]^u*adjective*

1. **only before noun** used to emphasize the size, degree or amount of sth
 - The area is under threat from the sheer number of tourists using it.
 - We were impressed by the sheer size of the cathedral.
2. **only before noun** complete and not mixed with anything else

Syn: ↑utter

- The concert was sheer delight.
 - I only agreed out of sheer desperation.
3. very steep
 - **sheer cliffs/slopes**
 - Outside there was a sheer drop down to the sea below.
 4. (*of cloth, etc.*) thin, light and almost transparent
 - sheer nylon

Word Origin:*adj.* and *adv.* Middle English 'exempt, cleared' shire 'pure, clear' Germanic ↑shine*v.* early 17th cent. Middle Low German *scheren* 'to shear'Example Bank:

- pure/sheer luck/chance/coincidence/delight/joy/bliss/determination
- sheer terror/panic/desperation/exhaustion/hell

Derived ↑sheer off*adverb*

straight up or down

- The cliffs rise sheer from the beach.
- The ground dropped sheer away at our feet.

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Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	sheer
	BrE /ʃɪə(r)/
	NAmE /ʃɪr/
he / she / it	sheers
	BrE /ʃɪəz/
	NAmE /ʃɪrz/
past simple, past participle	sheered
	BrE /ʃɪəd/
	NAmE /ʃɪrd/
-ing form	sheering
	BrE /ʃɪəriŋ/
	NAmE /ʃɪriŋ/

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adj. and adv. Middle English 'exempt, cleared' shire 'pure, clear' Germanic ↑shine
 v. early 17th cent. Middle Low German *scheren* 'to shear'

sheer

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **sheer**¹ /ʃɪə \$ ʃɪr/ BrE^u AmE^u *adjective*

[Date: 1500-1600; Origin: Probably from Old Norse *skær* 'pure']

1. **the sheer weight/size etc** used to emphasize that something is very heavy, large etc

the sheer weight/size etc of

" The sheer size of the country makes communications difficult.

2. **sheer luck/happiness/stupidity etc** luck, happiness etc with no other feeling or quality mixed with it **SYN pure**:

" I'll never forget the look of sheer joy on her face.

" sheer hypocrisy

3. a sheer drop, cliff, slope etc is very steep and almost vertical

4. sheer ↑nylon, silk etc is very thin and fine, so that it is almost transparent:

" sheer stockings

II. **sheer**² BrE^u AmE^u *adverb*

straight up or down in an almost vertical line **SYN steeply**:

" cliffs which rose sheer from the sea

III. **sheer**³ BrE^u AmE^u *verb* [intransitive always + adverb/preposition]

to change direction suddenly, especially in order to avoid something **SYN swerve**

sheer off/away

" The boat sheered away and headed out to sea.

sheer

Freakuency Pack

12500 **3513**^{MCW}

15000 **3470**^{COCA}

RANGE: **3k SHEER** 6509

sheer 6477

sheerness 32

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

5407 **5812**⁶⁴¹⁵ *jj*

53 **100717**⁵⁸ *rr*

4 **451997**⁴ *vv0*