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 DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

 1 **dispute** 
[verb](#) | [dis-pute](#) | \di-'spyüt\

Popularity: Top 20% of words | Updated on: 22 May 2018

[Examples: DISPUTE in a Sentence](#) ▼


## Definition of DISPUTE

disputed; disputing


### [intransitive verb](#)

 : to engage in argument : [DEBATE](#); *especially* : to argue irritably or with irritating persistence

### [transitive verb](#)

- 1
  - a : to make the subject of verbal controversy or [disputation](#) ■ Legislators hotly *disputed* the bill.
  - b : to call into question or cast doubt upon ■ Her honesty was never *disputed*. ■ The witness *dispu* the defendant's claim.
- 2
  - a : to struggle against : [OPPOSE](#) ■ *disputed* the advance of the invaders

b : to contend over *disputing* ownership of the land

—disputable  \di-'spyü-tə-bəl, 'dis-pyə-\ *adjective*

—disputably  \-blē\ *adverb*

—disputer *noun*

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

See [dispute defined for kids](#)

## Examples of DISPUTE in a Sentence

You can *dispute* your bill if you believe it is inaccurate.

These estimates are hotly *disputed* by scientists.

No one ever *disputed* that it was the right decision.

The source of the text has been *disputed* for centuries.

a part of the city where two drug gangs are *disputing* territory

## Recent Examples of DISPUTE from the Web

In the meantime, even the meaning of today's deadline remains *disputed* among those close to the process.

— [Tory Newmyer, \*Washington Post\*, "The Finance 202: Trump's NAFTA pledge in danger as key deadline passes," 17 May 2018](#)

The bipartisan conclusion from the Senate Intelligence Committee leaders is a sharp break from Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee, who *disputing* the intelligence community's

findings that Putin was trying to help Trump.

- [Jeremy Herb, CNN, "Senate committee agrees with intelligence community assessment of election meddling," 16 May 2018](#)

The mother of a Virginia high school teacher who was fatally shot by a cop earlier this week is *disputing* the police account of her son's death.

- [Paula Rogo, Essence.com, "Mother Disputes Police Account Of Son's Behavior Before He Was Shot And Killed By Virginia Police," 16 May 2018](#)

*These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'dispute.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#).*

## Origin and Etymology of DISPUTE

Middle English, from Anglo-French *desputer*, from Latin *disputare* to discuss, from *dis-* + *putare* to think

## DISPUTE Synonyms

Synonyms

[challenge](#), [contest](#), [impeach](#), [oppugn](#), [query](#), [question](#)

Antonyms

[accept](#), [believe](#), [embrace](#), [swallow](#)

<sup>2</sup> **dispute** 

*noun* | dis·pute | \di-'spyüt , 'dis-,pyüt\  
dis·pu·tə

## Definition of DISPUTE

- 1 a : verbal controversy : [DEBATE](#) ■ a *dispute* about what to do with the surplus ■ a landlord-tenant *dispute* ■ legal *disputes* ■ The matter is still in *dispute*.  
b : [QUARREL](#) ■ Police were called to a domestic *dispute*.
- 2 *obsolete* : physical combat

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

## Examples of DISPUTE in a Sentence

They could not settle their *dispute*.

There is a labor *dispute* between workers and management.

The two farmers are involved in a land *dispute*.

## Recent Examples of DISPUTE from the Web

Certegy's failure to address consumer *disputes* could have caused people's checks to continue being declined without a valid reason, the FTC said.

— [Teresa Dixon Murray, cleveland.com, "Huntington customer's checks suddenly get declined at stores: Money Matters," 6 May 2018](#)

Enbridge denied violating the agreement, saying there was an honest *dispute* over when the clock had started.

— [Washington Post, "Enbridge fined \\$1.8M for missing pipe inspection deadlines," 5 May 2018](#)

BEIJING – Chinese and American officials meeting in Beijing agreed to set up a mechanism to work through an escalating *dispute* over trade at the end of talks Friday, Chinese state media said.

— [Gillian Wong, Fox News, "China says 'big differences' with US remain after talks," 5 May 2018](#)

*These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'dispute.'*  
*Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)*

## Origin and Etymology of DISPUTE

see <sup>1</sup>[DISPUTE](#)

## DISPUTE Synonyms

Synonyms

[controversy](#), [debate](#), [difference](#), [difficulty](#), [disagreement](#), [disputation](#), [dissension](#) (*also* [dissent](#)), [firestorm](#)

Antonyms

## Phrases Related to DISPUTE

### Related Phrases

[beyond dispute](#)

[in dispute](#)

[no disputing](#)

[open to dispute](#)

[territorial dispute](#)

DISPUTE Defined for English Language Learners

dispute 

*verb*

## Definition of DISPUTE for English Language Learners

: to say or show that (something) may not be true, correct, or legal

: to argue about (something)

: to fight in order to take control of (something)

dispute  

*noun*

## Definition of DISPUTE for English Language Learners

: a disagreement or argument

## DISPUTE Defined for Kids

<sup>1</sup>dispute 

*verb* | dis·pute | \di-'spyüt\

## Definition of DISPUTE for Students

disputed; disputing

- 1 : to question or deny the truth or rightness of ■ No one ever *disputed* the story.
- 2 : [ARGUE](#) 1 ■ The boys *disputed* over who won the race.
- 3 : to fight over ■ The two nations *disputed* the territory.

## Word Root of DISPUTE

The Latin word *putāre*, meaning “to think,” gives us the root put. Words from the Latin *putāre* have something to do with thinking. A *reputation* is what other people think about something or someone. To *compute* is to use math to think about a bunch of numbers together in order to answer a problem. To *dispute* is to argue because two or more people think different things.

# <sup>2</sup>dispute

*noun*

## Definition of DISPUTE for Students

- 1 : <sup>1</sup>[DEBATE](#) 3 ■ It is a fact beyond *dispute*.
- 2 : <sup>1</sup>[QUARREL](#) 1

## Law Dictionary

# <sup>1</sup>dispute

[verb](#) | [dis-pute](#) | [\di-'spyüt\](#)

## Legal Definition of DISPUTE

disputed; disputing

### [intransitive verb](#)

: to engage in a dispute ■ *disputing* with management over contract terms

### [transitive verb](#)

: to engage in a dispute over ■ *disputing* the correct application of the contract provision; *especially* : to oppose by argument or assertion ■ *disputed* changes to the grievance procedure

—disputable  \di-'spyü-tə-bəl, 'dis-pyə-tə-bəl\ *adjective*

## <sup>2</sup>dispute

[noun](#)

## Legal Definition of DISPUTE

: an assertion of opposing views or claims : a disagreement as to rights; *especially* : one that is the subject of proceedings for resolution (as arbitration)

## Learn More about DISPUTE



Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for \*dispute\*](#)

Spanish Central: [Translation of \*dispute\*](#)

Nglish: [Translation of \*dispute\* for Spanish speakers](#)

Britannica English: [Translation of \*dispute\* for Arabic speakers](#)

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

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**garrulous** 

talkative or wordy

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### TRENDING NOW

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**1 embolization**

'the process by which a blood vessel

**2 oleaginous**

'marked by an offensively ingratiating

**3 pansexual**

'sexual desire or attraction...not limited

**4 symbiote**

'an organism living in symbiosis'

**5 charlatan**

'faker or fraud'

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### BROWSE DICTIONARY

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[disputatious](#)

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**dispute**

[disqualification](#)

[disqualify](#)

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### Words Used by Nabokov Quiz

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 belch

a clearing of the throat

a groan

a sneeze

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One's clever, the other's like a child

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When language is magic

### A Field Guide to British Noble Titles

Know your Duchess from your Baroness

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### Literally

How to use a word that (literally) drives some...

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The awkward case of 'his or her'

## WORD GAMES

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