



SINCE 1828 MENU



Privacy Law \$704.00



Direct Off \$65

# 1 dispute

verb | dis·pute | \di-'spyüt\

Popularity: Top 20% of words | Updated on: 25 Apr 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. [LEARN MORE FROM M-W](#)
- b : to call into question or cast doubt upon : *dispute*
  - The witness *disputed* the defendant's testimony.
- 2 a : to struggle against : **OPPOSE** • *disputing* the defendant's claim
  - *disputing* ownership of the land



2017 Word of the Year: Behind the Scenes



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

SINCE 1828

MENU

—**disputably** \-blē\ *adverb*

—**disputer** *noun*

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



LEARN MORE FROM M-W





## Recent Examples of DISPUTE from the Web

SINCE 1828 MENU

Xerox doesn't *dispute* that its chairman, Robert Keegan, instructed Mr. Jacobson to halt negotiations with Fujifilm.

— David Benoit, *WSJ*, "Xerox Says CEO Had Authority on Fujifilm Deal Talks," 19 Apr. 2018

Councilors are also considering eliminating a 1/10th fund balance increase for a \$293,000 savings and reducing funding for revaluation *disputed* assessments for about \$353,000 in savings.

— Mikaela Porter, *Courant Community*, "West Hartford Town Council Considering Budget Reductions Ahead Of April 24 Budget Vote," 18 Apr. 2018

The prosecution didn't *dispute* that Elena Rodriguez was throwing rocks.

— Rob O'dell, *azcentral*, "Border Patrol agent Lonnie Swartz's murder case goes to the jury," 17 Apr. 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



LEARN MORE FROM M-W

### DISPUTE Synonyms

#### Synonyms

challenge, contest, impeach, oppugn, query, question



**2017 Word of the Year:  
Behind the Scenes**



SINCE 1828 MENU

# dispute

*noun* | dis·pute | \di-'spyüt, 'dis-,pyüt\  
2

## Definition of DISPUTE

- 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*.
- 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

LEARN MORE FROM M-W

China was said to be reviewing ways to use it as a weapon as President Xi Jinping is set to deliver a speech with a strong warning about the consequences of a



**2017 Word of the Year:**  
Behind the Scenes

— Eric J. Weiner, *Houston Chronicle*, "Market rally falters late amid political risks," 9 Apr. 2018



Trump officials said the president and his team remained in contact with President Xi Jinping and expressed hope to him of resolving the *dispute* through talks.

— Ken Thomas, *chicagotribune.com*, "White House sends mixed signals on trade fight; markets dive," 7 Apr. 2018

But Trump officials said the president and his team remained in contact with President Xi Jinping and expressed hope to him of resolving the *dispute* through talks.

— *CBS News*, "White House sends mixed signals on trade fight," 7 Apr. 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 dissention), firestorm

LEARN MORE FROM M-W

### Antonyms

## Phrases Related to



**2017 Word of the Year:  
Behind the Scenes**





and 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*

LEARN MORE FROM M-W

### Definition of DISPUTE for English Lang

: a disagreement or argument



**2017 Word of the Year: Behind the Scenes**





SINCE 1828

MENU

**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 : **DEBATE** 3 • It is a fact beyond *dispute*.
- 2 : **QUARREL** 1

LEARN MORE FROM M-W



**2017 Word of the Year:  
Behind the Scenes**





SINCE 1828

MENU

## Law Dictionary

# 1 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*

# 2 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)



**2017 Word of the Year:  
Behind the Scenes**

Learn More about DISPUTE



Saurus: All synonyms and antonyms for *dispute*

SINCE 1828 MENU

ish Central: Translation of *dispute*

nglish: Translation of *dispute* for Spanish speakers

Britannica English: Translation of *dispute* for Arabic speakers

## Seen and Heard

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

**SHOW** 8 COMMENTS

## Love words? Need even more definitions?

Subscribe to America's largest dictionary and get thousands more definitions and advanced search—ad free!

MERRIAM-WEBSTER UNABRIDGED

### WORD OF THE DAY

# flocculate

to aggregate into loose clusters

LEARN MORE FROM M-W

Get Word of the Day daily email!

Your email address



**2017 Word of the Year:  
Behind the Scenes**

SUBSCRIBE

### TRENDING NOW



pansexual

SINCE 1828

MENU

sexual desire or attraction...not limited to a particular gender identity...

2 **symbiote**

'an organism living in symbiosis'

3 **charlatan**

'faker or fraud'

4 **lowlife**

'a person of low moral character'

5 **kakistocracy**

'government by the worst people'

[SEE ALL](#)

BROWSE DICTIONARY

[disputatious](#)

[disputative](#)

**dispute**

[disqualification](#)

[disqualify](#)

TEST YOUR VOCABULARY

Name that Thing: Flower Edition



LEARN MORE FROM M-W

Name that flower



**2017 Word of the Year: Behind the Scenes**

**forsythia**

**goldenrod**



rhododendron  
SINCE 1828 MENU

wisteria

Test your visual vocabulary with our 10-question challenge!

**TAKE THE QUIZ**

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

**TAKE THE QUIZ**

### WORDS AT PLAY

#### 'Versus' vs. 'Verses'

The ultimate battle.



LEARN MORE FROM M-W



**2017 Word of the Year:  
Behind the Scenes**



SINCE 1828 MENU

## Measure for Measure: The Language of Measuring

Words from the language of precision.

### 'Draft' vs. 'Draught'

Similar, but not the same

#### ASK THE EDITORS

---

#### LEARN MORE FROM M-W

2017 Word of the Year Behind the Scenes



2017 Word of the Year: Behind the Scenes

How we chose 'feminism'





SINCE 1828 MENU

## Words of the Year: 1066

Or, Why Pig Meat is Called 'Pork' and Cow Meat is Called..

## Literally

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

### WORD GAMES

---



LEARN MORE FROM M-W



**2017 Word of the Year: Behind the Scenes**



SINCE 1828

MENU

## Name that Thing: Flower Edition

Can you correctly identify these flowers?

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

## April 2018 Words of the Day Quiz

The rhyming verb edition.

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

## Name That Thing

Test your visual vocabulary with our 10-question challenge!

[LEARN MORE FROM M-W](#)

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)



**2017 Word of the Year:  
Behind the Scenes**

Learn a new word every day. Delivered to your inbox!



SINCE 1828 MENU

your email address

OTHER MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARIES

SPANISH CENTRAL

LEARNER'S ESL DICTIONARY

WORDCENTRAL FOR KIDS

VISUAL DICTIONARY

SCRABBLE® WORD FINDER

MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

BRITANNICA ENGLISH - ARABIC TRANSLATION

ENGLISH - SPANISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Browse the Dictionary: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T  
U V W X Y Z 0-9

Home | Help | Apps | About Us | Shop | Advertising Info | Dictionary API |  
About Our Ads | Contact Us | The Open Dictionary | Word of the Year |  
We're Hiring | Law Dictionary | Medical Dictionary | Privacy Policy | Terms of Use

Browse the Thesaurus | Browse the Medical Dictionary | Browse the Legal Dictionary |  
Browse the Spanish-English

LEARN MORE FROM M.W.

© 2018 Merriam-Webster, Inc.



**2017 Word of  
the Year:  
Behind the  
Scenes**