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SINCE 1828

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force

- **force**
- **forced**
- **force de frappe**
- **forced labor**
- **forcedly**
- **force-fed**
- **force-feed**
- **force-feeding**
- **force field**
- **forceful**

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# force

[play](#)

noun \ 'fɔrs \

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. *1 a (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*c* : capacity to persuade or convince <*the force of the argument*>
2. *2 a* : military strength*b (1)* : a body (as of troops or ships) assigned to a military purpose *(2) plural* : the whole military strength (as of a nation)*c* : 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. *4 a* : 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*b* : 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** [play](#) \-ləs\ *adjective*  
**in force**

1. *1* : in great numbers <*picnickers were out in force*>
2. *2* : [valid](#), [operative](#) <*the ban remains in force*>

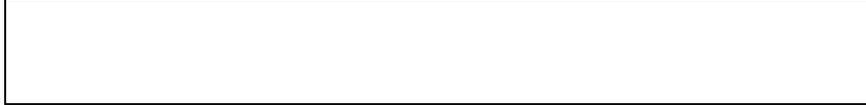
See [force](#) defined for English-language learners

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*

[coarse](#), [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: *asa* : 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 of *b* : 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-out *b* : 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](#)

- [a spent force](#)
- [by force](#)
- [by force of arms](#)
- [by/from force of habit](#)
- [forced labor](#)
- [force of circumstance\(s\)](#)
- [force of will](#)
- [force oneself](#)
- [force one's way](#)
- [force on/upon](#)
- [force someone's hand](#)
- [force \(something\) down](#)
- [force the issue](#)
- [force to be reckoned with](#)
- [ground forces/troops](#)
- [in force](#)
- [into force](#)
- [join/combine forces](#)
- [market forces](#)
- [moving force/spirit](#)
- [the Force](#)
- [the forces](#)

## FORCE Defined for Kids

1

### force

[play](#)

*noun* \ˈfɔːrs\

### 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*

#### forcedforce·ing

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.*>

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## Medical Dictionary

### force

[play](#)

*noun* \ˈfɔ̄(ə)rs, ˈfō(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

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### forcé

### Medical Definition of *forcé*

1. —see [accouchement forcé](#)

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## Learn More about *force*

1. Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for "force"](#)Medical Dictionary: [Definition of "force"](#)Spanish Central: [Translation of "force"](#)Nglish: [Translation of "force" for Spanish speakers](#)Britannica English: [Translation of "force" for Arabic speakers](#)Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about "force"](#)

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## 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).

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[levigate](#)

[play](#)

to grind into a smooth powder

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[forbear](#)

[forbearance](#)

[forbearant](#)

[forbear](#) Peyton Manning announced his retirement

[forbearingness](#)

[forbear](#) [purportedly](#)

[forbes scale](#)

[forbid](#) A knife that was purportedly found at the estate of O.J. Simpson is in the news and has 'purportedly' spiking

[forbiddance](#)

4. [By and Large](#)

[forbidden](#)

[forbidden degree](#) Reddit users discover the surprising origins of *by and large*

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3. [Fertile](#)

[forbivorous](#)

[forbo](#) The word comes from the Latin word for "boy"

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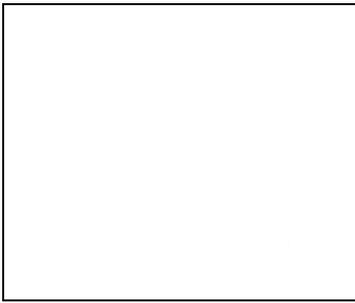
[forbush's sparrow](#)



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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](#)



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[Or both? Or neither?](#)



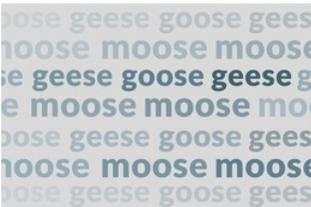
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[There, there. We'll sort it out.](#)



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



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[One goose, two geese. One moose, two... moose. What's up with that?](#)

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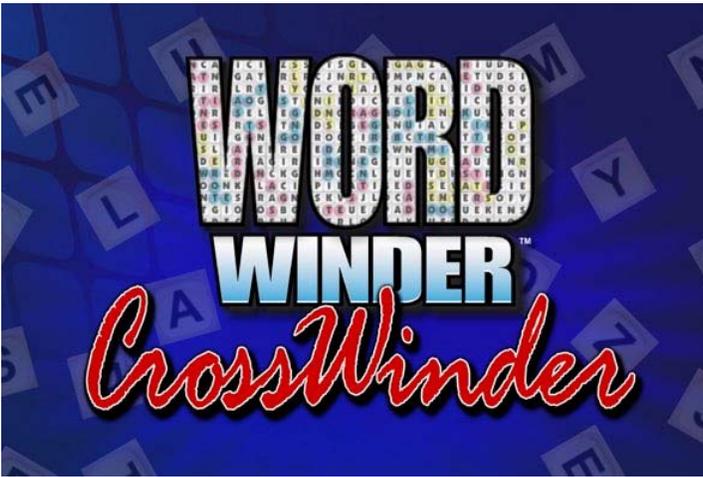
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