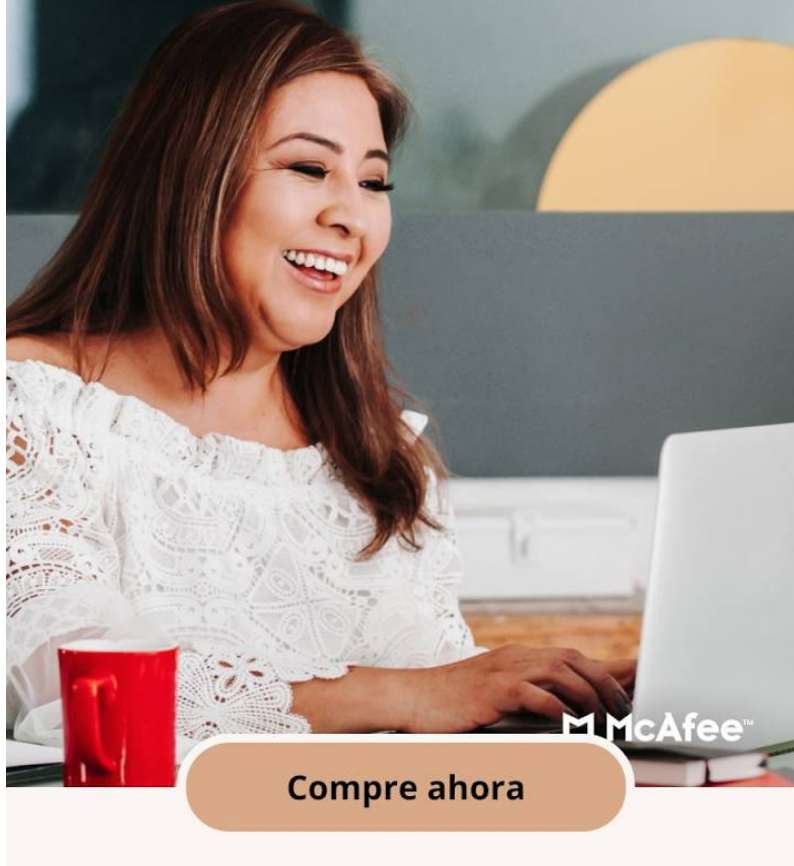


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Definition of war noun from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

war noun

A2

/wɔː(r)/

/wɔːr/

Idioms

- 1 **A2** [uncountable, countable] a situation in which two or more countries or groups of people fight against each other over a period of time
- the Second World War
 - the threat of (a) nuclear war
 - to win/lose a/the war
 - war between A and B *the war between England and Scotland*
 - war with somebody *England's war with Scotland*
 - war against somebody *The war against Spain lasted 18 years.*
 - war on somebody *It was the year Britain declared war on Germany.*
 - (formal) *In the Middle Ages England waged war on France.*
 - He returned home to the US at the end of the war.*
 - Social and political problems led to the outbreak (= the beginning) of war.*
 - Where were you living when war broke out?*
 - The government does not want to go to war (= start a war) unless all other alternatives have failed.*
 - The two countries fought a short but bloody war.*
 - My grandfather fought in the war.*
 - Her husband was killed during the war.*
 - at war *How long have they been at war?*
 - a war hero/veteran
 - More troops are being despatched to the war zone.*
 - (formal) *the theatre of war (= the area in which fighting takes place)*

+ Homophones war | wore

+ Collocations War and peace

+ Wordfinder

SEE ALSO [civil war](#), [cold war](#), [council of war](#), [phoney war](#), [post-war](#), [pre-war](#), [prisoner of war](#), [proxy war](#), [warring](#), [world war](#)

+ Extra Examples

TOPICS [War and conflict](#) **A2**

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- 2 **B2** [countable, uncountable] a situation in which there is aggressive competition between groups, companies, countries, etc.
- war with somebody *The US threatened a trade war with Europe after the breakdown of the talks.*
 - war against/on somebody *They launched a trade war against France.*

SEE ALSO [class war](#), [culture war](#), [price war](#), [turf war](#)

+ Oxford Collocations Dictionary



- 3 **B2** [uncountable, singular] a fight or an effort over a long period of time to get rid of or stop something unpleasant
- war on somebody/something *The government has declared war on drug dealers.*
 - Our two countries work together in fighting the war on terrorism.*
 - war against somebody/something *We seem to be winning the war against crime.*
 - a war against drug abuse

+ Synonyms campaign

+ Word Origin

Idioms

all's fair in love and war

★ (saying) in some situations any type of behaviour is acceptable to get what you want

have been in the wars

★ (informal) to have been injured in a fight or an accident

- You look like you've been in the wars—who gave you that black eye?*

a war of nerves

★ an attempt to defeat your opponents by putting pressure on them so that they lose courage or confidence

- The union has been fighting a war of nerves with the management over pay.*

a war of words

★ a bitter argument over a period of time between two or more people or groups

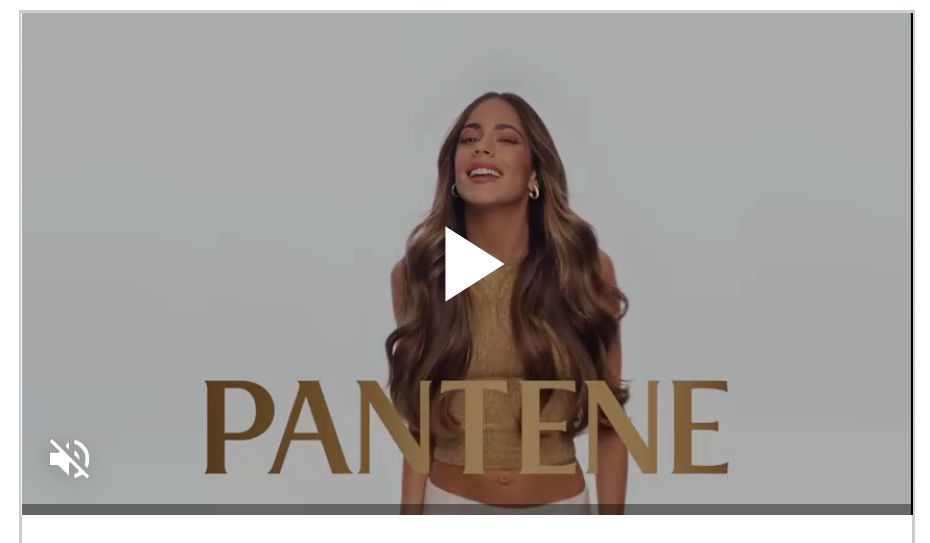
- the political war of words over tax*

TOPICS [Opinion and argument](#) **C2**

See war in the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

See war in the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English

Check pronunciation: war



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Other results

- All matches
- cold war noun
 - post-war adjective
 - pre-war adjective
 - turf war noun
 - war cry noun
 - war game noun
 - war-torn adjective
 - war zone noun
- See more

+ Idioms

Nearby words

- wapiti noun
- Wapping
- war noun
- Perkin Warbeck
- warble verb

14 August 2023

reputation

noun

From the word list

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B2

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