The word *brave* has three primary definitions that students may encounter in the texts they read. The underlining commonality of these definitions is courage. Firemen and women are described as brave, as an adjective, as they run into burning buildings because they are courageous. A person who wears a brave, showy purple lipstick to go with a Halloween outfit is also courageous. This use of the word *brave* is also an adjective. However, the word *brave* is used as a verb when describing an army that braves its enemies in battle. The army is also considered courageous.

**Follow-Up**
- Have you ever felt brave? What were you doing and how did you feel?
- How is being showy or making a display different than being heroic?
- How has a character in a story you have read been brave?

**The Spanish Connection**
*Brave* is considered a Middle French word that was adapted from the word *bravo*, meaning gallant in Italian, savage in Spanish, and barbarous in Portuguese. The word *brave* does not have a Spanish cognate.

**Word Changes**
Many dictionaries list *brave* as a noun, meaning a Native American warrior. It is important to recognize that this label emerged with the descriptions of early explorers and developed as colonization and settlement evolved. *Brave* is not what Native American warriors self-identified as. With over 500 tribes and many different nations and languages, the term for a warrior was actually very specific to a tribe, nation, or language. It also perpetuates the idea that all tribes had warriors or fought frequently.
Brave

**COMMON PHRASES**
- Fortune favors the brave
- Be brave

**IDIOMS**
- Put on a brave face

**SPANISH CONNECTIONS**
- to argue / argumentar
- to dispute / disputar
- to debate / debater
- to refute / refutar
- to discuss / discutir

**Brave as in possessing courage (adj)**
- courageous
- valiant
- fearless
- bold
- gutsy
- dauntless
- heroic
- gallant

**Brave as in to face or deal with a challenge (v)**
- face
- confront
- dare
- challenge
- defy
- endure

**Brave as in making a display (adj)**
- showy
- colorful
- impressive
- flashy

---

v.1.0 © 2015 TextProject, Inc. Some rights reserved (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/).
Brave

Brave as in possessing courage (adj)

Brave as in making a display (adj)

Brave as in to face or deal with a challenge (v)

COMMON PHRASES

IDIOMS

SPANISH CONNECTIONS
Brave

Inflected Endings
• braver
• bravest
• braves
• bravely

Derivational Prefixes & Suffixes
• bravery
• braveries
• outbrave

Morphological Family for Brave
Morphological Family for Brave

Inflected Endings

Derivational Prefixes & Suffixes