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ar·gue  (är gy)

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v. ar·gued, ar·gu·ing, ar·gues

v.tr.

1. To put forth reasons for or against; debate: *"It is time to stop arguing tax-rate reductions and to enact them"* (Paul Craig Roberts).

2. To attempt to prove by reasoning; maintain or contend: *The speaker argued that more immigrants should be admitted to the country.*

3. To give evidence of; indicate: *"Similarities cannot always be used to argue descent"* (Isaac Asimov).

4. To persuade or influence (another), as by presenting reasons: *argued the clerk into lowering the price.*

v.intr.

1. To put forth reasons for or against something: *argued for dismissal of the case; argued against an immediate counterattack.*

2. To engage in a quarrel; dispute: *We need to stop arguing and engage in constructive dialogue.*

[Middle English *arguen*, from Old French *arguer*, from Latin *argūtāre*, to babble, chatter, frequentative of *arguere*, to make clear; see **arg-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

ar gu·er n.

Synonyms: argue, quarrel¹, wrangle, squabble, bicker

These verbs denote verbal exchange involving disagreement or conflict. To *argue* is to present reasons or facts in order to persuade someone of something: *"I am not arguing with you—I am telling you"* (James McNeill Whistler).

It is also often used of more heated exchanges: *The couple argued for hours over who was at fault.*

Quarrel denotes angry, often ongoing conflict: *The band quarreled with their manager over money.*

It can also refer to continuing disputes of a public or professional nature: *"Experts still quarrel about the ultimate cause of Alzheimer's [disease]"* (Geoffrey Cowley).

Wrangle refers to loud, contentious argument: *"audiences ... who can be overheard wrangling about film facts in restaurants and coffee houses"* (Sheila Benson).

Squabble and *bicker* both suggest sharp, persistent, bad-tempered infighting, often of a petty nature: *"A nobility of warriors ... they squabbled endlessly on political matters, resolving the problems of dynastic succession with one bloodbath after another"* (Carlos Fuentes). *The senators bickered about adjustments to the tax proposal for weeks.*

See Also Synonyms at [discuss](#).

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

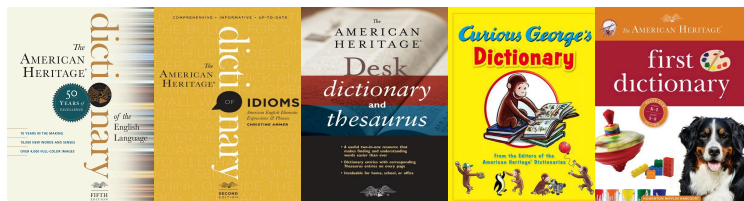
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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