

Disagreement

WORD LIST

adversary	belligerent	chide	contradictory	discord
embroil	haggle	ruse	skirmish	strife

From time to time, everyone has disagreements. Children are *chided* by their parents. We might face *discord* with our friends or become *embroiled* in disagreements between others. The words in this lesson will help you understand and write about different types of conflict, the behavior that leads to them, and how they can be resolved.

1. **adversary** (ăd'vər-sēr'ē) *noun* from Latin *ad-*, "toward" + *vertere*, "to turn"

An opponent; an enemy

- His **adversary** had only one rule—to win.

adversarial *adjective* Unfortunately, the two sisters had an **adversarial** relationship.

2. **belligerent** (bə-līj'ər-ənt) *adjective* from Latin *bellum*, "war" + *gerere*, "to make"

Hostile; aggressive; quarrelsome

- The minor argument turned into a **belligerent** shouting match.

belligerence *noun* Because of her **belligerence**, the policemen had to handcuff the woman they had arrested.

3. **chide** (chīd) *verb* from Old English *cidan*, "strife"

To scold; to express dissatisfaction

- Mom **chided** Alice for leaving her slippers out where the dog could chew them.

4. **contradictory** (kŏn'trə-dīk'tə-rē) *adjective* from Latin *contra*, "against" + *dicere*, "to say"

Expressing the opposite; inconsistent

- We were puzzled by the **contradictory** statements of the two witnesses.

contradict *verb* It is not tactful to **contradict** one's coworkers in the presence of others.

contradiction *noun* Bad-tempered at work, yet gentle at home, he was a man of many **contradictions**.



chide

5. **discord** (dĭs'kôrd) *noun* from Latin *dis-*, "apart" + *cord*, "heart"
Lack of agreement or harmony

- The vacation was ruined by **discord** among the campers.

discordant *adjective*. An argument between the two captains set a **discordant** tone for the swim meet.

6. **embroil** (ĕm-brōil') *verb* from French *embrouiller*, "to tangle"
To get involved in a conflict, an argument, or confusion

- Try not to get **embroiled** in arguments between other people.

7. **haggle** (hăg'əl) *verb*

To argue or bargain in order to come to favorable terms or a good price

- Some people go to flea markets just for the fun of **haggling** over prices.

haggler *noun*. Six-year-old Eric proved to be a true **haggler**, as he talked his father into letting him stay up later and later.

8. **ruse** (rŭs) *noun* from Old French *ruser*, "to drive back"
A crafty trick intended to create a false impression

- The **ruse** succeeded, and the escapees disguised as prison guards vanished into the night.

9. **skirmish** (skŭr'mĭsh) *noun* from Old French *eskermir*, "to fight with a sword"

A minor battle, sometimes on the fringes of a larger battle

- Six people were killed in the **skirmish** that started a civil war.

10. **strife** (strĭf) *noun*

Bitter conflict or struggle

- **Strife** between ethnic groups in Bosnia resulted in the deaths of many thousands of people.

Discordant sounds, such as those made by orchestra members tuning instruments, lack harmony.

WORD ENRICHMENT

Oxymorons—language contradictions

If you have ever asked for a *plastic glass*, then you have used an *oxymoron*. Oxymorons are combinations of two contradictory words. Perhaps you have eaten *jumbo shrimp* (shrimp sometimes means "small") and have commented that they were *awfully good*.

Did you ever look at your shoes and think they were *pretty ugly*? If so, then maybe you polished them to a *dull shine*. Afterward, they may have looked *extremely average*. As you can see, we use *oxymorons* all the time. Can you think of any others?