



• (formal) the **theatre of war** (= the area in which fighting takes place)

**see also** ↑civil war, ↑cold war, ↑council of war, ↑phoney war, ↑post-war, ↑prisoner of war, ↑warring, ↑world war

**2. countable, uncountable** a situation in which there is aggressive competition between groups, companies, countries, etc

• the class war

• a trade war

**see also** ↑price war

**3. uncountable, singular** ~ (against/on sb/sth) a fight or an effort over a long period of time to get rid of or stop sth unpleasant

• The government **has declared war on** drug dealers.

• We seem to be winning the war against crime.

**more at** all's fair in love and war **at** ↑fair adj.

**Idioms:** ↑have been in the wars ▪ ↑war of nerves ▪ ↑war of words

#### Word Origin:

late Old English werre, from an Anglo-Norman French variant of Old French **guerre**, from a Germanic base shared by ↑worse.

#### Collocations:

##### **War and peace**

###### *Starting a war*

**declare /make/wage** war (on sb/sth)

**go to war** (against/with sb)

**cause/spark/provoke/foment/quell** unrest

**incite/lead/crush/suppress** a revolt/rebellion

**launch/mount/carry out** a surprise/terrorist attack

**prevent/halt/represent** an escalation of the conflict

**be torn apart by/be on the brink of** civil war

**enter/invade/occupy** sb's territory

**lead/launch/resist/repel** an invasion

###### *Military operations*

**adopt/develop/implement/pursue** a military strategy

**carry out/execute/perform** military operations/manoeuvres (*especially US*) maneuvers

**send/deploy/station/pull back/withdraw** troops

**go on/fly/carry out** a reconnaissance/rescue mission

**train/equip/deploy** army/military/combat units

**lead/launch/conduct** a raid/a surprise attack/an (air/airborne/amphibious) assault (on sb)

**employ/use** guerrilla tactics

**conduct/wage** biological/guerrilla warfare

**fight/crush/defeat** the rebels/the insurgency

**suffer/inflict** a crushing defeat

**achieve/win** a decisive victory

**halt/stop** the British/German/Russian advance

**order/force** a retreat

###### *Fighting*

**join/serve in** the army/navy/air force

**be/go/remain/serve** on active duty

**serve/complete/return from** a tour of duty

**be sent to** the front (line)

**attack/strike/engage/defeat/kill/destroy** the enemy

**see/report/be engaged in** heavy fighting

**call for/be met with** armed resistance

**come under** heavy/machine-gun/mortar fire

**fire** a machine-gun/mortar shells/rockets (at sb/sth)

**shoot** a rifle/a pistol/bullets/missiles

**launch/fire** a cruise/ballistic/anti-tank missile

**use** biological/chemical/nuclear weapons

**inflict/suffer/sustain** heavy losses/casualties

**be hit/killed by** enemy/friendly/artillery fire

**become/be held as** a prisoner of war

###### *Civilians in war*

**harm/kill/target/protect** innocent/unarmed civilians

**cause/avoid/limit/minimize** civilian casualties/collateral damage

**impose/enforce/lift** a curfew

**engage in/be a victim of** ethnic cleansing

**be sent to** an internment/a concentration camp

**accept/house/resettle** refugees fleeing from war

**fear/threaten** military/violent reprisals

**commit/be accused of** war crimes/crimes against humanity/genocide

###### *Making peace*

**make/bring/win/achieve/maintain/promote** peace

**call for/negotiate/broker/declare** a ceasefire/a temporary truce

**sign** a ceasefire agreement  
**call for/bring/put an end to** hostilities  
**demand/negotiate/accept** the surrender of sb/sth  
**establish/send (in)** a peacekeeping force  
**negotiate/conclude/ratify/sign/accept/reject/break/violate** a peace treaty

### Synonyms:

#### **campaign**

**battle** • **struggle** • **drive** • **war** • **fight**

These are all words for an effort made to achieve or prevent sth.

**campaign** • a series of planned activities that are intended to achieve a particular social, commercial or political aim: ▪ the campaign for parliamentary reform ◇▪ an advertising campaign

**battle** • a competition or argument between people or groups of people trying to win power or control: ▪ She finally won the legal battle for compensation. ◇▪ the endless battle between man and nature

**struggle** • a competition or argument between people or groups of people trying to win power or control: ▪ the struggle for independence ◇▪ the struggle between good and evil

#### **battle or struggle?**

A **struggle** is always about things that seem absolutely necessary, such as life and death or freedom. A **battle** can also be about things that are not absolutely necessary, just desirable, or about the pleasure of winning: ▪ the battle/struggle between good and evil ◇▪ a legal struggle for compensation ◇▪ a struggle of wills/wits.

**drive** • an organized effort by a group of people to achieve sth: ▪ the drive for greater efficiency ◇▪ a drive to reduce energy consumption

#### **campaign or drive?**

A **campaign** is usually aimed at getting other people to do sth; a **drive** may be an attempt by people to get themselves to do sth: ▪ From today, we're going on an ▪ economy drive ▪ (= we must spend less) ▪. A **campaign** may be larger, more formal and more organized than a **drive**.

**war** • [sing.] an effort over a long period of time to get rid of or stop sth bad: ▪ the war against crime

**fight** • [sing.] the work of trying to stop or prevent sth bad or achieve sth good; an act of competing, especially in a sport: ▪ Workers won their fight to stop compulsory redundancies.

#### **war or fight?**

A **war** is about stopping things, like drugs and crime, that everyone agrees are bad. A **fight** can be about achieving justice for yourself.

a campaign/battle/struggle/drive/war/fight **against** sth

a campaign/battle/struggle/drive/fight **for** sth

a **one-man/one-woman/personal** campaign/battle/struggle/war

a **bitter** campaign/battle/struggle/drive/war/fight

to **launch/embark on** a campaign/battle/drive

to **lead/continue** the campaign/battle/struggle/drive/fight

to **win/lose** a battle/struggle/war/fight

### Example Bank:

- Both candidates have distinguished war records.
- Congress has made a formal declaration of war.
- Every available resource went towards the war effort.
- He fears the violence could spark a civil war.
- He took part in the Vietnam War.
- He was held as a prisoner of war.
- He was wounded twice during the course of the war.
- In times of war, troops were billeted in the mill.
- My grandfather fought in the Korean War.
- My grandfather fought in two world wars.
- Six years of total war had left no citizen untouched.
- The Spartans were persuaded to make war on Athens.
- The US declared war on Japan.
- The United States entered the war in 1917.
- The army had been placed on a war footing.
- The country had just emerged from the horrors of civil war.
- The country has long been a theatre/theater of war.
- The country was now in a state of war.
- The country went to war in 1914.
- The crisis took Europe to the brink of war.
- The government has a \$20-billion war chest to fight terrorism.
- The outcome of the war was far from certain.
- The terrorists were charged with waging war against the state.
- The two countries fought a short but bloody war.
- The war raged for nearly two years.
- These aircraft are designed to take troops and weapons to any theatre of war in the shortest time possible.
- They launched a trade war against France.
- Unexploded mines were a big danger to civilians in the aftermath of the war.

- a country at war
- a trade war with the United States
- a war against drug abuse
- a war of liberation
- critiques of the mainstream media's war coverage
- killed in war
- talks to prevent the war from escalating
- the Greek war for independence
- the Soviet war machine
- the shortage of food during the war years
- the war against the French
- the war correspondent of a daily newspaper
- war between Iran and Iraq
- During the First World War, Flanders was transformed into one huge battlefield.
- Edgehill was the first battle in the English Civil War.
- The US threatened a trade war with Europe after the breakdown of the talks.
- The USA declared war on Germany in 1917.
- The country seemed at times to be close to class war.
- The two countries were at war for eight years.
- When war broke out he became separated from his family.

## war

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

**war** **S2 W1** /wɔːr \$ wɔːr/ *BrE* " *AmE* " *noun*

[**Word Family**: **noun**: ↑war, ↑warfare, ↑warrior; **adjective**: ↑pre-war ≠ ↑post-war, ↑warring]

[**Date**: 1100-1200; **Language**: Old North French; **Origin**: werre, from Old French guerre]

1. [**uncountable and countable**] when there is fighting between two or more countries or between opposing groups within a country, involving large numbers of soldiers and weapons **OPP peace** :

- " the Vietnam War
- " He served as a pilot during the war.

**war against/with/between**

- " the war with Spain

2. [**uncountable and countable**] a struggle over a long period of time to control something harmful

**war on/against**

- " the State's war on drugs
- " the war against racism

3. [**uncountable and countable**] a situation in which a person or group is fighting for power, influence, or control:

- " No one wants to start a trade war here.
- " a ratings war between the major TV networks ⇒ ↑price war

4. **be in the wars** *British English spoken* used, often humorously, to say that someone has lots of injuries or health problems:

- " You've really been in the wars lately, haven't you?

5. **this means war** *spoken* used humorously to say that you are ready to fight or argue about something

⇒ ↑cold war, ↑war of attrition, ↑war of nerves, ↑war of words, ↑warring

• • •

## COLLOCATIONS

### ■ verbs

- **fight a war** The two countries fought a brief war in 1995.
- **fight in a war** (=take part as a soldier) Her grandfather fought in the war.
- **win/lose a war** The Allies had won the war. | What would have happened if we'd lost the war?
- **declare war** In 1941, Britain and the US declared war on Japan.
- **wage/make war** (=to start and continue a war) Their aim was to destroy the country's capacity to wage war.
- **go to war** (=become involved in a war) It has been said that democracies don't go to war with each other.
- **war breaks out** (=it starts) They married just before war broke out.
- **a war rages** (=continues in a very violent way) A civil war is still raging there.

### ■ phrases

- **be at war** Russia was at war with Poland.
- **be on the brink of war** (=be about to be involved in a war) The country was on the brink of war.
- **the outbreak of war** (=the time when a war starts) A week after the outbreak of war, he enlisted in the army.
- **the horrors of war** They wanted to forget the horrors of war they had witnessed.

### ■ ADJECTIVES/NOUN + war

- **a world war** No one wants another world war.
- **a civil war** (=between opposing groups within a country) the English Civil War
- **a nuclear war** (=involving nuclear weapons) The possibility of nuclear war was much on people's minds in the Fifties.
- **a conventional war** (=not nuclear) A conventional war would still cause unacceptable devastation.
- **a guerrilla war** (=involving a small unofficial military group) The nine-year guerrilla war has ended at last.
- **the Korean/Vietnam/Iraq etc War** People were protesting against the Vietnam War.
- **World War I/World War II** He was a pilot in World War II.
- **a just war** (=one that you believe is right) They believe that they are fighting a just war.
- **a religious war** How many people have died in religious wars?

### ■ war + NOUN

- **the war years** The couple spent most of the war years apart.
- **a war hero** At home he was hailed as a war hero.
- **a war veteran** (=someone who took part in a war) There was a service for war veterans in the Garden of Remembrance.
- **a war criminal** (=someone who behaves very cruelly in a war, in a way that is against international law) the arrest of two suspected Nazi war criminals
- **a war correspondent** (=a reporter sending reports from a war) Being a war correspondent is a dangerous job.
- **a war zone** (=an area where a war is fought) The country had turned into a war zone.
- **a war crime** (=a cruel act in a war which is against international law) They will be charged with war crimes.
- **a war wound** He still suffered pain from an old war wound.
- **a war grave** He had gone with a friend to visit the war graves in Flanders.

### COMMON ERRORS

- ▶ Do not say '*do the war*'. Say **go to war** or **make war**.

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### THESAURUS

- **war** *noun* [uncountable and countable] a situation in which there is fighting between countries or opposing groups within a country, with large numbers of soldiers and weapons: He fought in World War II. | the horrors of war
- **conflict** *noun* [uncountable and countable] a situation in which there is fighting or a war – used especially in news reports: the conflict in the Middle East | There is increasing danger of armed conflict.
- **fighting** *noun* [uncountable] a situation in which people or groups fight each other and try to kill each other: The fighting went on for months. | Fighting in the north has resulted in hundreds of deaths.
- **hostilities** *noun* [plural] *formal* fighting in a war: The agreement called on the guerrillas to cease hostilities (=stop fighting) and begin peace talks.
- **warfare** *noun* [uncountable] the activity of fighting in a war – used especially to talk about a method of fighting: new and more advanced methods of warfare | chemical warfare
- **battle** *noun* [uncountable and countable] an occasion when two armies, groups of ships etc fight each other in one place during a war: the great naval battles of the Napoleonic Wars | the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 | He died in battle.
- **skirmish** /'skɜːmɪʃ/ *noun* [countable] a short fight between small groups of soldiers, ships etc, especially one that happens away from the main part of a war or battle: There were minor skirmishes between Indian and Pakistani troops across the border.
- **combat** *noun* [uncountable] the act of fighting, especially during a war: Few of them had any experience of combat. | hand-to-hand combat
- **action** *noun* [uncountable] military actions carried out by the army, navy etc of a country during a war – used especially in the following phrases: He was killed in action in 1944. | Her son went missing in action. | Her grandfather saw action (=fought) in two world wars.

### war

Frequency Pack

12500 **311** MCW

15000 **357** COCA

RANGE: **1k** WAR 135417

war 125345

warred 90

warring 982

wars 9000

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

32830 **309** <sup>124963</sup> *nn1*

220 **41830** <sup>310</sup> *nnu*

56 **97350** <sup>62</sup> *jj*

5 **376473** <sup>5</sup> *cc*

5 **376544** <sup>5</sup> *ddq*