Vitamix Battle-tested in professional kitchens.

Vitamix Ascent X5 Blender,... 47 $749.95 prime

Dictionary
Definition
verb
noun (1)
noun (2)
Synonyms
Synonym Chooser
Example Sentences
Word History
Phrases Containing
Rhymes
Entries Near
Related Articles
Cite this Entry
Share
Kids Definition
Medical Definition
More from M-W
Show Less
Save Word

wave 1 of 3 verb

ˈwāv

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

ADVERTISEMENT

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

ADVERTISEMENT

WORD OF THE DAY
flummox
See Definitions and Examples »

wave 2 of 3 noun (1)

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

Get Word of the Day daily email!
Your email add SUBSCRIBE

ADVERTISEMENT

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

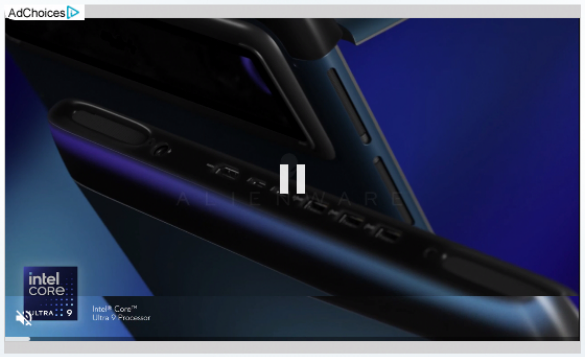
waveless ˈwāv-ləs adjective
wavelessly adverb
wavelike ˈwāv-ˌlīk adjective

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

ADVERTISEMENT



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.

See More

Recent Examples on the Web

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* ›

ADVERTISEMENT

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)

*W*omen *A*ccepted for *V*olunteer *E*mergency 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.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cite this Entry

Style MLA

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

Copy Citation

Share

Kids Definition

wave 1 of 3 verb

ˈwāv

waved; waving

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

flags *waving* in the breeze

2 : to signal or salute with the hand or with something held in it

3 : **BRANDISH**
waved a pistol and made threats

4 : to move before the wind with a wavelike motion
a field of *waving* grain

5 : to follow or cause to follow a curving line or take a wavy form
waved her hair

wave 2 of 3 noun

1 : a moving ridge on the surface of water

2 : a wavelike formation or shape
a *wave* in the hair

3 : the action or process of making wavy or curly

4 : a waving motion
a *wave* of the hand

5 : a steady flowing movement
a *wave* of color swept the speaker's face

6 : a sudden or rapid increase
a *wave* of buying

7 : a disturbance similar to a wave in water that transfers energy progressively from point to point
a light *wave*

8 : a period of hot or cold weather

wavelike (-ˌlīk) adjective

Wave 3 of 3 noun

(ˈwāv)

: a woman serving in the navy before 1978

ADVERTISEMENT

Solmetex Ex. 2036
Ascentcare Dental Products v. Solmetex - IPR2025-01175



Medical Definition

wave noun

ˈwāv

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

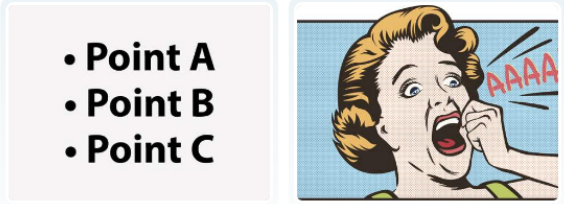
Love words? Need even more definitions?

Subscribe to America's largest dictionary and get thousands more definitions and advanced search—ad free!

MERRIAM-WEBSTER UNABRIDGED

Popular in Grammar & Usage

See More ›

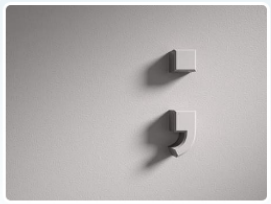


Using Bullet Points (•)

Merriam-Webster's Great Big List of Words You Love to Hate



How to Use Em Dashes (—), En Dashes (–) , and Hyphens (-)



A Guide to Using Semicolons



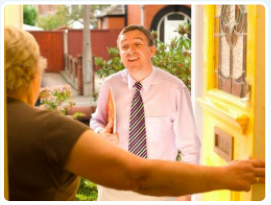
The Difference Between 'i.e.' and 'e.g.'

Popular in Wordplay

See More



Great Big List of Beautiful and Useless Words, Vol. 3



Our Best Historical Slang Terms



Birds Say the Darndest Things



Even More Bird Names that Sound Like Insults (and Sometimes Are)



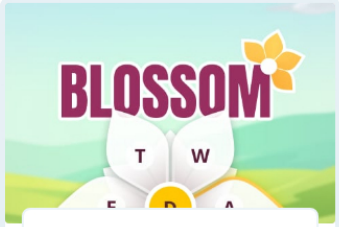
Better Ways to Say 'This Sucks'

Games & Quizzes

See All



Quordle
Can you solve 4 words at once?
Play



Blossom
Pick the best words!
Play



Missing Letter
A daily crossword with a twist
Play



Challenging Standardized Test Words
20 questions to help you score 1600
Take the quiz

Learn a new word every day. Delivered to your inbox!

Your email address

SUBSCRIBE

[redacted]

Solmetex Ex. 2056
Ascentcare Dental Products v. Solmetex - IPR2025-01175

Webster

Help | About Us | Advertising Info | Contact Us | Privacy Policy | Terms of Use

© 2025 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated