

Why is a lasting peace hard to achieve?

Key Concepts:

Ceasefire: A temporary agreement between warring parties to stop fighting; it pauses violence but does not resolve the underlying conflict.

Mediator / Broker: A third party that facilitates negotiations between two sides who may not be willing or able to talk directly to each other.

The United States and Iran have been at war since February 2026. The US and Israel attacked Iran with bombs and missiles. Iran fought back and blocked a very important waterway called the Strait of Hormuz. Ships carrying oil and gas normally pass through this narrow stretch of water. When Iran blocked it, fuel prices went up around the world.



On April 7, 2026, both sides agreed to stop fighting for two weeks. This is called a ceasefire. It does not mean the war is over. It just means both sides agreed to pause.

A country called Pakistan helped make this happen. Pakistan is a neighbor of Iran and has good relationships with the United States too. Pakistan's leader, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, worked very hard to

convince both sides to agree. He called the US and Iran and said: give peace a chance for two weeks. Both sides said yes.

Iran agreed to let ships use the Strait of Hormuz again. The US agreed to stop bombing Iran. Both sides will meet in Pakistan's capital city, Islamabad, to try to work out a bigger peace deal.

But this is just the beginning. The US wants Iran to promise it will not build nuclear weapons. Iran wants the US to remove its economic penalties, called sanctions. These disagreements are hard to solve. That is why turning a ceasefire into lasting peace is so difficult - both sides want different things, and trust is very low after weeks of fighting.

Comprehension Questions

1. What started the war in February, 2026?
2. What is the Strait of Hormuz, and why does blocking it affect countries far away from the conflict?
3. What did Pakistan do to help stop the fighting?
4. What does the US want Iran to do as part of a peace deal?
5. What does Iran want from the US in return?

Thinking Questions

1. Why do you think both sides agreed to the ceasefire even though the bigger problems haven't been solved?
2. If you were Pakistan's leader, what would be the hardest part of trying to get both sides to agree?
3. Do you think a two-week pause is long enough to solve these problems? Why or why not?
4. Who do you think has more power in this situation — the US or Iran? What evidence supports your answer?
5. What might happen if the Islamabad Talks fail and the fighting starts again?

