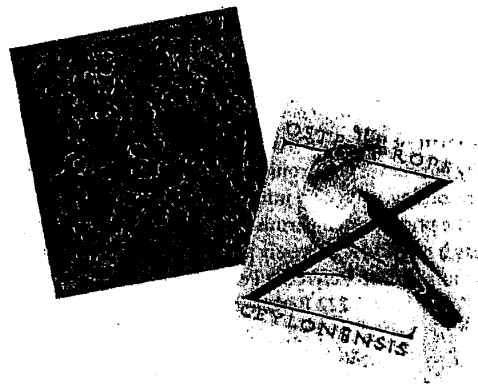


The
**American
Heritage® Dictionary**
of the English Language

FOURTH EDITION



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post office and delivered to the addressee by the postal service.
mailing (mā'ling) *n.* 1. Something sent by mail. 2. A batch of mail sent at one time by a sender.
maillol (mā-yōl'), Aristide 1861-1944. French sculptor noted for classically influenced statues of female nudes.
maillet (mā-yō') *n.* 1. A coarsely knitted, stretchable jersey fabric. 2. A pair of rights or a leotard of such fabric, worn for ballet or gymnastics. 3. A woman's one-piece swimsuit usually cut high on the leg.
maille (mā'lē) *n.* Old French, swaddling clothes, from *malle*, mesh, from *malla*.
mailman (mā'l'mān', -mən) *n.* A man who carries and delivers mail.
mailman (mā'l'mān').
mail order *n.* An order for goods to be shipped through the mail.
mail order (mā'l'ōr'dər) *adj.*
mail room (mā'l'rōom', -rōom') *n.* A room in which ingoing and outgoing mail is handled for a company or other organization.
maim (mām) *tr.v.* maimed, maim'ing, maims 1. To disable or disfigure by depriving of the use of a limb or other part of the body. 2. To make imperfect or defective; impair.
maim (mām) *n.* English *maimen*, from Old French *mahaigrier*. See MAYHEM.
maim (mām) *n.*
main (mān) *n.* 1. Most important; principal. See synonyms at chief. 2. To the utmost; sheer: *by main strength*. 3. Nautical Connected with the mainmast: *a main skysail*. 4. Grammar Of, relating to the principal clause or verb of a complex sentence. 5. Obs. 6. Of, relating to a continuous area or stretch, as of land or water. 7. The chief or largest part: *His ideas are, in the main, impractical*. 8. Principal pipe or conduit in a system for conveying water, gas, oil, or utility. 9. Physical strength: *fought with might and main*. 10. A mainmast. 11. The open ocean. 12. Nautical a. A mainsail. b. A mainmast.
main (mān) *n.* English, from Old English *mægen*, strength. See magh- in Appendix I.
main (mān, mīn) A river rising in eastern Germany and flowing about 110 mi) generally westward to the Rhine River at Mainz.
main chance *n.* One's most advantageous opportunity.
main clause *n.* A clause in a complex sentence that contains at least one verb and can stand alone syntactically as a complete sentence. Also called *independent clause*.
main deck *n.* The principal deck of a large ship or vessel.
main drag *n.* Slang The principal street of a city or town.
Maine (mān) *abbr.* ME or Me. 1. (also mēn) A historical region and province of northwest France south of Normandy. United with England in 1126, it passed to England when Henry Plantagenet became king in 1154. Maine reverted to the French crown in 1481. 2. A state of the northeast United States. It was admitted as the 23rd state in 1820. 3. Explored by Europeans in 1602, the region was annexed by Massachusetts in 1652. Maine's northern boundary with New Brunswick was established by a treaty with Great Britain in 1842. Augusta is the capital and the largest city. Population: 1,233,223.
maine coon *n.* A large long-haired cat of a breed native to North America, having a bushy tapered tail and often a full ruff. [From its similarity to a raccoon.]
mainframe (mān'frām') *n.* 1. A large powerful computer, often consisting of many connected terminals and usually used by large complex organizations. 2. The central processing unit of a computer exclusive of peripheral and remote devices.
Mainland (mān'lānd', -lənd) *n.* The principal landmass of a continent. —*mainland'er n.*
Mainland Island (mān'lānd) also *Pomona* (pō-mō'nə) The largest of the Orkney Islands off the northern coast of Scotland. It is noted for its numerous Pictish remains including mounds, underground dwellings, and standing stones.
mainline (mān'līn') *v.* -lined, -lin'ing, -lines *Slang* —*tr.* To inject a drug, such as heroin, directly into a major vein. —*intr.* To inject a drug intravenously. *adj.* Being in a principal or well-established position: *the mainline churches*. —*mainlīn'er n.*
main line *n.* 1. A principal section of a railroad line. 2. *Slang* A principal and easily accessible vein, usually in the arm or leg, into which a drug can be injected.
Main Line (mān'līn') A group of suburbs of southeast Pennsylvania. The Main Line area was named after the chief railroad line traveling west from Philadelphia.
mainly (mān'lē) *adv.* For the most part; chiefly.
main man *Informal n.* 1a. A man who is important or influential in a group's life. b. One's best male friend. 2. One's primary male lover.
mainmast (mān'māst', -māst') *n.* 1. The principal mast of a sailing vessel. 2. The taller mast, whether forward or aft, of a two-masted sailing vessel. 3. The second mast aft of a sailing ship with three or more masts.
main royal mast *n.* The section of the mainmast of a square-rigged vessel above the main topgallantmast.
main sail (mān'sā', -sā'l') *n.* 1. The principal sail of a vessel. 2. A triangular or quadrilateral sail set from the after part of the mainmast on a square-rigged vessel. 3. A square sail set from the main yard on a square-rigged vessel.
main (mān) *n.* 1. The principal street of a small town. 2. *Main Street* *a.* The inhabitants of small towns considered as a group. *b.* A place that represents narrowness of view and smug complacency. [Sense 2, after *Main Street*, a novel by Sinclair Lewis.]
maintain (mān'tān') *tr.v.* -tained, -tain'ing, -tains 1. To keep up or carry on; continue: *maintain good relations*. 2. To keep in an existing state; preserve or retain: *maintain one's composure*. 3. To keep in a condition of good repair or efficiency: *maintain two cars*. 4a. To provide for; support: *maintain a family*. b. To keep in existence; sustain: *enough food to maintain life*. 5. To defend or hold against criticism or attack: *maintained his stand on taxes*. 6. To declare to be true; affirm: *maintained her innocence*. 7. To adhere to or conform to; keep: *maintain a busy schedule*. [Middle English *maintainen*, from Old French *maintenir*, from Medieval Latin *manutenēre*, from Latin *manū* *tenēre*, to hold in the hand: *manū*, ablative of *manus*, hand; see *man-* in Appendix I + *tenēre*, to hold; see *ten-* in Appendix I.] —*main'tain'a•bil'ity n.* —*main'tain'a•ble adj.* —*main'tain'er n.*
maintenances (mān'tā-nəns) *n.* 1. The act of maintaining or the state of being maintained. 2. The work of keeping something in proper condition; upkeep. 3a. Provision of support or livelihood: *took over the maintenance of her family*. b. Means of support or livelihood: *was ordered to pay maintenance for both children*. 4. *Law* The unlawful meddling in a suit by providing either party with the means to carry it on. [Middle English *maintenaunce*, from Old French *maintenance*, from *maintenir*, to maintain. See MAINTAIN.]
Mainstemon (mān'tā-nōn', mānt-nōn'), Marquise de Title of Françoise d'Aubigné. 1635-1719. French consort of Louis XIV. The widow of French writer Paul Scarron, she secretly married the king (c. 1685) after the death of his first wife.
main top (mān'tōp') *n.* A platform at the head of the mainmast on a square-rigged vessel.
main topgallant *n.* A sail or yard set from the topgallant section of a mainmast.
main topgallant mast (tā-gāl'ənt-māst, tōp-) *n.* The section of the mainmast next above the main topmast on a square-rigged sailing vessel.
main topmast *n.* The section of the mainmast on a square-rigged sailing vessel between the lower mast and the main topgallantmast.
main topsail *n.* The sail that is set above the mainsail.
main yard *n.* The lower yard on a mainmast.
Mainz (mīnz) A city of west-central Germany at the confluence of the Rhine and Main rivers west-southwest of Frankfurt. Built on the site of a Roman camp founded in the 1st century B.C., it is an important industrial and commercial city. Johann Gutenberg established a printing industry here in the 15th century. Population: 185,487.
maisonnette (mā'zā-nēt', -sā-) *n.* Chiefly *British* 1. A small house. 2. An apartment occupying two or more floors of a larger building and often having its own entrance from outside. [French *maisonnette*, diminutive of *maison*, house, dwelling, from Old French, from Latin *mānsiō*, *mānsiōn-*. See MANSION.]
mai tai (mā' tī') *n., pl. mai tais* A cocktail made with rum, curaçao, and fruit juices. [Tahitian *maiat*, good.]
maître d' (mā'trō dē', mā'tr) *n., pl. maître d's* (dēz') *Informal* A maître d'hôtel.
maître d'hôtel (mā'trō dō-tēl') *n., pl. maîtres d'hôtel* (mā'trō dō-tēl') 1. A headwaiter. 2. A major-domo. 3. A sauce of melted butter, chopped parsley, lemon juice, salt, and pepper. [French *maître d'hôtel*: *maître*, master + *de*, of + *hôtel*, house.]
maize (māz) *n.* 1. See *corn* (sense 1). 2. A light yellow to moderate orange yellow. [Spanish *maiz*, from Arawakan *mahiz*, *mahits*.] —*maize adj.*
maize mushroom *n.* See *cuilacoche*.
Maj. or **Maj** or **MAJ** *abbr.* major
ma-jes-tic (mā-jēs'tik) also *ma-jes-ti-cal* (-tī-kəl) *adj.* Having or showing lofty dignity or nobility; stately. See synonyms at *grand*. —*ma-jes-ti-cal'y adv.*
ma-jes-ty (mā-jēs'tē) *n., pl. -ties* 1a. The greatness and dignity of



Moses Maimonides

a pay	oi boy
a pet	ou out
ar care	ōb took
a father	ōb boot
at cut	tī cut
ē be	ōr urge
ē pit	zh thin
i pie	rē this
tr pter	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about, item
ō paw	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: / (primary); ' (secondary), as in dictionary (dīk'shə-nēr'ē)