



Dictionary

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wave



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Vitamix Ascent X5 Blender, ...
★★★★☆ 47
\$749⁹⁵ prime

Dictionary

Definition

verb

noun (1)

noun (2)

Synonyms

Synonym Chooser

Example Sentences

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Kids Definition

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Save Word

wave 1 of 3 verb

wāv

waved; waving

[Synonyms of wave](#)

intransitive verb

- 1 : to motion with the hands or with something held in them in signal or salute
- 2 : to float, play, or shake in an air current : move loosely to and fro : **FLUTTER**
| flags *waving* in the breeze
- 3 **of water** : to move in *waves* : **HEAVE**
- 4 : to become moved or brandished to and fro
| signs *waved* in the crowd
- 5 : to move before the wind with a *wavelike* motion
| field of *waving* grain
- 6 : to follow a curving line or take a wavy form : **UNDULATE**

transitive verb

- 1 : to swing (something) back and forth or up and down
- 2 : to impart a curving or undulating shape to
| *waved* her hair
- 3 **a** : to motion to (someone) to go in an indicated direction or to stop : **SIGNAL**
| *waved* down a passing car
b : to gesture with (the hand or an object) in greeting or farewell or in homage
c : to dismiss or put out of mind : **DISREGARD** → usually used with *aside* or *off*
d : to convey by waving
| *waved* farewell
- 4 : **BRANDISH**, **FLOURISH**
| *waved* a pistol menacingly

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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

Can you solve 4 words at once?

Play

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WORD OF THE DAY

flummox

[See Definitions and Examples »](#)

wave 2 of 3 noun (i)

plural waves

1 a : a moving ridge or swell on the surface of a liquid (as of the sea)

b chiefly literary : WATER, SEA

| ... this our island in the *wave* ...

— Charles Dickens

| The buccaneer on the *wave* might relinquish his calling and become ... a man of probity and piety on land ...

— Nathaniel Hawthorne

| The sea was open to them, and they achieved their victories on the briny *wave*.

— *The Book of Commerce by Sea and Land*

2 a : a shape or outline having successive curves

b : a waviness of the hair

c : an undulating line or streak or a pattern formed by such lines

3 : something that swells and dies away: such as

a : a surge of sensation or emotion

| a *wave* of anger swept over her

b : a movement sweeping large numbers in a common direction

| *waves* of protest

c : a peak or climax of activity or occurrence

| a *wave* of spending

| a second *wave* of infection

| a crime *wave*

4 : a sweep of hand or arm or of some object held in the hand used as a signal or greeting

5 : a rolling or undulatory movement or one of a series of such movements passing along a surface or through the air

6 : a movement like that of an ocean wave: such as

a : a surging movement of a group

| a big new *wave* of women politicians

b : one of a succession of influxes of people migrating into a region

c (1) : a moving group of animals of one kind

(2) : a sudden rapid increase in a population

d : a line of attacking or advancing troops or airplanes

e : a display of people in a large crowd (as at a sports event) successively rising, lifting their arms overhead, and quickly sitting so as to form a swell moving through the crowd

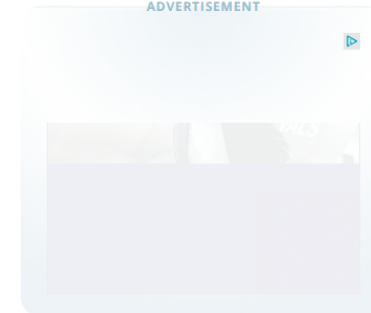
7 a : a disturbance or variation that transfers energy progressively from point to point

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in a medium and that may take the form of an elastic deformation or of a variation of pressure, electric or magnetic intensity, electric potential, or temperature

b : one complete cycle of such a disturbance

8 : a marked change in temperature : a period of hot or cold weather

9 : an undulating or jagged line constituting a graphic representation of an action

• **waveless** ˈwāv-ləs adjective

• **wavelessly** adverb

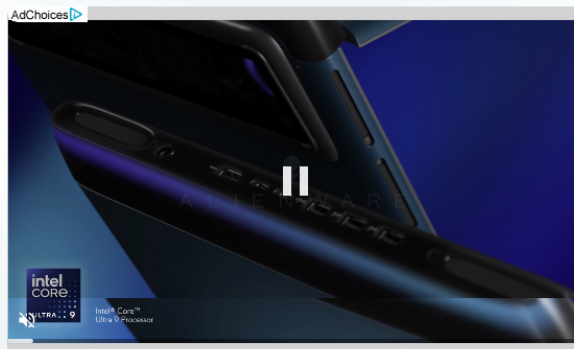
• **wavelike** ˈwāv-, ˈlɪk adjective

Wave 3 of 3 noun (2)

ˈwāv

: a member of the women's component of the U.S. Navy formed during World War II and discontinued in the 1970s

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Synonyms

Verb

[motion](#)

[gesture](#)

Noun (1)

[swell](#)

[surge](#)

[See All Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus >](#)

Choose the Right Synonym for *wave*

SWING, WAVE, FLOURISH, BRANDISH, THRASH mean to wield or cause to move to and fro or up and down.

SWING implies regular or uniform movement.

| *swing* the rope back and forth

WAVE usually implies smooth or continuous motion.

| *waving* the flag

FLOURISH suggests vigorous, ostentatious, graceful movement.

| *flourished* the winning lottery ticket

BRANDISH implies threatening or menacing motion.

| *brandishing* a knife

THRASH suggests vigorous, abrupt, violent movement.

| an infant *thrashing* his arms about

Examples of *wave* in a Sentence

Verb

| We **waved** to our friends through the window.

| She was **waving** in the direction of the bridge.

| Flags were **waving** in the breeze.

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Recent Examples on the Web

① Examples are automatically compiled from online sources to show current usage. Opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#).

Verb

| President William Lai attempted to visit New York City and Dallas in July, but was **waved** off by the White House without public explanation.

— Timothy Nerozzi, *The Washington Examiner*, 12 Sep. 2025

| In a pair of dark aviator sunglasses and an effortlessly cool brown leather jacket, Ralph Lauren himself, 85, stepped out at the end of the show to **wave** to his guests, receiving a standing ovation in the process.

— Anika Reed, *USA Today*, 11 Sep. 2025

Noun

The second Emma Heming Willis popped up on the Zoom screen, a **wave** of grief washed over me.

– David Oliver, *USA Today*, 11 Sep. 2025

Talwani also donated to the Democratic National Committee during the 2010 midterm election cycle ahead of a red **wave**, which regained the GOP majority in the House.

– Mia Cathell, *The Washington Examiner*, 10 Sep. 2025

Noun

The kittens that are born in the first **wave** of the season are actually able to give birth by the third wave.

– Dina Kaur, *AZCentral.com*, 28 Aug. 2025

Since the last **wave** of this survey two years ago, respondents who see a home as a financial burden increased 50%, moving from 14% to 21% today.

– Jennifer Castenson, *Forbes.com*, 28 Aug. 2025

[See All Example Sentences for wave >](#)

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Word History

Etymology

Verb

Middle English, from Old English *wafian* to wave with the hands; akin to Old English *wæfan* to clothe and perhaps to Old English *wefan* to weave

Noun (2)

Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service

First Known Use

Verb

14th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 2](#)

Noun (1)

1526, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

Noun (2)

1942, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *wave* was in the 14th century

[See more words from the same century](#)

Phrases Containing *wave*

alpha wave	beta wave	body wave
brain wave	cold wave	compressional wave
crime wave	delta wave	electromagnetic wave
finger wave	gravitational wave	gravity wave

[See More](#) ▾

Rhymes for *wave*

brave	cave	clave
crave	fave	gave
grave	knave	lave
nave	pave	rave

[See All Rhymes for wave](#) >

Browse Nearby Words

[WAV](#) **wave** **Wave**

[See All Nearby Words](#) >

Articles Related to *wave*



Out to Sea with 'Wave' and 'Waive'

Yes, we waver. But read on to see why.

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Style

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"Wave." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/wave>. Accessed 12 Sep. 2025.

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Kids Definition

wave 1 of 3 verb

'wāv

waved; waving

1 : to float or shake in an air current : **FLUTTER**

- 1 : flags *waving* in the breeze
- 2 : to signal or salute with the hand or with something held in it
- 3 : **BRANDISH**
- 4 : *waved* a pistol and made threats
- 5 : to move before the wind with a wavelike motion
- 6 : a field of *waving* grain
- 7 : to follow or cause to follow a curving line or take a wavy form
- 8 : *waved* her hair

wave 2 of 3 noun

- 1 : a moving ridge on the surface of water
- 2 : a wavelike formation or shape
- 3 : a *wave* in the hair
- 4 : the action or process of making wavy or curly
- 5 : a waving motion
- 6 : a *wave* of the hand
- 7 : a steady flowing movement
- 8 : a *wave* of color swept the speaker's face
- 9 : a sudden or rapid increase
- 10 : a *wave* of buying
- 11 : a disturbance similar to a wave in water that transfers energy progressively from point to point
- 12 : a light *wave*
- 13 : a period of hot or cold weather

wavelike (-līk ə) adjective

Wave 3 of 3 noun

(ˈwāv ə)

: a woman serving in the navy before 1978



Medical Definition

wave noun

'wāv 

- 1 a** : a disturbance or variation that transfers energy progressively from point to point in a medium and that may take the form of an elastic deformation or of a variation of pressure, electrical or magnetic intensity, electrical potential, or temperature
b : one complete cycle of such a disturbance
- 2** : an undulating or jagged line constituting a graphic representation of an action
| an electroencephalographic *wave*

More from Merriam-Webster on *wave*

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

Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about *wave*](#)

Last Updated: 12 Sep 2025 - Updated example sentences

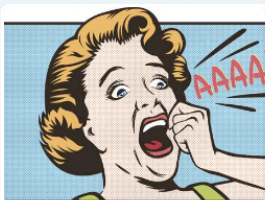
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- **Point A**
- **Point B**
- **Point C**

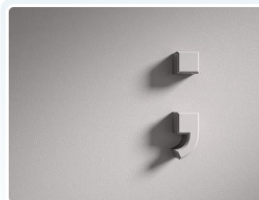
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The Difference Between 'i.e.' and 'e.g.'

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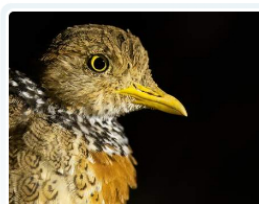
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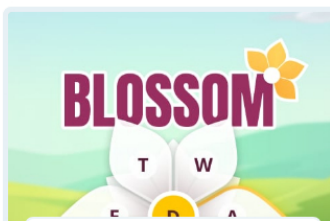
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