dispute

verb | dis·pute | \di-ˈspyūt\ | 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
       disputed. • The witness disputed 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

Examples: DISPUTE in a Sentence

Definition of DISPUTE

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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
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**

challenge, contest, impeach, oppugn, query, question
dispute

noun | dis·pute | \\di-ˈspyūt , ˈdis-,pyūt\

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

China was said to be reviewing ways to use its currency as a weapon as President Xi Jinping is set to deliver a speech Tuesday that may include a strong warning about the consequences of a prolonged dispute.

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
**DISPUTE Defined for English Language Learners**

**dispute**

**noun**

Definition of DISPUTE for English Language Learners

: a disagreement or argument

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**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 Defined for Kids

1 dispute

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.

2 dispute

Definition of DISPUTE for Students

1 : 1DEBATE 3 • It is a fact beyond dispute.

2 : 1QUARREL 1
1 dispute

verb | dis·pute | \di-ˈspyūt\

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-ˈspyū-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 proceeding for resolution (as arbitration)

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https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dispute
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**WORD OF THE DAY**

*flocculate*

to aggregate into loose clusters

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pansexual  
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

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disputatious
disputative
dispute
disqualification
disqualify

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goldenrod
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Words from the language of precision.

'Draft' vs. 'Draught'

Similar, but not the same

ASK THE EDITORS

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