

ar·gu·ment S1 W1

/ˈɑːɡjʊmənt \$ ˈɑːr-/

noun

- 1** [countable] **ARGUE** a situation in which two or more people disagree, often angrily:

argument with

She had a big argument with her husband.

argument about/over

There have been a lot of arguments about who was responsible for the accident.

- 2** [countable] **REASON** a set of reasons that show that something is true or untrue, right or wrong etc:

*We need to provide a **convincing argument** as to why the system should be changed.*

argument for/against

*a **powerful argument** against smoking*

*A **good argument** can be made for comparing the IT revolution with the invention of writing itself.*

argument in favour of

the arguments in favour of banning tobacco advertising

argument that

the familiar argument that the costs outweigh the benefits

- 3** [uncountable] **DISAGREE** when you disagree with something or question whether it is right:

do something without (further) argument

Ian accepted the suggestion without argument.

for the sake of argument (= in order to discuss all the possibilities)

If, for the sake of argument, you aren't offered the job, what will you do?

COLLOCATIONSSense 1

verbs

have an argument *I could hear my parents having an argument downstairs.*

get into an argument/become involved in an argument *She didn't want to get into another argument about money. |*

I left to avoid becoming involved in an argument.

start/cause an argument *He was deliberately trying to start an argument. |*

Money often causes arguments.

avoid an argument *I was anxious to avoid an argument.*

win/lose an argument *The party hopes to win the argument about how to reform the health system. |*

The first one who resorts to violence is usually the one who's lost the argument.

an argument breaks out (= it starts) *The men were drunk and an argument soon broke out.*

an argument erupts (= a big argument suddenly starts) *A bitter argument erupted between the brothers over who should inherit the money.*

adjectives

a big/huge/massive argument *There was a big argument about whether we should move to a new house.*

a heated argument (= involving very strong feelings) *Someone was having a heated argument with a police officer.*

a bitter argument *There are bitter arguments about whether he was a hero or a war criminal.*

a furious/fierce argument *As soon as she had gone a furious argument broke out.*

a violent argument *The singer was hurt in a violent argument with her husband.*

THESAURUSense 1

argument a situation in which people speak angrily to each other because they disagree about something: *an argument between two drivers over who had right of way* | *A 29-year-old man was shot and killed today after an argument over a gambling debt.*

row (*BrE*), **fight** (*especially AmE*) a loud angry argument with someone, especially your boyfriend, girlfriend, or someone in your family. **Row** is also used about a serious disagreement between politicians about important public issues: *There were always fights between my parents.* | *the continuing row over tax increases* | *A few months ago they had a big row, and Steve drove off and spent the weekend in London.*

disagreement a situation in which people disagree with each other, but without shouting or getting angry: *There were the occasional disagreements about money, but mostly we got on well.* | *Ginny had left the company after a disagreement with her boss.*

quarrel (*especially BrE*) an argument, especially one in which people get angry and that lasts a long time. **Quarrel** sounds more formal and more serious than **argument** or **row**: *a bitter family quarrel*

feud /fjuːd/ a very bitter argument between two groups, especially families, which lasts for many years and causes people to hate each other: *The feud between the Hatfields and the McCoys raged for 20 years.*

dispute a public or legal argument about something, especially

one which continues for a long time: *Morris has been involved in a long legal dispute with his publisher.* | *The settlement will resolve a long-running dispute over the country's nuclear program.*

war/ battle of words an argument in which two people or groups criticize each other continuously in public: *The war of words over construction delays at the airport has erupted again.*

bust-up (BrE) (informal) a very bad argument, especially one in which people decide to separate from each other: *He had a bust-up with the team manager.*

shouting match an angry argument in which people shout at each other: *He got into a shouting match with another driver.*

slanging match (BrE) (informal) an argument in which people insult each other: *He was sacked after a slanging match with a colleague.*

an argument that is not very serious

squabble /'skwɒb I \$ 'skwɑː-/ an argument about something that is not important: *There were the usual squabbles between brothers and sisters.* | *Voters are tired of petty squabbles between party leaders.*

tiff (informal) an argument that is not very serious, between people who are in love: *Gary had a bit of a tiff with his girlfriend.*

misunderstanding a slight argument – a rather formal word which is often used humorously: *There was a slight misunderstanding over the bill, but everything's been sorted out now.*

skirmish a short argument, especially between politicians or sports opponents: *Evans and O'Brien had several political skirmishes.*

