

# Dictionary

## Definition

### noun

- verb (1)
- adverb or adjective
- verb (2)

### Synonyms

### Example Sentences

### Word History

### Phrases Containing

### Related Articles

### Entries Near

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# War

1 of 4 noun

(wŏr)

often attributive

Synonyms of war

- a state of usually open and declared armed hostile conflict between states or nations
    - a period of such armed conflict
    - STATE OF WAR**
  - the art or science of warfare
  - obsolete** : weapons and equipment for war
    - archaic** : soldiers armed and equipped for war
- a state of hostility, conflict, or antagonism
  - a struggle or competition between opposing forces or for a particular end
    - a class war
    - a war against disease
  - VARIANCE, ODDS sense 2**

**warless** (wŏr-las) adjective

# War

2 of 4 verb (1)

(wŏr)

warred; warring

*intransitive verb*

- : to be in active or vigorous conflict
- : to engage in warfare

# War

3 of 4 adverb or adjective

(wŏr)

chiefly Scotland

: **WORSE**

# War

4 of 4 verb (2)

(wŏr)

warred; warring

*transitive verb*

Scotland

: **WORST, OVERCOME**



## Synonyms

<b>Noun</b>			
conflagration	conflict	hostilities	
hot war			
<b>Verb (1)</b>			
battle	clash (with)	combat	
fight	scrimmage (with)	skirmish (with)	

See all Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus

## Example Sentences

### Noun

- They fought a war over the disputed territory.
- A war broke out when the colonists demanded their independence.
- We need to resolve our conflicts without resorting to war.

See More

## Recent Examples on the Web

### Noun

Donors and allies are urging the governor to stop talking so extensively about his record in Florida and culture war fights and broaden his message to appeal to the concerns of voters in places like Iowa.

— Nancy Cook, *BostonGlobe.com*, 6 Aug. 2023

The war in Ukraine and China-Taiwan tensions have strained U.S. relations with the two countries.

— Dinah Voyles Pulver, *USA TODAY*, 6 Aug. 2023

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These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'war.' Any opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback about these examples.



## Word History

### Etymology

#### Noun

Middle English *werre*, from Anglo-French *werre*, *guerre*, of Germanic origin; akin to Old High German *werra* strife; akin to Old High German *werran* to confuse

#### Adverb or adjective

Middle English *werre*, from Old Norse *verri*, adjective, *verr*, adverb; akin to Old English *wiersa* worse — more at **WORSE**

### First Known Use

#### Noun

12th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a\(1\)](#)

#### Verb (1)

13th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

#### Adverb Or Adjective

13th century, in the meaning defined [above](#)

#### Verb (2)

15th century, in the meaning defined [above](#)

## Time Traveler

The first known use of war was in the 12th century

See more words from the same century

## Phrases Containing war

at war	anti-war	all's fair in love and war
inter-war	law of war	declare war
civil war	ground war	limited war

See More

## Articles Related to war

### Top 10 Words Born in Conflict

When did the 'Riot Act' first get read?



## Dictionary Entries Near war

- waqf
- war
- warabi

See More Nearby Entries

## Cite this Entry

Style

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## Kids Definition

# War

1 of 2 noun

(wŏ(ə)r)

- a state or period of armed hostile conflict between states, nations, or groups
  - the science of warfare
- a state of hostility, antagonism, or conflict
  - a struggle between opposing forces or for a particular goal
  - a war on disease

# War

2 of 2 verb

warred; warring

- : to engage in warfare
- : to be in conflict



## More from Merriam-Webster on war

- British: [Translation of war for Spanish Speakers](#)
- Nglish: [Translation of war for Arabic Speakers](#)
- Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about war](#)

Last Updated: 9 Aug 2023 - Updated example sentences

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**Challenging Words You Should Know**

Not a quiz for the pusillanimous

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Hear a word and type it out. How many can you get...

Take the quiz

**Spelling Bee Quiz**

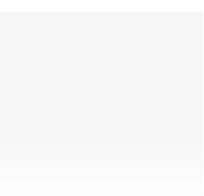
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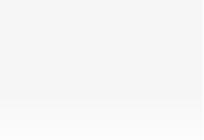


**Quordle**

L O R D Y  
 L O V E R  
 P L A Y S  
 D A I L Y

Can you solve 4 words at once?

Play



WORD OF THE DAY

**asunder**

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-66%

-63%

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-50%

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