



MENU ≡

Search bar with a downward arrow icon and a red cursor.



A New Meaning of An Old Word That We're Watching



Take our 10-question quiz to find out!



How well do you know your vocabulary?



MENU ≡



coerce

verb | co-erce | \kō-'ərs\

Simple Definition of COERCE

Popularity: Top 20% of words

- : to make (someone) do something by using force or threats
- : to get (something) by using force or threats



Full Definition of COERCE

co-erced co-erc-ing

transitive verb

- 1 : to restrain or dominate by force <religion in

WORD OF THE DAY

DECEMBER 22, 2015

cavil

to raise trivial and frivolous objection

Get Word of the Day daily email!



MENU ≡




coerce

the past has tried to coerce the irreligious — W. R. Inge>

2 : to compel to an act or choice <*was coerced into agreeing*>

3 : to achieve by force or threat <*coerce compliance*>

—co-erc-ible  \-'ər-sə-bəl\ *adjective*

See **coerce** defined for English-language learners

See **coerce** defined for kids

Examples of COERCE

A confession was *coerced* from the suspect by police.

<*was coerced* into signing the document>


Origin of COERCE

Middle English *cohercen*, from Anglo-French **cohercer* Latin *coercēre*, from *co-* + *arcēre* to shut up, enclose — more at **ARK**

First Known Use: 15th century 

Related to COERCE

Synonyms

blackjack, force, compel, constrain, dragoon, drive, impel, impress, make, muscle, obligate, oblige, press, pressure, sandbag 

BROWSE DICTIONARY

coenocyte 

coenoecium

coenogamete

coenogenesis

coenogonous 



MENU 

coerce 

TRENDING NOW

1 Gaffe

Steve Harvey read the wrong name a...

2 Revenant

The new Leonardo DiCaprio film's title

3 Affluenza

"Affluenza teen" wanted for parole vio...

4 Feckless

Strong words from Chris Christie lead...

5 Radicalize

Synonym Discussion of COERCE

FORCE, **COMPEL**, **COERCE**, **CONSTRAIN**, **OBLIGE** mean to make someone or something yield. **FORCE** is the general term and implies the overcoming of resistance by the exertion of strength, power, or duress *<forced to flee for their lives>*. **COMPEL** typically suggests overcoming of resistance or unwillingness by an irresistible force *<compelled to admit my mistake>*. **COERCE** suggests overcoming resistance or unwillingness by actual or threatened violence or pressure *<coerced into signing over the rights>*. **CONSTRAIN** suggests the effect of a force or circumstance that limits freedom of action or choice *<constrained by conscience>*. **OBLIGE** implies the constraint of necessity, law, or duty *<felt obliged to go>*.

Rhymes with COERCE

adverse, amerce, asperse, averse, commerce, converse, cutpurse, disburse, disperse, diverse, dry nurse, free verse, immerse, inverse, Nez Percé, obverse, perverse, rehearse, reverse, scrub nurse, sesterce. submerge. transverse. traverse. wet nurse

COERCE Defined for Kids

coerce 

verb | co·erce | \kō-'ərs\

WORD GAMES

Take a 3-minute break and test your skills!



The *bounty* portion of bounty hunters (such as Boba Fett) comes from a Latin word meaning

good

bad

criminal

hired



10 quick questions: hear them, spell them, and see how your skills compare to the crowd.

[TAKE THE QUIZ >](#)



Test Your Knowledge - and learn some interesting things along the way.

[TAKE THE QUIZ >](#)

Definition of COERCE

co-erced co-erc-ing

: ²FORCE 1, COMPEL <He was coerced into giving up his lunch money.>

Learn More about COERCE

Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for "coerce"

Spanish Central: Translation of "coerce"

Nglish: Translation of "coerce" for Spanish speakers

Britannica English: Translation of "coerce" for Arabic speakers

Seen and Heard

What made you want to look up *coerce*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

WORDS AT PLAY



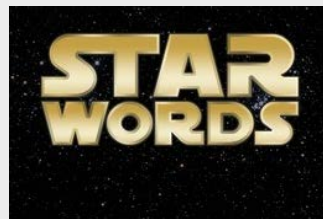
Ship

A New Meaning Of An Old Word That \ ...



Should you use "dived" or "dove"?

Which is correct: *dived* or *dove*?



Star Words

Star Wars words in the dictionary



Word of the Year 2015 Gallery

The events that drove the top look-up ...