Thesaurus

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## Spar 1 of 5 noun (1)

ˈspär **◄**))

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)

(ˈspär**ब**)

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

#### Verb

He's been sparring with his trainer.

Dictionary Thesaurus

#### 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

#### Verh

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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'spär **◄**))

: 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

Dictionary Thesaurus

#### Verb

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Middle English sparren "to dart, spring"

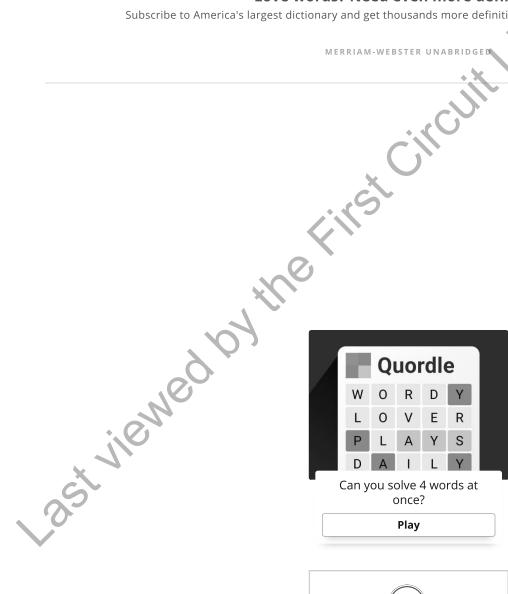
Thesaurus: All synonyms and antonyms for spar Nglish: Translation of spar for Spanish Speakers

Britannica English: Translation of spar for Arabic Speakers

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