

spar 1 of 5 noun (1)

'spär ㄏ)

Synonyms of *spar* >

- 1 : a stout pole
- 2 **a** : a stout rounded usually wood or metal piece (such as a mast, boom, gaff, or yard) used to support rigging
- b** : any of the main longitudinal members of the wing of an airplane that carry the ribs

spar 2 of 5 verb

sparred; sparring

intransitive verb

- 1 **a** : BOX entry 3
especially : to gesture without landing a blow to draw one's opponent or create an opening
- b** : to engage in a practice or exhibition bout of boxing
- 2 : SKIRMISH, WRANGLE
- 3 : to strike or fight with feet or spurs in the manner of a gamecock

spar 3 of 5 noun (2)

- 1 : a movement of offense or defense in boxing
- 2 : a sparring match or session

spar 4 of 5 noun (3)

: any of various nonmetallic usually cleavable and lustrous minerals

SPAR 5 of 5 noun (4)

'spär ㄏ)

: a member of the women's reserve of the U.S. Coast Guard

Verb

He's been *sparring* with his trainer.

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Verb

The buck, who was described as having two spikes on each antler, was later seen *sparring* with another young buck in the yard, which is common behavior during mating season, per officials.

– Anna Lazarus Caplan, *Peoplemag*, 18 Dec. 2023

And in negotiations down to the final hours, member states were still *sparring* over whether this should include some of their most controversial high-tech surveillance tools.

– Jess Weatherbed, *The Verge*, 13 Dec. 2023

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These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'spar.' Any opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback about these examples.

Etymology**Noun (1)**

Middle English *sparre*; akin to Old English *spere* spear — more at [SPEAR](#)

Verb

Middle English *sparren* to dart, spring

Noun (3)

Low German; akin to Old English *spærstān* gypsum, *spæren* of plaster

Noun (4)

Semper *Paratus*, motto of the U.S. Coast Guard, from New Latin, always ready

First Known Use**Noun (1)**

14th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1

Verb

1537, in the meaning defined at sense 1a

Noun (2)

1814, in the meaning defined at sense 1

Noun (3)

1581, in the meaning defined above

Noun (4)

1942, in the meaning defined above

Time Traveler

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

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spar varnish

Iceland spar

spanworm

spar

SPAR

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Style

"Spar." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/spar>. Accessed 3 Jan. 2024.

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spar 1 of 2 **noun**

1 : a stout pole

2 : a long rounded usually wood or metal piece (as a mast, boom, or yard) to which a sail is fastened

spar 2 of 2 **verb**

sparred; sparring

1 : to box or make boxing movements with the fists for practice or in fun

2 : SKIRMISH entry 2 sense 1

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Verb

Middle English *sparren* "to dart, spring"

Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for *spar*

Nglish: Translation of *spar* for Spanish Speakers

Britannica English: Translation of *spar* for Arabic Speakers

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