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arm

1 of 5 **noun (1)**

'ärm 

plural arms

[Synonyms of arm](#) >

- 1 : a human upper limb
especially : the part between the shoulder and the wrist
- 2 : something like or corresponding to an arm: such as
 - a : the forelimb of a vertebrate
 - b : a limb of an invertebrate animal
 - c : a branch or lateral shoot of a plant
 - d : a slender part of a structure, machine, or an instrument projecting from a main part, axis, or fulcrum
 - e : the end of a ship's yard
also : the part of an anchor from the crown to the fluke
 → see [anchor illustration](#)
 - f : any of the usually two parts of a chromosome lateral to the centromere
- 3 : an inlet of water (as from the sea)

4 : a narrow extension of a larger area, mass, or group

5 : **POWER, MIGHT**



38% of B2B practitioners will use AI for content this year.



noun 5

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7 : SLEEVE

8 : the ability to throw or pitch a ball well

also : a player having such ability

9 : a functional division of a group, organization, institution, or activity

the logistical *arm* of the air force10 **medical** : a group of subjects provided a particular treatment in a [clinical trial](#)

Since this trial did not include a radiation-only treatment *arm*, it has been questioned whether radiation therapy alone might be as effective as sequential chemotherapy and radiation therapy in preserving the larynx.

— Everett E. Vokes et al.

armless ('ärm-ləs) adjective

armlike ('ärm-, līk) adjective

arm 2 of 5 verb

armed; arming; arms

transitive verb

1 : to furnish or equip with weapons

2 : to furnish with something that strengthens or protects

arming citizens with the right to vote

3 : to equip or ready for action or operation

arm a bomb*intransitive verb*

: to prepare oneself for struggle or resistance

**noun** 5

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often attributive**1 a** : a means (such as a weapon) of offense or defense*especially* : **FIREARM****b** : a combat branch (as of an army)**c** : an organized branch of national defense (such as the navy)**2 arms** plural**a** : the hereditary heraldic devices of a family**b** : heraldic devices adopted by a government**3 arms** plural**a** : active hostilities : **WARFARE**| a call to *arms***b** : military service**Arm** 4 of 5 **abbreviation (1)**

Armenian

ARM 5 of 5 **abbreviation (2)**

adjustable rate mortgage

Phrases**arm in arm**

: with arms linked together

up in arms

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Synonyms

Noun (1)

[agency](#)[bureau](#)[desk](#)[office](#)[branch](#)[department](#)[division](#)[service](#)

Noun (2)

[firearm](#)[heat \[*slang*\]](#)[small arm](#)[gun](#)[piece](#)[See all Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus >](#)

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Noun (1)

a company that needs to beef up its marketing **arm** if it wants to compete in today's business world

this **arm** of the Atlantic is surprisingly peaceful, as the stronger ocean currents do not reach this far

Maine has so many long, narrow **arms** that jut out into the ocean that early coastal settlers found it much easier to travel by sea

[See More](#)

Recent Examples on the Web

Noun

Burrow could be seen flexing and rubbing his **arm** on the sideline throughout the game, and a video of him carefully picking up a bottle of water was the main topic of conversation, with some questioning the strength of his wrist.

— Ben Morse, *CNN*, 12 Sep. 2024

After a little more discussion, Bon Jovi and his colleague each grab one of her **arms** and help hoist her over the railing and back onto the bridge.

— Rachel Treisman, *NPR*, 12 Sep. 2024

Verb

By **arming** citizens with the necessary AI literacy skills required to interpret and reject said content, governments can weaken the overall effectiveness of these campaigns.

— Marcus Fowler, *Forbes*, 12 Sep. 2024

Observers say Pressley is well positioned to charge into a future primary fight for



noun 5 ▾

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These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'arm.' Any opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#) about these examples.



Word History

Etymology

Noun (1)

Middle English, going back to Old English *earm*, *arm*, going back to Germanic **arma-*, masculine, (whence also Old Frisian *erm* "arm," Old Saxon *arm*, Old High German *aram*, *arm*, Old Norse *armr*, Gothic *arms*), going back to Indo-European **h₂orH-mo-*, whence also Old Church Slavic *ramo* "shoulder," Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian *ràme*, stem *ràmen-*, Czech *ráměk*; a parallel zero-grade **h₂rH-mó-* gives Old Prussian *irmo* "arm," Lithuanian (eastern dialects) *irmédė* "pain from gout, chill, fever" (*irm-* "arm" + *-édė* "eating"), Sanskrit *īrmā-* "arm," Avestan *arəma-*; Latin *armus* "forequarter (of an animal), shoulder" probably goes back to **h₂erH-mo-*

NOTE: Usually claimed to be a derivative of the verb **h₂er-* "fit, join" (see [ARM entry 3](#))

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between *-mo-* and *-men-* (see André Vaillant, *Grammaire comparée des langues slaves*, II:1 [Lyon, 1958], pp. 214-15). According to P. Schrijver, *The Reflexes of the Proto-Indo-European Laryngeals in Latin* (Amsterdam, 1991), p. 194, Latin *armus* cannot be traced to **h₂rH-mo-*, which would have yielded **ramus*. Regarding Armenian *armukn* "elbow," see H. K. Martirosyan, *Etymological Dictionary of the Armenian Inherited Lexicon*, Leiden, 2010, s.v.

Verb

Middle English *armen*, borrowed from Anglo-French *armer*, going back to Latin *armāre*, derivative of *arma* "implements of war, weapons, equipment" — more at [ARM entry 3](#)

Noun (2)

Middle English *armes* (plural), "weapons, the military profession, heraldic devices," borrowed from Anglo-French, plural of *arme* "weapon," going back to Latin *arma* (neuter plural) "implements of war, weapons, equipment," derivative, with a suffix **-mo-*, from a presumed verbal base **ar-*, going back to Indo-European **h₂er-* "fit, join," whence Greek reduplicated aorist *éraron* "(I) fit together, equipped, fit closely" (from which present tense *ararískō*, *ararískein*), *ármenos* (middle participle) "fitting, suited to," and (with suffixed **-smo-* giving initial aspiration?) *harmós* "joint," *hárma*, *harmat-* "chariot, team of horses"; Armenian *arari* "(I) made," *aṛnem* "I make"

NOTE: See also [ART entry 1](#), [ARTHRO-](#), [ARTICLE entry 1](#), [ARTIODACTYL](#).

First Known Use**Noun (1)**

before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Verb

13th century, in the meaning defined at [transitive sense 2](#)

Noun (2)

13th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

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Phrases Containing *arm*

[an arm and a leg](#)[arm and a leg](#)[arm candy](#)[arm's length](#)[arm-twisting](#)[arm wrestling](#)[as long as your/my arm](#)[at arm's length](#)[chance one's arm](#)[cost an arm and a leg](#)[keep \(someone or something\) at arm's length](#)[one-arm bandit](#)[See More](#)

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Dictionary Entries Near *arm*

[Arlon](#)**arm****Arm**[See More Nearby Entries >](#)

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Synonyms

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'ärm

1 a : a human upper limb*especially* : the part between the shoulder and wrist**b** : a corresponding limb of a lower vertebrate animal**2** : something resembling an arm in shape or position| an *arm* of the sea| the *arm* of a chair**3** : **POWER entry 1 sense 1a**| the long *arm* of the law**4** : **SLEEVE sense 1**• **armed** 'ärmd **adjective**• **armless** ('ärm-ləs) **adjective**• **armlike** (-, līk) **adjective****arm** 2 of 3 **verb****1** : to provide with weapons| *arm* a regiment**2** : to provide with a way of fighting, competing, or succeeding| *armed* herself with facts**3** : to make ready for action or use| *arm* a bomb**arm** 3 of 3 **noun****1 a** : **WEAPON**

**noun** 5 [Synonyms](#) [Example Sentences](#) [Word History](#) [Phrases Containing](#) [Rel](#)**c** : a branch of the military forces**2** **plural** : the designs on a shield or flag of a family or a government**3** **plural****a** : actual fighting : **WARFARE**| a call to *arms***b** : military service

Etymology

Noun

Old English *earm* "arm"

Noun

Middle English *armes* "weapons," from early French *armes* (same meaning), from Latin *arma* "weapons" — related to **ALARM** → see *Word History* at **ALARM**

AdChoices

Medical Definition

arm **noun**

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b : the part of the human upper limb between the shoulder and the wrist

also : **BRACHIUM**

2 a : the forelimb of a vertebrate other than a human being

b : a limb of an invertebrate animal

c : any of the usually two parts of a chromosome lateral to the centromere

3 : a group of subjects provided a particular treatment in a clinical trial

Since this trial did not include a radiation-only treatment *arm*, it has been questioned whether radiation therapy alone might be as effective as sequential chemotherapy and radiation therapy in preserving the larynx.

— Everett E. Vokes et al., *The New England Journal of Medicine*

Legal Definition

ARM abbreviation

adjustable rate mortgage

More from Merriam-Webster on *arm*

Nglish: [Translation of *arm* for Spanish Speakers](#)

Britannica English: [Translation of *arm* for Arabic Speakers](#)

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Quordle

W	O	R	D	Y
L	O	V	E	R
P	L	A	Y	S
D	A	I	L	Y

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Play



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