**force**

**play**

noun 

\(\text{\textendash}fərs\)  

Popularity: Top 20% of words

**Simple Definition of force**

- : physical strength, power, or effect
- : power or violence used on a person or thing
- : strength or power that is not physical
Full Definition of force

1. 1a (1) : strength or energy exerted or brought to bear : cause of motion or change : active power <the forces of nature> <the motivating force in her life> (2) capitalized —used with a number to indicate the strength of the wind according to the Beaufort scale <a Force 10 hurricane>b : moral or mental strength : capacity to persuade or convince <the force of the argument>

2. 2a : military strength (1) : a body (as of troops or ships) assigned to a military purpose (2) plural : the whole military strength (as of a nation) : a body of persons or things available for a particular end <a labor force> <the missile force>d : an individual or group having the power of effective action <join forces to prevent violence> <a force in politics>e often capitalized : police force —usually used with the

3. 3 : violence, compulsion, or constraint exerted upon or against a person or thing

4. 4a : an agency or influence that if applied to a free body results chiefly in an acceleration of the body and sometimes in elastic deformation and other effects : any of the natural influences (as electromagnetism, gravity, the strong force, and the weak force) that exist especially between particles and determine the structure of the universe

5. 5 : the quality of conveying impressions intensely in writing or speech <stated the objectives with force>

force·less ˈfȯrˌsəs-lis adjective

in force

1. 1 : in great numbers <picnickers were out in force>

2. 2 : valid, operative <the ban remains in force>

See force defined for English-language learners

See force defined for kids

Examples of force in a sentence

1. The front of the car took the full force of the collision.

2. instruments used to measure the force of the wind
3. The police were accused of using excessive force when they made the arrest.
4. We discourage the use of force.
5. He used brute force to open the door.
6. I was impressed by the force of her personality.

**Origin of force**

Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Vulgar Latin *fortia*, from Latin *fortis* strong

First Known Use: 14th century

**Related to force**

**Synonyms**

help, labor force, manpower, personnel, pool, staff, workforce

**Antonyms**

impotence, impotency, powerlessness, weakness

**Related Words**

labor, proletariat, rank and file; band, company, crew, gang, outfit, party, squad, team; employee (also employe), helper, hireling, worker; blood; support

**Near Antonyms**

agreement, approval, consent, permission; convincing, persuasion, reason, suasion

**Synonym Discussion of force**

power, authority, jurisdiction, control, command, sway, dominion mean the right to govern or rule or determine. power implies possession of ability to wield force, authority, or influence &*the power to mold public opinion*. authority implies power for a specific purpose within specified limits &*granted the authority to manage her estate*. jurisdiction applies to official power exercised within prescribed limits &*the bureau having jurisdiction over parks*. control stresses the power to direct and restrain &*you are responsible for the students under your control*. command implies the power to make arbitrary decisions and compel obedience &*the army officer in command*. sway suggests the extent of exercised power or influence &*the empire extended its sway over the region*. dominion stresses sovereign power or supreme authority &*given dominion over all the animals*.

power, force, energy, strength, might mean the ability to exert effort. power may imply latent or exerted physical, mental, or spiritual ability to act or be acted upon &*the awesome power of flowing water*. force implies the actual effective exercise of power &*used enough force to push the door open*. energy applies to power expended or capable of being transformed into work &*a worker with boundless energy*. strength applies to the quality or property of a person or thing that makes possible the exertion of force or the withstanding of strain, pressure, or attack &*use weight training to build your strength*. might implies great or overwhelming power or strength &*the belief that might makes right*.

**Other Climate/Meteorology Terms**

monsoon, occlusion, ozone, rime, squall, zephyr

**Rhymes with force**

course, corse, course, gorse, hoarse, horse, Morse, Norse, source
2

force

verb

Simple Definition of force

• : to make (someone) do something that he or she does not want to do
• : to make it necessary for (someone) to do something
• : to make (something) necessary

Full Definition of force

forced·forc·ing

1. transitive verb

2. 1 : to do violence to; especially: rape

3. 2 : to compel by physical, moral, or intellectual means

4. 3 : to make or cause especially through natural or logical necessity <forced to admit my error> <the last minute goal forced overtime>

5. 4 a : to press, drive, pass, or effect against resistance or inertia <force your way through>b : to impose or thrust urgently, importunately, or inexorably <force unwanted attentions on a coworker>

6. 5 : to achieve or win by strength in struggle or violence: as a : to win one's way into <force a castle> <forced the mountain passes>b : to break open or through <force a lock>

7. 6 a : to raise or accelerate to the utmost <forcing the pace>b : to produce only with unnatural or unwilling effort <forced a smile>c : to wrench, strain, or use (language) with marked unnaturalness and lack of ease

8. 7 a : to hasten the rate of progress or growth ofb : to bring (as plants) to maturity out of the normal season <forcing lilies for Easter>

9. 8 : to induce (as a particular bid or play by another player) in a card game by some conventional act, play, bid, or response

10. 9 a : to cause (a runner in baseball) to be put out on a force-outb : to cause (a run) to be scored in baseball by giving a base on balls when the bases are full

forc·er noun

force one's hand

1. : to cause one to act precipitously: force one to reveal one's purpose or intention

See force defined for English-language learners
Examples of *force* in a sentence

1. They forced us to work long hours without pay.
2. The flooding forced hundreds of residents to flee their homes.
3. After seeing the evidence, I was forced to admit my error.
4. I am forced to conclude that more funding will be necessary.
5. The pilot was forced to land when one of the plane's engines caught fire.
6. The scandal forced his resignation.
7. Lack of time may eventually force a compromise.
8. They are trying to force a vote on this issue.
9. The runner was forced out of bounds.
10. Their car was forced off the road.

14th Century

First Known Use of *force*

14th century

Related to *force*

Synonyms

blackjack, coerce, compel, constrain, dragoon, drive, impel, impress, make, muscle, obligate, oblige, press, pressure, sandbag, twist one's arm

Related Words

browbeat, bulldoze, bully, cow, hector, intimidate; blackmail, high-pressure, menace, shame, terrorize, threaten; drag; badger, harass, hound

Near Antonyms

allow, let, permit; argue, convince, induce, move, persuade, prevail (on or upon), satisfy, talk (into), win (over)

Synonym Discussion of *force*

*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>.

Phrases related to FORCE

Related Phrases

- a force to be reckoned with
- a force to reckon with
FORCE Defined for Kids

1

force

play
noun \ˈfȯrs\n
Definition of force

1. 1 : power that has an effect on something <the force of the wind> <the force of her personality>
2. 2 : the state of existing and being enforced <That law is still in force.>
3. 3 : a group of people available for a particular purpose <a police force> <the work force>
4. 4 : power or violence used on a person or thing <He opened the door by force.>
5. 5 : an influence (as a push or pull) that tends to produce a change in the speed or direction of motion of something <the force of gravity>

2

force

play
verb

Definition of force

forcedforcing

1. 1 : to make someone or something do something <His tribe ... had been forced to leave Utah ... — John Reynolds Gardiner, Stone Fox>
2. 2 : to get, make, or move by using physical power <Police forced their way into the room.>
3. 3: to break open using physical power <We forced the door.>
4. 4: to speed up the development of <I'm forcing flower bulbs.>

Medical Dictionary

force

play
noun \ˈfȯ(ə)rs, ˈfȯ(ə)rs\

Medical Definition of force

1. : an agency or influence that if applied to a free body results chiefly in an acceleration of the body and sometimes in elastic deformation and other effects

forcé

Medical Definition of forcé

1. —see accouchement forcé

Learn More about force


Seen and Heard

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

WORD OF THE DAY
levigate

play

to grind into a smooth powder

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http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/force
TRENDING NOW

1. Oleaginous
   David Brooks accused Ted Cruz of being oily
2. Revere
   Peyton Manning announced his retirement
3. Purportedly
   A knife that was purportedly found at the estate of O.J. Simpson is in the news and has 'purportedly' spiking
4. By and Large
   Reddit users discover the surprising origins of *by and large*
5. Puerile
   The word comes from the Latin word for "boy"

BROWSE DICTIONARY

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WORD GAMES

Take a 3-minute break and test your skills!

Choose the best definition or synonym for the word in bold: "There are some eructations that sound like cheers—at least, mine did." Lolita

a groan a sneeze a clearing of the throat a belch

N A M E
T H A T
T H I N G

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

Words at Play

Where Does the Phrase 'Barn Burner' Come From?

This one's pretty exciting
Snollygaster

Even lexicographers are wrong sometimes

9 Insults That Make the Presidential Campaign Seem Civilized

Think campaign rhetoric is getting nastier?

The Last Word on 'Penultimate'

It means neither 'last' nor 'best'.

Ask the Editors

Is None Singular or Plural?

Or both? Or neither?

There, They're, Their

There, there. We'll sort it out.
Irregardless

It is in fact a real word (but that doesn't mean you should use it).

Weird Plurals

One goose, two geese. One moose, two... moose. What's up with that?

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