

Need another word that means the same as “defend”? Find 41 synonyms and 30 related words for “defend” in this overview.

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**The synonyms of “Defend” are: fend for, support, maintain, guard, hold, represent, champion, fight, fight back, fight down, oppose, protect, safeguard, keep from harm, preserve, secure, shield, shelter, screen, justify, vindicate, argue for, speak for, speak on behalf of, speak in support of, give an apologia for, make a case for, plead for, make excuses for, excuse, exonerate, palliate, back, stand by, stick up for, stand up for, endorse, uphold, come to the defence of, sustain, bolster**

## Defend as a Verb

### Definitions of "Defend" as a verb

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

- *Conduct the case for (the party being accused or sued) in a lawsuit.*
- *Compete to retain (a title or seat) in a contest or election.*
- *Be on the defensive; act against an attack.*
- *Protect against a challenge or attack.*
- *Be the defense counsel for someone in a trial.*
- *State or assert.*
- *Fight against or resist strongly.*
- *Argue or speak in defense of.*
- *Resist an attack made on (someone or something); protect from harm or danger.*
- *(in sport) protect one's goal or wicket rather than attempt to score against one's opponents.*
- *Speak or write in favour of (an action or person); attempt to justify.*

- *Protect or fight for as a champion.*



## Synonyms of "Defend" as a verb (41 Words)

<b>argue for</b>	Present reasons and arguments.
<b><u>back</u></b>	Travel backward. <i>My garage <b>backs</b> their yard.</i>
<b>bolster</b>	Prop up with a pillow or bolster. <i>They <b>bolstered</b> the seats for a more comfortable ride.</i>
<b>champion</b>	Protect or fight for as a champion. <i>He <b>championed</b> the rights of the working class and the poor.</i>
<b>come to the defence of</b>	Move toward, travel toward something or somebody or approach something or somebody.
<b>endorse</b>	Give support or one's approval to. <i>The speed and accuracy achieved will be <b>endorsed</b> on the certificate.</i>
<b><u>excuse</u></b>	Defend explain clear away or make excuses for by reasoning. <i>Please <b>excuse</b> my dirty hands.</i>

<b><u>exonerate</u></b>	Release someone from (a duty or obligation). <i>An inquiry <b>exonerated</b> those involved.</i>
<b> fend for</b>	Withstand the force of something.
<b> fight</b>	Fight against or resist strongly. <i>The men were <b>fighting</b>.</i>
<b> fight back</b>	Exert oneself continuously, vigorously, or obtrusively to gain an end or engage in a crusade for a certain cause or person; be an advocate for.
<b> fight down</b>	Exert oneself continuously, vigorously, or obtrusively to gain an end or engage in a crusade for a certain cause or person; be an advocate for.
<b> give an apologia for</b>	Emit or utter.
<b> guard</b>	Watch over (someone) to prevent them from escaping. <i>The company fiercely <b>guarded</b> its independence.</i>
<b> hold</b>	Contain or hold have within. <i>The boat's anchor would not <b>hold</b>.</i>
<b><u>justify</u></b>	Show to be right by providing justification or proof. <i><b>Justify</b> the margins.</i>
<b> keep from harm</b>	Stop (someone or something) from doing something or being in a certain state.
<b> maintain</b>	Maintain by writing regular records. <i>He <b>maintained</b> his innocence.</i>
<b> make a case for</b>	Charge with a function; charge to be.
<b> make excuses for</b>	Favor the development of.
<b> oppose</b>	Actively resist (a person or system). <i>The board <b>opposed</b> his motion.</i>
<b> palliate</b>	Disguise the seriousness of (an offence). <i>This eliminated or at least <b>palliated</b> suspicions aroused by German unity.</i>
<b> plead for</b>	Enter a plea, as in courts of law.
<b><u>preserve</u></b>	Treat (food) to prevent its decomposition. <i>A fight to <b>preserve</b> local democracy.</i>
<b> protect</b>	Keep safe from harm or injury. <i>Use a sunscreen that <b>protects</b> against both UVA and UVB.</i>
<b> represent</b>	Be representative or typical for. <i>The three heads of Cerberus <b>represent</b> the past present and future.</i>

<b>safeguard</b>	Protect from harm or damage with an appropriate measure. <i>A framework which <b>safeguards</b> employees from exploitation.</i>
<b><u>screen</u></b>	Separate something from something else with or as if with a screen. <b>Screen</b> these samples.
<b><u>secure</u></b>	Fix or attach (something) firmly so that it cannot be moved or lost. <i>Doors are likely to be well <b>secured</b> at night.</i>
<b><u>shelter</u></b>	Provide shelter for. <i>Only your rental income can be <b>sheltered</b>.</i>
<b><u>shield</u></b>	Enclose or screen (a piece of machinery) to protect the user. <i>Uranium shutters <b>shield</b> the cobalt radioactive source.</i>
<b>speak for</b>	Give a speech to.
<b>speak in support of</b>	Exchange thoughts; talk with.
<b>speak on behalf of</b>	Make a characteristic or natural sound.
<b>stand by</b>	Be standing; be upright.
<b>stand up for</b>	Put up with something or somebody unpleasant.
<b>stick up for</b>	Be a devoted follower or supporter.
<b>support</b>	Be the physical support of carry the weight of. <i>Olivier <b>supported</b> Gielgud beautifully in the second act.</i>
<b><u>sustain</u></b>	Supply with necessities and support. <i>We <b>sustained</b> ourselves on bread and water.</i>
<b>uphold</b>	Confirm or support (something which has been questioned). <i>They <b>uphold</b> a tradition of not causing distress to living creatures.</i>
<b>vindicate</b>	Maintain, uphold, or defend. <i>You must <b>vindicate</b> yourself and fight this libel.</i>



## Usage Examples of "Defend" as a verb

- *We shall defend our island, whatever the cost.*
- *Ms. Smith will represent the defendant.*
- *He won the party's nomination to defend the Welsh seat.*
- *He defended his policy of imposing high rates.*
- *They were forced to defend for long periods.*
- *He is a lawyer who specializes in defending political prisoners.*



## Associations of "Defend" (30 Words)

### [aegis](#)

Armor plate that protects the chest; the front part of a cuirass.  
*The negotiations were conducted under the **aegis** of the UN.*

<b>angel</b>	In traditional Christian angelology a being of the lowest order of the ninefold celestial hierarchy. <i>Every year we raise the money for the next season and we are always looking for an <b>angel</b>.</i>
<b>armor</b>	Equip with armor.
<b>bastion</b>	A natural rock formation resembling a man made bastion. <i>The last <b>bastion</b> of communism.</i>
<b>conservancy</b>	A commission with jurisdiction over fisheries and navigation in a port or river. <i>From the point of view of nature <b>conservancy</b> I d rather see it left unspoilt.</i>
<b>convoy</b>	A group of ships or vehicles travelling together, typically one accompanied by armed troops, warships, or other vehicles for protection. <i>American destroyers helped to <b>convoy</b> much needed supplies to Britain in 1917 18.</i>
<b>cudgel</b>	Beat with a cudgel. <i>They would lie in wait and <b>cudgel</b> her to death.</i>
<b>defence</b>	The action of defending from or resisting attack. <i>She came to the <b>defence</b> of the eccentric professor.</i>
<b>defense</b>	A structure used to defend against attack. <i>The artillery battered down the <b>defenses</b>.</i>
<b>defensible</b>	Justifiable by argument. <i>A fort with a <b>defensible</b> yard at its feet.</i>
<b>fighting</b>	The action of fighting violence or conflict. <i>He put up his fists and took a <b>fighting</b> stance.</i>
<b>guard</b>	The person who plays the position of guard on a basketball team. <i>A security <b>guard</b>.</i>
<b>guardian</b>	A person who cares for persons or property. <i>Self appointed <b>guardians</b> of public morality.</i>
<b>helmet</b>	Armor plate that protects the head.
<b>heroine</b>	The main good female character in a work of fiction. <i>Jane Austen s <b>heroines</b>.</i>
<b>protect</b>	Shield from danger, injury, destruction, or damage. <i>The wetlands have been <b>protected</b> since 1998.</i>
<b>protecting</b>	Shielding (or designed to shield) against harm or discomfort. <i>A <b>protecting</b> alibi.</i>
<b>protector</b>	A person who cares for persons or property. <i>A man who became her <b>protector</b> adviser and friend.</i>

<b>sentry</b>	A soldier stationed to keep guard or to control access to a place. <i>On <b>sentry</b> duty.</i>
<b><u>shield</u></b>	A stylized representation of a shield used for displaying a coat of arms. <i>Cylindrical ducts <b>shield</b> the propellers.</i>
<b><u>soldier</u></b>	Serve as a soldier in the military. <i>I <b>soldiered</b> with your father on his last four campaigns.</i>
<b><u>sword</u></b>	A cutting or thrusting weapon that has a long metal blade and a hilt with a hand guard. <i>Not many perished by the <b>sword</b>.</i>
<b>tenable</b>	(of an office, position, scholarship, etc.) able to be held or used. <i>A scholarship of 200 per annum <b>tenable</b> for three years.</i>
<b><u>territorial</u></b>	A territorial military unit. <i>These sharks are aggressively <b>territorial</b>.</i>
<b>tutelar</b>	Providing protective supervision; watching over or safeguarding. <i><b>Tutelary</b> gods.</i>
<b>tutelary</b>	Providing protective supervision; watching over or safeguarding. <i>The state maintained a <b>tutelary</b> relation with the security police.</i>
<b><u>ward</u></b>	The grooves in the bit of a key that correspond to the wards in a lock. <i>It was his duty to <b>ward</b> the king.</i>
<b>watchman</b>	A man employed to look after an empty building, especially at night. <i>A night <b>watchman</b>.</i>
<b>windshield</b>	A window at the front of the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle; a windscreen.



