

# bat·tle<sup>1</sup> W2

/ˈbætl/

noun [countable]

- 1 **fight** a fight between opposing armies, groups of ships, groups of people etc, especially one that is part of a larger war:

*the Battle of Trafalgar*

**in battle**

*Her son was killed in battle.*

**into battle**

*a knight riding into battle*

**battle between**

*battles between government forces and the rebels*

*a **pitched battle** (= a long and serious battle) between police and drug gangs*

- 2 **competition/argument** COMPETE WITH/TRY TO BEAT a situation in which opposing groups or people compete or argue with each other when trying to achieve success or control:

*a long-running **legal battle***

**battle for**

*a battle for custody of their children*

**battle between**

*a fierce ratings battle between rival TV stations*

**battle with**

*an ongoing battle with my mother about eating properly*

- 3 **change bad situation** FIGHT FOR OR AGAINST SOMETHING an attempt to solve a difficult problem or change an unpleasant situation:

**battle against**

*a battle against the racism of the school system*

## **battle with**

*a long battle with lung cancer*

## **battle for**

*Scientology has fought long battles for acceptance as a religion.*

## **4 be half the battle** DIFFICULT

to be a difficult or important part of what you have to do:

*Just getting an interview is half the battle.*

## **5 a battle of wits** INTELLIGENT

a situation in which opposing sides try to win by using their intelligence:

*A good mystery story is a battle of wits between author and reader.*

## **6 battle of wills**

a situation in which opposing sides refuse to change what they want, in the hope that the other side will decide to change first:

*a battle of wills between teacher and student*

## **7 do battle (with somebody)** FIGHT FOR OR AGAINST SOMETHING

to argue with someone or fight against someone:

*She walked into the room with her eyes blazing, ready to do battle.*

## **8 fight your own battles**

to argue with someone, or compete in a difficult situation, without having help from other people – used to show approval:

*It's all right, Mum. I can fight my own battles.*

## **9 the battle of the sexes** RELATIONSHIP

the relationship between men and women when it is considered as a fight for power

## **10 the battle of the bulge**

the act of trying to lose weight – used humorously

## COLLOCATIONS – Meaning 3

### verbs

fight a battle (*also wage a battle (formal)*) *The police are fighting a tough battle against crime.* |

*Many areas around here are waging a constant battle against vandalism.*

win a battle *It's essential to win the battle against inflation.*

lose a battle *a brave little girl who lost her battle against cancer*

face a battle *Paul faces a frantic battle to be fit for the match in November.*

### adjectives

a long/lengthy battle *his long battle with alcoholism*

an uphill battle (= one that is very difficult) *For most people losing weight is an uphill battle.*

a tough/hard battle *He faces a tough battle to prove his innocence.*

a constant battle *As a student, life was a constant battle against debt.*

a losing battle (= one that is going to fail) *She was fighting a losing battle to stop herself from crying.*

### Word origin

**Date:** 1200–1300

**Language:** Old French

**Origin:** *bataille*, from Late Latin *battalia* 'fighting', from Latin *battuere* 'to hit'

## battle<sup>2</sup>

verb

**1** [intransitive and transitive] FIGHT FOR OR AGAINST SOMETHING to try very hard to achieve something that is difficult or dangerous:

*Firefighters battled the flames.*

**battle against/with**

*She had battled against cancer.*

**battle for**

*a pressure group battling for better schools*

**battle to do something**

*Doctors battled to save his life.*

**2 battle it out** COMPETE WITH/TRY TO BEAT

to keep fighting or opposing each other until one person or team wins:

*Sixteen teams will battle it out.*

**3** [intransitive] (literary) FIGHT to take part in a fight or war

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*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

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