

Need another word that means the same as “contend”? Find 38 synonyms and 30 related words for “contend” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Contend” are: fight, struggle, argue, debate, fence, postulate, cope, deal, get by, grapple, make do, make out, manage, compete, vie, contest, repugn, cope with, face, grapple with, deal with, take on, pit oneself against, challenge, assert, maintain, hold, claim, profess, affirm, aver, avow, insist, state, declare, pronounce, allege, plead

Contend as a Verb

Definitions of "Contend" as a verb

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), “contend” as a verb can have the following definitions:

- *Come to terms with.*
- *Be engaged in a fight; carry on a fight.*
- *Maintain or assert.*
- *Succeed in doing, achieving, or producing (something) with the limited or inadequate means available.*
- *Assert something as a position in an argument.*
- *Struggle to surmount (a difficulty).*
- *Have an argument about something.*
- *Compete for something; engage in a contest; measure oneself against others.*
- *To make the subject of dispute, contention, or litigation.*
- *Compete with others in a struggle to achieve (something).*



Synonyms of "Contend" as a verb (38 Words)

affirm

To declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true.
*The referendum **affirmed** the republic's right to secede.*

allege

Report or maintain.
*He **alleged** that he had been assaulted.*

argue

Have an argument about something.
*It stands to reason she **argued**.*

assert

Assert to be true.
*The company **asserts** that the cuts will not affect development.*

aver

To declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true.
*He **averred** that he was innocent of the allegations.*

avow

Assert or confess openly.
*He **avowed** that he had voted Labour in every election.*

challenge

Issue a challenge to.
*A certain number of jurors may be **challenged**.*

claim

Lay claim to as of an idea.
*They **claimed** on the maximum allowable amount.*

compete

Compete for something engage in a contest measure oneself against others.
*No one can **compete** with his physical prowess.*

contest

Oppose (an action or theory) as mistaken or wrong.
*She declared her intention to **contest** the presidency.*

cope

(of a machine or system) have the capacity to deal successfully with.
*The roads are barely adequate to **cope** with the present traffic.*

cope with

Come to terms with.

deal

Succeed in doing, achieving, or producing (something) with the limited or inadequate means available.
*Many of the men are **dealing** drugs.*

deal with

Direct the course of; manage or control.

debate

Have an argument about something.
*MPs **debated** the issue in the Commons.*

declare

Declare to be.
*Do you have anything to **declare**.*

face

Cover the surface of something with a layer of a different material.
*If you were suddenly **faced** with an emergency would you know how to cope.*

fence

Enclose or separate an area with a fence.

We **fenced** in our yard.

fight

Be engaged in a fight carry on a fight.

The country is still **fighting** a civil war.

get by

Go or come after and bring or take back.

grapple

Succeed in doing, achieving, or producing (something) with the limited or inadequate means available.

The two men **grappled** with each other for several minutes.

grapple with

Come to terms with.

hold

Contain or hold have within.

This theory still **holds**.

insist

Beg persistently and urgently.

I must **insist**.

maintain

Maintain for use and service.

The need to **maintain** close links between industry and schools.

make do

Add up to.

make out

Reach a destination, either real or abstract.

manage

Be the manager of a sports team or a performer.

Catherine **managed** on five hours sleep a night.

**pit oneself
against**

Remove the pits from.

plead

Make an allegation in an action or other legal proceeding especially answer the previous pleading of the other party by denying facts therein stated or by alleging new facts.

She **pleaded** not guilty.

postulate

Take as a given assume as a postulate or axiom.

His theory **postulated** a rotatory movement for hurricanes.

profess

Practice as a profession teach or claim to be knowledgeable about.

He had **professed** his love for her only to walk away.

pronounce

Speak pronounce or utter in a certain way.

She **pronounces** French words in a funny way.

repugn

To affect a person with repugnance or aversion Also without object to cause repugnance.

state

Put before.

Judges must give both sides an equal opportunity to **state** their case.

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| struggle | Strive to achieve or attain something in the face of difficulty or resistance. <i>Before she could struggle he lifted her up.</i> |
| take on | Take on a certain form attribute or aspect. |
| vie | Compete for something; engage in a contest; measure oneself against others. <i>The athletes were vying for a place in the British team.</i> |

Usage Examples of "Contend" as a verb

- *He contended that Communism had no future.*
- *Militant groups are contending for control of the country.*
- *He contends that the judge was wrong.*
- *She had to contend with his uncertain temper.*
- *Factions within the government were contending for the succession to the presidency.*

Associations of "Contend" (30 Words)

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| argue | Exchange or express diverging or opposite views, typically in a heated or angry way. <i>I tried to argue him out of it.</i> |
| assertion | A declaration that is made emphatically (as if no supporting evidence were necessary). <i>The assertion of his legal rights.</i> |
| athlete | A person who takes part in competitive track and field events (athletics). <i>He had the broad shouldered build of a natural athlete.</i> |
| battle | Battle or contend against in or as if in a battle. <i>He died in battle.</i> |
| bellicose | Demonstrating aggression and willingness to fight. <i>A mood of bellicose jingoism.</i> |
| challenger | A person who engages in a contest. <i>Heroic challengers of authority.</i> |
| claim | Ask for legally or make a legal claim to as of debts for example. <i>Each of them was to be rewarded with a farm and a number of mining claims in the land.</i> |
| compete | Compete for something engage in a contest measure oneself against others. <i>No one can compete with his physical prowess.</i> |

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| competition | The activity or condition of striving to gain or win something by defeating or establishing superiority over others. <i>The competition for university places is greater than ever this year.</i> |
| competitor | An organization or country engaged in commercial or economic competition with others. <i>Two competitors were banned for taking drugs.</i> |
| conflict | Be in conflict. <i>Bewildered by her own inner conflict she could only stand there feeling vulnerable.</i> |
| <u>contender</u> | A person or group competing with others to achieve something. <i>A presidential contender.</i> |
| <u>contention</u> | A contentious speech act; a dispute where there is strong disagreement. <i>The teams were in fierce contention for first place.</i> |
| <u>contentious</u> | (of a person) given to provoking argument. <i>The socio economic plan had been the subject of contentious debate.</i> |
| <u>contest</u> | An occasion on which a winner is selected from among two or more contestants. <i>They contested the outcome of the race.</i> |
| <u>discord</u> | A harsh mixture of sounds. <i>The music faded in discord.</i> |
| <u>enemy</u> | A personal enemy. <i>He viewed lawyers as the real enemy.</i> |
| objector | A person who expresses opposition to or disagreement with something. <i>Objectors to the housing plans.</i> |
| opponent | Characterized by active hostility. <i>Opponent or opposing armies.</i> |
| oppose | Be against; express opposition to. <i>We oppose the ban on abortion.</i> |
| <u>overtake</u> | Catch up with and possibly overtake. <i>He overtook in the face of oncoming traffic.</i> |
| <u>postulate</u> | Take as a given assume as a postulate or axiom. <i>Perhaps the postulate of Babylonian influence on Greek astronomy is incorrect.</i> |
| protester | A person who dissents from some established policy. <i>The decision was hailed by protesters against the closure as a triumph.</i> |
| rival | Be the rival of be in competition with. <i>She has no rivals as a female rock singer.</i> |

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| rivalry | Competition for the same objective or for superiority in the same field. <i>There always has been intense rivalry between the clubs.</i> |
| strive | Attempt by employing effort. <i>We must strive to secure steady growth.</i> |
| struggle | Make one's way with difficulty. <i>Before she could struggle he lifted her up.</i> |
| unseat | Remove (a government or person in authority) from power. <i>The Republicans are trying to unseat the liberal Democrat.</i> |
| vie | Compete for something; engage in a contest; measure oneself against others. <i>The athletes were vying for a place in the British team.</i> |
| wrangling | Engagement in a long, complicated dispute or argument. <i>Weeks of political wrangling.</i> |