

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

Noun			
conflagration	conflict	hostilities	
hot war			
Verb (1)			
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.

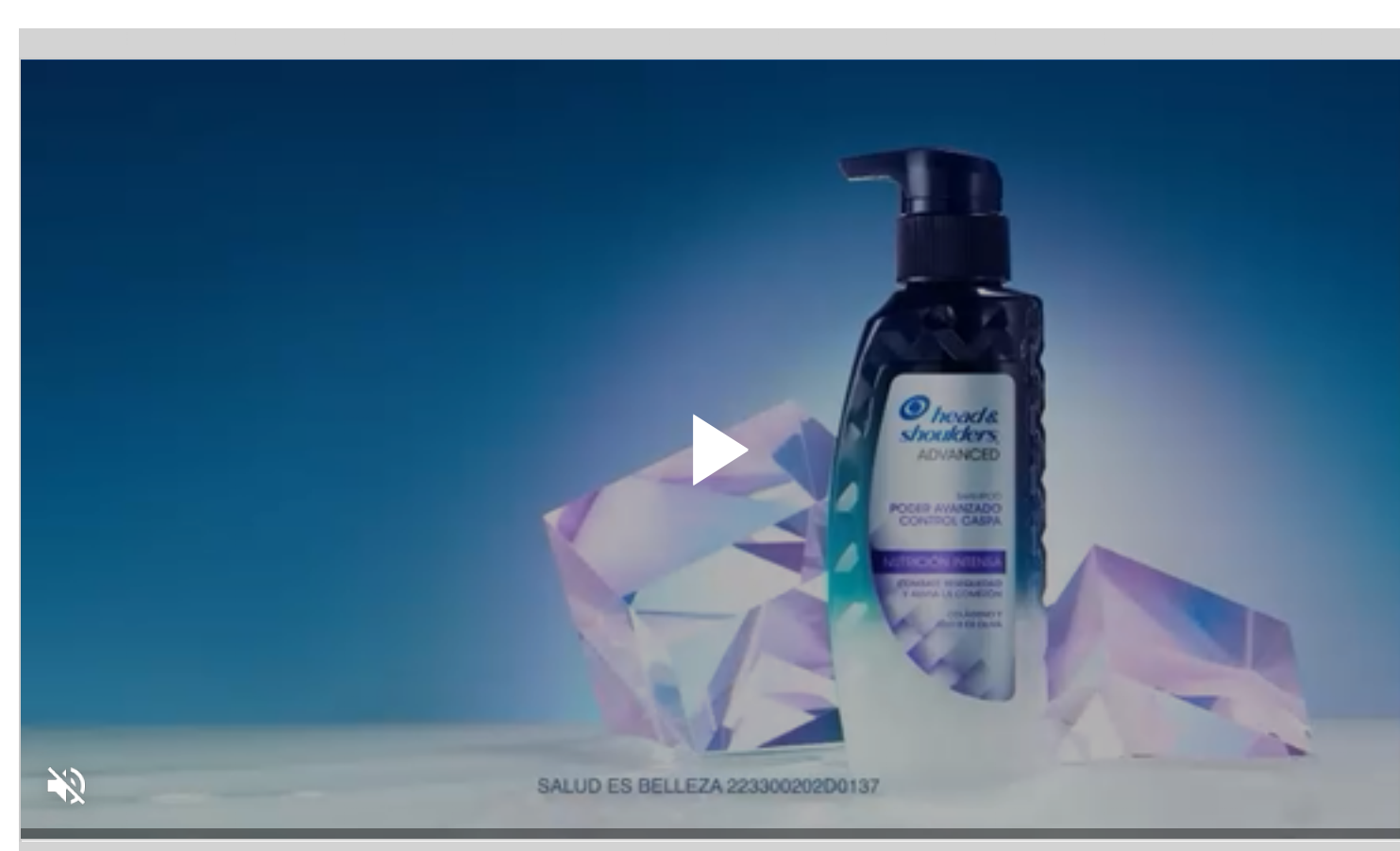
— Nancy Cook, *BostonGlobe.com*, 6 Aug. 2023

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

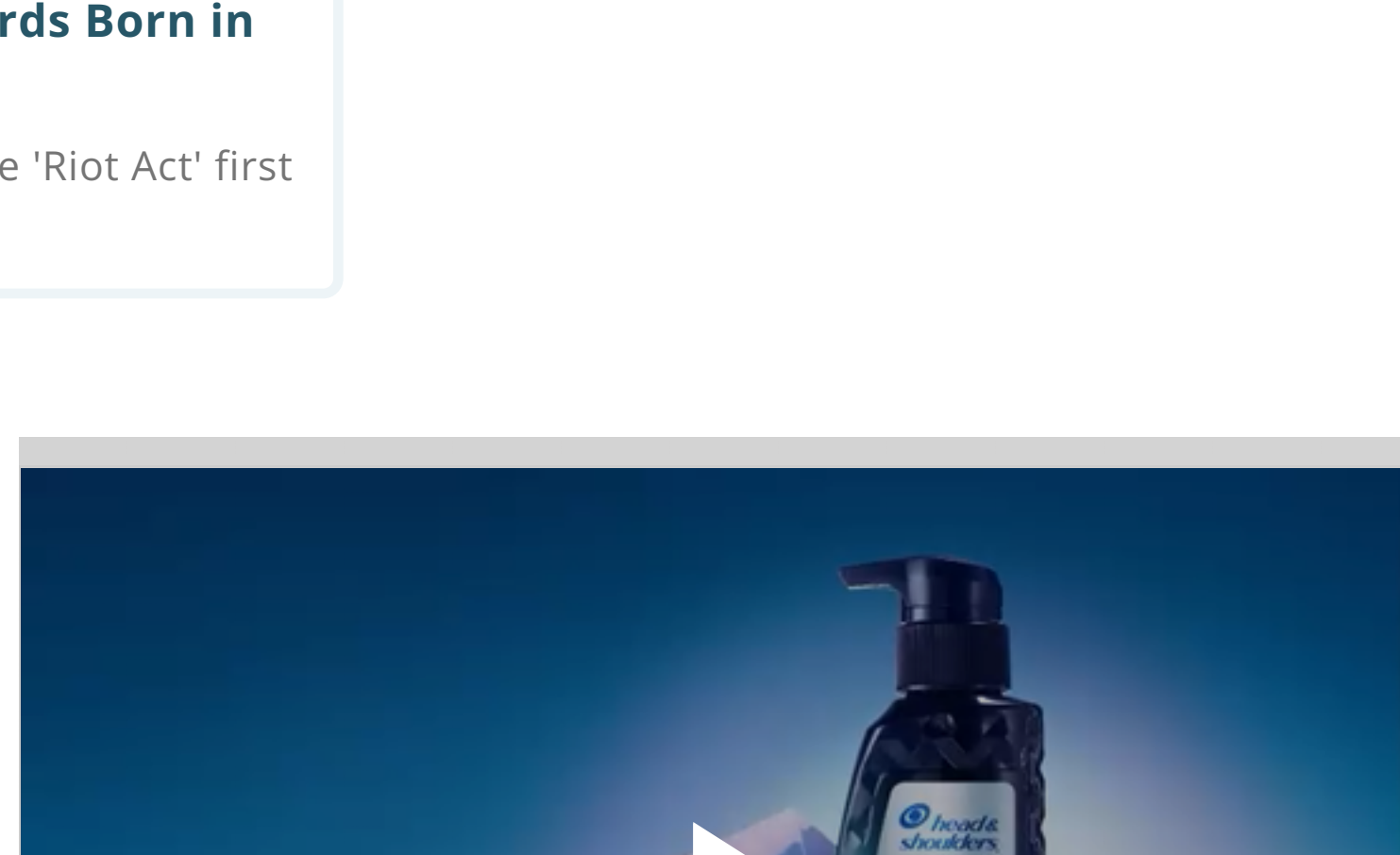
at war	anti-war	all's fair in love and war
inter-war	law of war	declare war
civil war	ground war	limited war

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Dictionary Entries Near war

waqf

war

warabi

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Kids Definition

War

1 of 2 noun

(wŏ(ə)r)

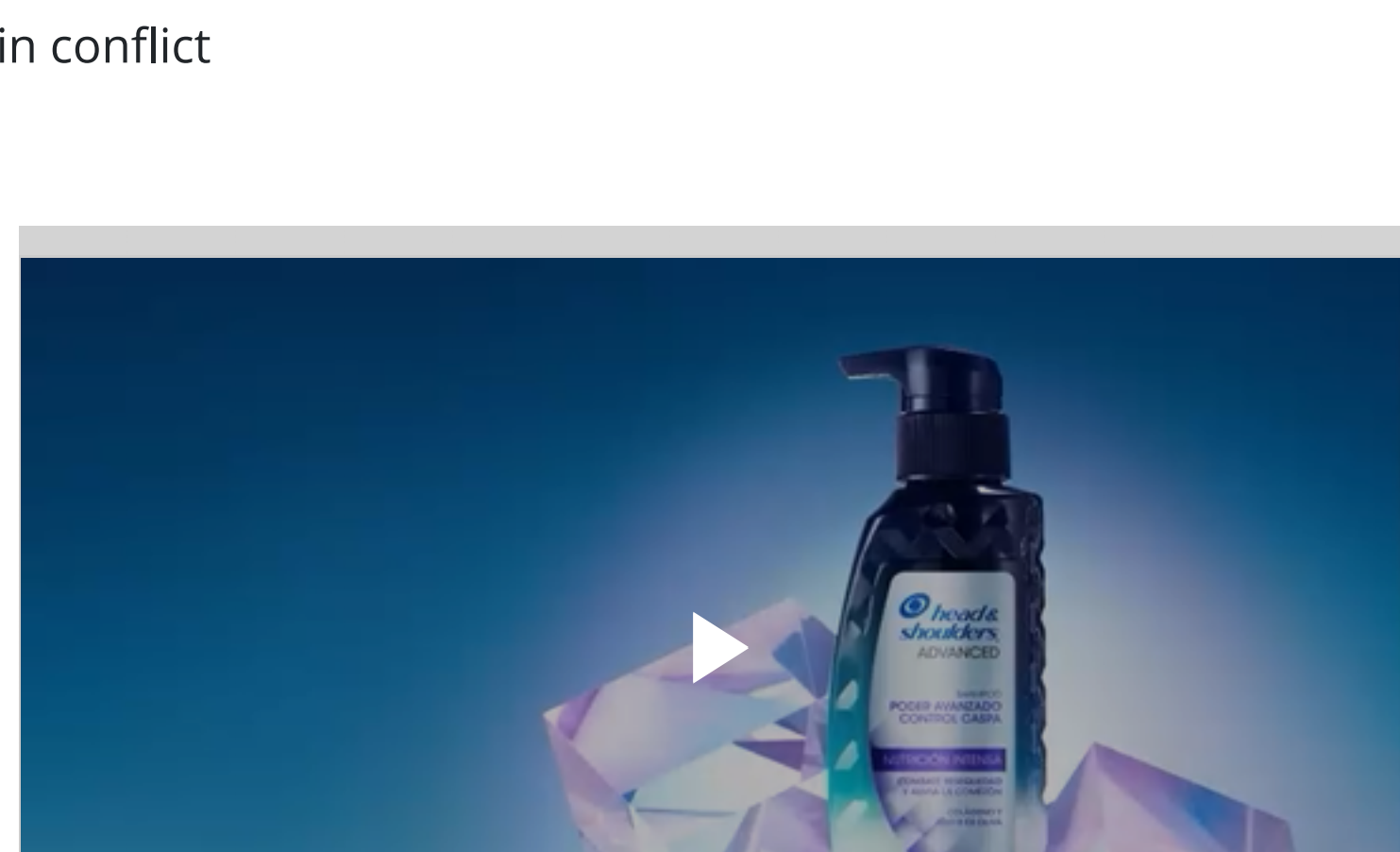
- a state or period of armed hostile conflict between states, nations, or groups
 - the science of warfare
- a state of hostility, antagonism, or conflict
 - a struggle between opposing forces or for a particular goal
 - a war on disease

War

2 of 2 verb

warred; warring

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



More from Merriam-Webster on war

- British: Translation of war for Spanish Speakers
- British: Translation of war for Arabic Speakers
- Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about war

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Take the quiz

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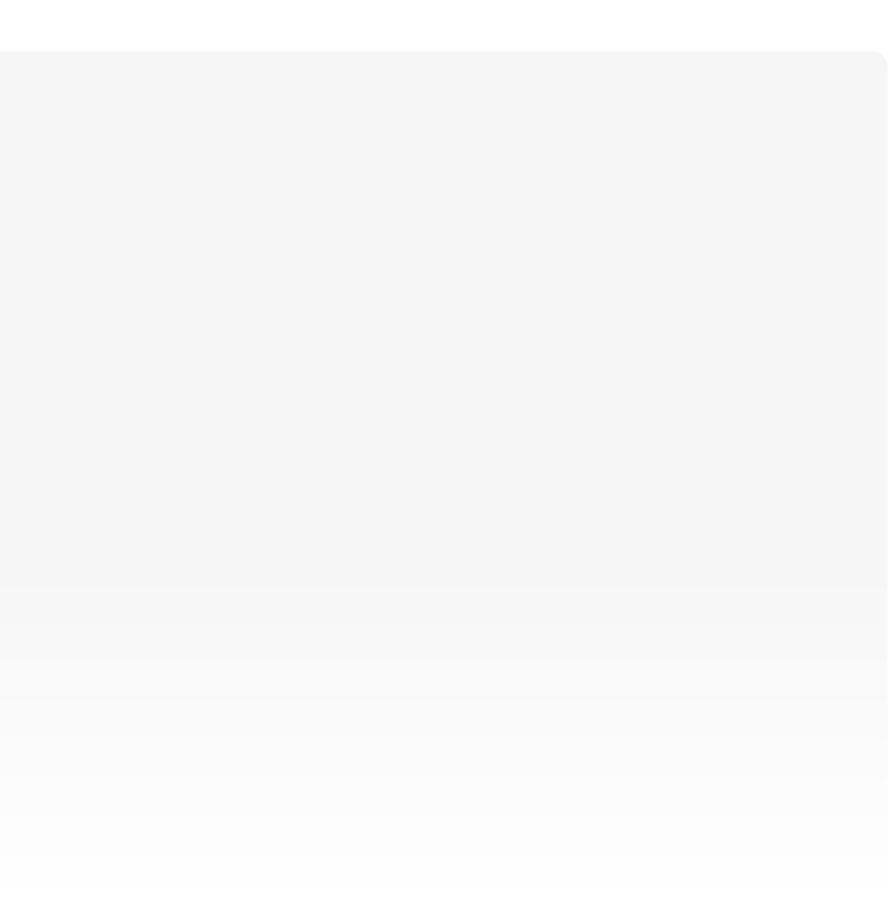
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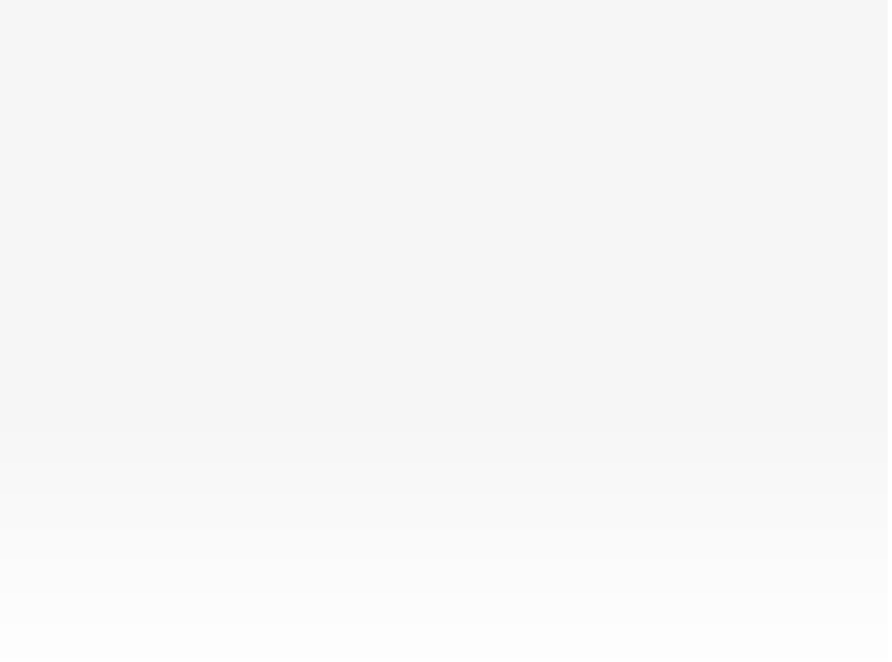
ENGLISH - SPANISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATION
 BRITANNICA ENGLISH - ARABIC TRANSLATION



Quordle

Can you solve 4 words at once?

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



WORD OF THE DAY

asunder

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GORILLA -50%

-66% -63%

-49%

-50% -13%

sam's club

