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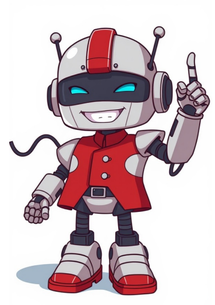

chief in size, extent, or importance; principal; leading.the company's main office;the main features of a plan.Synonyms: capital, primary, paramount, prime, cardinalAntonyms: least, secondarysheer; utmost, as strength or force.to lift a stone by main force.Synonyms: unqualified, pureof or relating to a broad expanse.Grammar., syntactically independent; capable of use in isolation.Nautical.of or relating to a mainmast.noting or pertaining to a sail, yard, boom, etc., or to any rigging belonging to a mainmast.noting any stay running aft and upward to the head of a mainmast.Obsolete.having or exerting great strength or force; mighty.having momentous or important results; significant.a principal pipe or duct in a system used to distribute water, gas, etc.physical strength, power, or force.to struggle with might and main.the chief or principal part or point.The main of their investments was lost during the war.Literary., the open ocean; high sea.the mainland.Usually mains a main course in a meal.The restaurant offers four mains: one chicken, two beef, and one fish.South Midland U.S. (chiefly Appalachian)., very; exceedingly.The dogs treed a main big coon.chief or principal in rank, importance, size, etcsheer or utmost (esp in the phrase by main force)nautical of, relating to, or denoting any gear, such as a stay or sail, belonging to the mainmastobsolete, significant or important“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012a principal pipe, conduit, duct, or line in a system used to distribute water, electricity, etc(plural)the main distribution network for water, gas, or electricity(as modifier)the chief or most important part or considerationgreat strength or force (now chiefly in the phrase (with) might and main)literary, the open oceanarchaic, short for Spanish Mainarchaic, short for mainlandon the whole; for the most part“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012a throw of the dice in dice gamesa cockfighting contesta match in archery, boxing, etc“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Origin of main1First recorded before 900; Middle English noun main(e), mayn(e) “strength, power,” Old English mægen, megen, cognate with Old Norse magn, megin, megn “strength”; Middle English adjective main(e), partly from Old Norse megin-, megn “strong,” partly from Old English noun mægen used in compounds, as in mægen-weorc “mighty work”Origin of main2First recorded in 1560–70; origin uncertain; perhaps special use of main 1; compare main chanceOrigin of main1C13: from Old English mægen strengthOrigin of main2Examples are provided to illustrate real-world usage of words in context. Any opinions expressed do not reflect the views of Dictionary.com.Its seized cargo included "Iranian petrochemical products… illegally transported towards Singapore", the Iranian news agency Fars said, adding that "the main person responsible was an Iranian individual or company".The main obstacle is old ice, which has survived at least one summer, sometimes centuries.Read more on The Wall Street Journal“Our main issue is resources. Their advantage isn’t in technology but in scale,” said the head of unmanned systems for Ukraine’s 2nd Corps, who goes by the call sign Volt.Read more on The Wall Street JournalA main stipulation of the peace deal was that the schools re-open.Mr Gannon added the road, which is a main road to Dublin, is "not in great condition".Definitions and idiom definitions from Dictionary.com Unabridged, based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2023Idioms from The American Heritage® Idioms Dictionary copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.MaimonidesMainbocherBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrssttuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC WordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English © 2025main1 /meɪn/USA pronunciation adj. [before a noun] chief in size, extent, or importance:He had the main part in a play. Grammar(in a sentence) of or relating to the clause that can stand by itself; independent:In the sentence I'll see you when I get home, the main clause is I'll see you. n. [countable] Civil Engineeringa principal pipe in a system used to carry and send water, gas, etc. Idioms in the main, most importantly:In the main, she has proposed a very good plan. with might and main, with strength or force. main•ly, adv. : He got rich mainly from government contracts. WordReference Random House Unabridged Dictionary of American English © 2025main1 (mān),USA pronunciation adj. chief in size, extent, or importance; principal; leading:the company's main office; the main features of a plan. sheer; utmost, as strength or force:to lift a stoneby main force. of or pertaining to a broad expanse:main sea. Grammarsyntactically independent; capable of use in isolation. Cf. dependent (def. 4), independent (def. 14), main clause. [Naut.] Nauticalof or pertaining to a mainmast. Nauticalnoting or pertaining to a sail, yard, boom, etc., or to any rigging belonging to a mainmast. Nauticalnoting any stay running aft and upward to the head of a mainmast:main topmast stay. [Obs.] having or exerting great strength or force; mighty. having momentous or important results; significant. n. Civil Engineeringa principal pipe or duct in a system used to distribute water, gas, etc. physical strength, power, or force:to struggle with might and main. the chief or principal part or point:The main of their investments was lost during the war. [Literary.]the open ocean; high sea:the bounding main. the mainland. Idiomsin the main, for the most part; chiefly:In the main, the novel was dull reading. adv. Dialect Terms[South Midland U.S.](chiefly Appalachian). very; exceedingly:The dogs treed a main big coon. v.i., v.t. Old Norse megenn, megn strong, partly independent use of Old English mægen (noun, nominal) taken as an adjective, adjectival in compounds, as in mægen-weorc, literally, work of might bef. 900; (noun, nominal) Middle English meyn, mayn strength, power, Old English mægen, cognate with Old Norse megin(n), megn strength; (adjective, adjectival) Middle English mayn, partly 1. cardinal, prime, paramount, primary, capital. 2. pure, direct. 7. conduit. 8. might. 1. secondary, least. 8. weakness. main2 (mān),USA pronunciation n. 1560–70; perh. special use of main1; compare main chance Main (mān; Ger. mīn),USA pronunciation n. Place Namesa river in central and W Germany, flowing W from the Bohemian Forest in N Bavaria into the Rhine at Mainz. 305 mi. (490 km) long. Collins Concise English Dictionary © HarperCollins Publishers:: main /mem/ adj (prenominal) chief or principal in rank, importance, size, etc sheer or utmost (esp in the phrase by main force) of, relating to, or denoting any gear, such as a stay or sail, belonging to the mainmast n a principal pipe, conduit, duct, or line in a system used to distribute water, electricity, etc (plural) the main distribution network for water, gas, or electricity (as modifier): mains voltage the chief or most important part or consideration great strength or force (now chiefly in the phrase (with) might and main) literary the open ocean archaic short for Spanish Main archaic short for mainlandin the main, for the main = on the whole; for the most partEtymology: 13th Century: from Old English mægen strengthmain /mem/ n a throw of the dice in dice games a cockfighting contest a match in archery, boxing, etcEtymology: 16th Century: of unknown origin Collins Concise English Dictionary © HarperCollins Publishers:: Main /mem; German: main/ n a river in central and W Germany, flowing west through Würzburg and Frankfurt to the Rhine. Length: about 515 km (320 miles) Also found in: Thesaurus, Medical, Legal, Financial, Acronyms, Idioms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. chief: the main person in charge; principal: main reasonNot to be confused with:mane – neck hair of an animal; a person’s long hair: a luxurious maneAbused, Confused, & Misused Words by Mary Embree Copyright © 2007, 2013 by Mary Embree (mān, mīn) A river rising in eastern Germany and flowing about 525 km (325 mi) generally westward to the Rhine River at Mainz. (mān)adj.1. Most important; principal. See Synonyms at chief.2. Exerted to the utmost; sheer: "They took her off the sled by main strength" (Jack London).3. Nautical Connected to or located near the mainmast: a main skysail.4. Obsolete Of or relating to a continuous area or stretch, as of land or water.n.1. The chief or largest part: His ideas are, in the main, impractical.2. The principal pipe or conduit in a system for conveying water, gas, oil, or other utility.3. Physical strength: fought with might and main.6. Nautical 7. The main dish of a meal: "Unsurprisingly, the mains and their house-made condiments were the standouts of a recent meal" (Lindsey Tramuta).American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (meɪn) adj (prenominal) 1. chief or principal in rank, importance, size, etc2. sheer or utmost (esp in the phrase by main force)3. (Nautical Terms) nautical of, relating to, or denoting any gear, such as a stay or sail, belonging to the mainmast4. obsolete significant or importantn5. (Civil Engineering) a principal pipe, conduit, duct, or line in a system used to distribute water, electricity, etc6. (Civil Engineering) (plural) a. the main distribution network for water, gas, or electricityb. (as modifier): mains voltage. 7. the chief or most important part or consideration8. great strength or force (now chiefly in the phrase (with) might and main)9. (Nautical Terms) literary the open ocean10. (Historical Terms) archaic short for Spanish Main11. (Nautical Terms) archaic short for Spanish Main12. (Physical Geography) archaic short for mainland13. in the main for the main on the whole; for the most part[C13: from Old English mægen strength] (mem) n1. (Gambling, except Cards) a throw of the dice in dice games2. (Games, other than specified) a cockfighting contest3. (General Sporting Terms) a match in archery, boxing, etc (mem; German main) n (Placename) a river in central and W Germany, flowing west through Würzburg and Frankfurt to the Rhine. Length: about 515 km (320 miles)Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (mem) adj. 1. chief in size, extent, or importance; principal; leading. 2. syntactically independent. 3. pertaining to or connected to a mainmast or mainsail. 4. sheer; utmost: by main strength. 5. Obs. of or pertaining to a broad expanse: main sea. n. 6. a principal pipe or duct in a system used to distribute water, gas, etc. 7. physical strength or force: might and main. 8. the chief part or point: in the main, a good plan. 9. the open ocean: the bounding main. [before 900; Middle English meyn, strength, power, Old English mægen, derivative of the Germanic v. base *mag- may1;] Main (mem, mam) n. a river in central Germany, flowing W from N Bavaria into the Rhine at Mainz. 305 mi. (490 km) long. Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. Noun1.main - any very large body of (salt) waterbody of water, water - the part of the earth's surface covered with water (such as a river or lake or ocean); "they invaded our territorial waters"; "they were sitting by the water's edge"hydrosphere - the watery layer of the earth's surface; includes water vaporoffing - the part of the sea that can be seen from the shore and is beyond the anchoring area; "there was a ship in the offing"territorial waters - the waters surrounding a nation and its territories over which that nation exercises sovereign jurisdiction2.main - a principal pipe in a system that distributes water or gas or electricity or that collects sewageelectric main - a main that distributes electricitygas main - a main that distributes gasinfrastructure, base - the stock of basic facilities and capital equipment needed for the functioning of a country or area; "the industrial base of Japan"pipage, pipe, piping - a long tube made of metal or plastic that is used to carry water or oil or gas etc.sewer line, sewer main - a main in a sewage systemwater main - main (a pipe or conduit) for conveying waterAdj.1.main - most important element; "the chief aim of living"; "the main doors were of solid glass"; "the principal rivers of America"; "the principal example"; "policemen were primary targets"; "the master bedroom"; "a master switch"chief, master, principal, primaryimportant, of import - of great significance or value; "important people"; "the important questions of the day"2.main - (of a clause) capable of standing syntactically alone as a complete sentence; "the main (or independent) clause in a complex sentence has at least a subject and a verb"grammar - the branch of linguistics that deals with syntax and morphology (and sometimes also deals with semantics)dependent, subordinate - (of a clause) unable to stand alone syntactically as a complete sentence; "a subordinate (or dependent) clause functions as a noun or adjective or adverb within a sentence"3.main - of force; of the greatest possible intensity; "by main strength"intense - possessing or displaying a distinctive feature to a heightened degree; "intense heat"; "intense anxiety"; "intense desire"; "intense emotion"; "the skunk's intense acrid odor"; "intense pain"; "enemy fire was intense"Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.adjective1. chief, leading, major, prime, head, special, central, particular, necessary, essential, premier, primary, vital, critical, crucial, supreme, outstanding, principal, cardinal, paramount, foremost, predominant, pre-eminent My main concern now is to protect the children. chief least, minor, secondary, dependent, lesser, subordinate, trivial, insignificant, unimportant, auxiliary2. sheer, direct, entire, pure, mere, absolute, utter, utmost, downright, brute, undisguised She had to be held back by main force.Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002adjectiveMost important, influential, or significant:capital, cardinal, chief, first, foremost, key, leading, major, number one, paramount, premier, primary, prime, principal, top. The American Heritage® Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright © 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. الرَّئيسيرَئيسي أساسيالخط الرَّئيسيالحنالهاvlavníhlavní vedení/potrubíhoved-hovedledningvigtigsteHaupt-HauptleitunghauptsächlichMainHaupt-...principaltubería principalcañería principalcapitalcentralpää-pääasiallinenpääjohtovaltaisolaikrodžio spyruoklėmagistralėpagrindinė linijavyraujantis kryptis/tendencijažemynasbelangrijkstbelangrijkstehoofd-hoofdzakelijkhoofdzakelijkehuvud-huvudsakligallmängenerell [mem]B. N2. (liter) the main (= open sea) → la mar océanathe Spanish Main → el Mar CaribeColins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005Collins English/French Electronic Resource. © HarperCollins Publishers 2005Collins German Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005. © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007Collins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition © HarperCollins Publishers 1995 (mein) adjective chief, principal or most important. the main purpose; the main character in the story. hoof رَئيسي главен principal hlavní Haupt-... hoved- κύριος, κυριότερος principal pea- اصلي pää- principal עיקרי ,,,,,,, ,,,, ,,,,,,, glavni fő utama aðal-, megin- principale 主な , 가 pagrindinis, svarbiausias galvenais utama hoofd-hoved-główny, przeważnie اصلي,مهم principal principal основной, главный hlavný glaven glavni huvudsaklig, viktigast, huvud- ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, temel, ana 主要的 головний م.ل chính; quan trọng nhất 主要 noun (also mains) the chief pipe or cable in a branching system of pipes or cables. The water's been turned off at the main(s); (also adjective) the mains electricity supply. hoofpyp, hoofkabel الخط الرَّئيسي главна тръба duto principal hlavní vedení/potrubí die Hauptleitung; Haupt-... hovedledning; hoved- κεντρικός αγωγός, κεντρική παροχή conducto principal, tubería principal, cañería principal peajuhe, magistraaltoru شاه لوله pääsyöttö conduite maîtresse ציור כאשי, כבל ראשי ,,,,,, glavni vod fővezeték; hálózat induk aðalæð tubatura principale 本管 , 가) pagrindinė linija, magistralė magistrāle induk hoofdleiding hovedledning magistrala, sieć اصلي ل لكه fonte coloană/conductă principală магистрал hlavné vedenie / potrubie glavni vod napeljave glavni vod huvudledning ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, ş 線 магистрал اتصال کا مرکز پانی , بجلی وغیرہ ống đường trục chính; mạng lưới chính 干线 mainly adverb more (of) the thing mentioned than anything else; mostly or largely. This skirt is mainly dark grey. hoofsaaklik پصورۂ رَئيسيہ предимно principalmente převážně hauptsächlich mest; overvejende κυρίως, κατεξοχήν principalmente, sobre todo, en su mayoría peamiselt بیشتر: اساسا pääasiassa principa poglavito, uglavnom tõbbnyire, főleg terutama aõallega principalmente 主に , daugiausia, iš esmės galvenokart terutama voornamelijk hovedsakelig, først og fremst, overveiendegłównie اساسي,مهم principalmente in special, in cea mai mare parte в основном; главным образом prevažne v glavnem uglavnom huvudsakligen, mest, till största delen ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, başlıca, daha çok 主要地 головни чином; здебільшого شاه طور پر مں چاہئے چاہئے چاہئے