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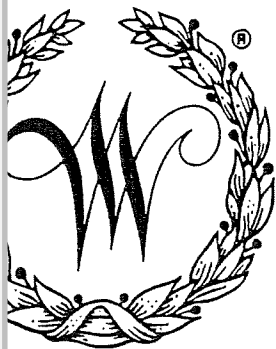
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Merriam- Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

TENTH EDITION



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plies the loss or serious impairment of an arm or leg (<crippled for life in an accident>). **MUTILATE** implies the cutting off or removal of an essential part of a person or thing thereby impairing its completeness, beauty, or function (<a tree mutilated by inept pruning>). **BATTER** implies a series of blows that bruise deeply, deform, or mutilate (<an old ship battered by fierce storms>). **MANGLE** implies a tearing or crushing that leaves deep extensive wounds (<a soldier's leg mangled by shrapnel>).

1 **main** *n* (14c) **1 obs** : serious physical injury; *esp* : loss of a member of the body **2 obs** : a serious loss

1 **main** \ˈmān\ *n* [in sense 1, fr. ME, fr. OE *māgen*; akin to OHG *magan* strength, OE *magan* to be able; in other senses, fr. ²*main* or by shortening — more at **MAY**] (bef. 12c) **1** : physical strength : FORCE — used in the phrase with *might and main* **2 a** : MAINLAND **b** : HIGH SEA **3** : the chief part : essential point (<they are in the ~ well-trained>) **4** : a pipe, duct, or circuit which carries the combined flow of tributary branches of a utility system **5 a** : MAINMAST **b** : MAINSAIL

2 **main** *adj* [ME, fr. OE *māgen*, fr. *māgen* strength] (15c) **1** : CHIEF, PRINCIPAL (<the ~ idea>) **2** : fully exerted : SHEER (<~ force>) (<by ~ strength>) **3 obs** : of or relating to a broad expanse (as of sea) **4** : connected with or located near the mainmast or mainsail **5** : expressing the chief predication in a complex sentence (<the ~ clause>)

main chance *n* (1584) : the best chance for personal or financial gain (<kept an eye on the *main chance*>)

Maine coon *n* (1935) : any of a breed of large long-haired domestic cats that have a very full tapered tail — called also *coon cat*, *Maine cat*

main-frame \ˈmān-ˌfrām\ *n* (ca. 1964) : a computer with its cabinet and internal circuits; *also* : a large fast computer that can handle multiple tasks concurrently

main-land \ˈmān-ˌlænd, -lənd\ *n* (14c) : a continent or the main part of a continent as distinguished from an offshore island or sometimes from a cape or peninsula — **main-land-er** \-ˌlænd-ˌdər, -lən-\ *n*

1 **main-line** \ˈmān-ˌlīn\ *vt* (1938) *slang* : to take by or as if by into a principal vein ~ *vi*, *slang* : to mainline a narcotic drug

2 **mainline** *adj* (1941) : being part of an established group; *also* : being in the mainstream

main line *n* (1841) **1** : a principal highway or railroad line **2 slang** : a principal vein of the circulatory system

main-ly \ˈmān-ˌlē\ *adv* (13c) **1 obs** : in a forceful manner **2** : for the most part : CHIEFLY

main man *n* (1967) **1** : best male friend **2** : a man whose character or work is most admired **3** : the most reliable or effective performer

main-mast \ˈmān-ˌmɑːst, -məst\ *n* (15c) : a sailing ship's principal mast usu. second from the bow

mains \ˈmānz\ *adj* (ca. 1927) *Brit* : of or relating to utility distribution mains (<~ voltage>) (<~ water>)

main-sail \ˈmān-ˌsāl, ˈmān(t)-ˌsəl\ *n* (15c) : the principal sail on the mainmast — see **SAIL** illustration

main sequence *n* (1925) : the group of stars that on a graph of spectrum versus luminosity forms a band comprising 90% of stellar types and that includes stars believed to be representative of the stages a normal star passes through for the majority of its lifetime

main-sheet \ˈmān-ˌshēt\ *n* (15c) : a rope by which the mainsail is trimmed and secured

main-spring \ˈmān-ˌsprɪŋ\ *n* (1591) **1** : the chief spring in a mechanism esp. of a watch or clock **2** : the chief or most powerful motive, agent, or cause

main squeeze *n* (ca. 1968) *slang* : one's principal romantic partner

main-stay \ˈmān-ˌstā\ *n* (15c) **1** : a ship's stay extending from the main-top forward usu. to the foot of the foremast **2** : a chief support

main stem *n* (1832) : a main trunk or channel; as **a** : the main course of a river or stream **b** : the main street of a city or town

1 **main-stream** \ˈmān-ˌstrēm\ *n* (1831) : a prevailing current or direction of activity or influence — **mainstream** *adj*

2 **main-stream** \ˈmān-ˌstrēm\ *vt* (1974) : to place (as a handicapped child) in regular school classes

Main Street *n* (ca. 1743) **1** : the principal street of a small town **2 a** : the sections of a country centering about its small towns **b** : a place or environment characterized by materialistic self-complacent provincialism **c** : MIDDLE AMERICA **3** — **Main Street-er** \ˈmān-ˌstrēt-ər\ *n*

main-tain \ˈmān-ˌtān, mən-\ *vt* [ME *maintenēre*, fr. OF *maintenir*, fr. ML *manutenēre*, fr. L *manu tenēre* to hold in the hand] (14c) **1** : to keep in an existing state (as of repair, efficiency, or validity) : preserve from failure or decline (<~ machinery>) **2** : to sustain against opposition or

main-top-mast \ˈmān-ˌtɑːp-ˌmɑːst, -məst\ *n* (15c) : a mast next above the mainmast

main yard *n* (15c) : the yard of a mainsail

mair \ˈmār\ *chiefly Scot var* of **MORE**

maison-ette \ˈmā-zə-ˌn-ˌet, -sə-ˌn-\ *n* [F *maisonnette*, fr. OF, dim. of *maison* house, fr. L *mansion*-, *mansio* dwelling place — more at **MANSSION**] (1793) **1** : a small house **2** : an apartment often on two floors

maître d' or **maître d'** \ˈmā-trə-ˌdē, ˌme-, -tər-\ *n*, *pl* **maîtres d'** or **maîtres d'** \-ˌdēz\ (1950) : MAÎTRE D'HÔTEL

maître d'hôtel \ˈmā-trə-ˌ(d)ō-ˌtel, ˌme-, ˌmāt-dō-, ˌmet-\ *n*, *pl* **maîtres d'hôtel** \ˈsɑːm\ [F, lit., master of house] (1538) **1 a** : MAJORDOMO **b** : HEADWAITER **2** : a sauce of butter, parsley, salt, pepper, and lemon juice — called also *maître d'hôtel butter*

maize \ˈmāz\ *n* [Sp *maíz*, fr. Taino *mahiz*] (1555) : INDIAN CORN

ma-jes-tic \mə-ˈjes-tik\ *adj* (1601) : having or exhibiting majesty : STATELY *syn* see **GRAND** — **ma-jes-ti-cal-ly** \-ti-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

ma-jes-ty \mə-jə-ˌstē\ *n*, *pl* **-ties** [ME *maieste*, fr. MF *majesté*, fr. L *majestat*-, *majestas*; akin to L *major* greater] (14c) **1** : sovereign power, authority, or dignity **2** — used in addressing or referring to reigning sovereigns and their consorts (<Your Majesty>) (<Her Majesty's Government>) **3 a** : royal bearing or aspect : GRANDEUR **b** : greatness or splendor of quality or character

ma-jol-i-ca \mə-ˈjā-li-kə\ *also* **ma-iol-i-ca** \-ˈyā-\ *n* [It *maiolica*, fr. Olt *Maiolica*, *Maiorica* Majorca] (1555) **1** : earthenware covered with an opaque tin glaze and decorated on the glaze before firing; *esp* : an Italian ware of this kind **2** : a 19th century earthenware modeled in naturalistic shapes and glazed in lively colors

1 **ma-jor** \ˈmā-jər\ *adj* [ME *maiour*, fr. L *major*, compar. of *magnus* great, large — more at **MUCH**] (15c) **1** : greater in dignity, rank, importance, or interest (<one of the ~ poets>) **2** : greater in number, quantity, or extent (<the ~ part of his work>) **3** : having attained majority **4** : notable or conspicuous in effect or scope : CONSIDERABLE (<a ~ improvement>) **5** : involving grave risk : SERIOUS (<a ~ illness>) **6** : of or relating to a subject of academic study chosen as a field of specialization **7 a** : having half steps between the third and fourth and the seventh and eighth degrees (<~ scale>) **b** : based on a major scale (<~ key>) **c** : equivalent to the distance between the keynote and another tone (except the fourth and fifth) of a major scale (<~ third>) **d** : having a major third above the root (<~ triad>)

2 **major** *n* (1616) **1** : a person who has attained majority **2 a** : one that is superior in rank, importance, size, or performance (<economic power of the oil ~s>) **b** : a major musical interval, scale, key, or mode **3** : a commissioned officer in the army, air force, or marine corps ranking above a captain and below a lieutenant colonel **4 a** : an academic subject chosen as a field of specialization **b** : a student specializing in such a field (<a history ~>) **5 pl** : major league baseball — used with *the*

3 **major vi** (1913) : to pursue an academic major

major axis *n* (1854) : the axis passing through the foci of an ellipse

ma-jor-do-mo \mə-ˈjər-ˌdō-(j)mō\ *n*, *pl* **-mos** [Sp *mayordomo* or obs. It *maior-domo*, fr. ML *major domus*, lit., chief of the house] (1589) **1** : a head steward of a large household (as a palace) **2** : BUTLER, STEWARD **3** : a person who speaks, makes arrangements, or takes charge for another

ma-jor-ette \mə-ˈjə-ˌret\ *n* (1940) : DRUM MAJORETTE **2**

major general *n* [F *major général*, fr. *major*, *n.* + *général*, *adj.*, general] (1642) : a commissioned officer in the army, air force, or marine corps who ranks above a brigadier general and whose insignia is two stars

major histocompatibility complex *n* (1975) : a group of genes in mammals that function esp. in determining the histocompatibility antigens found on cell surfaces

ma-jor-i-tar-i-an \mə-ˈjör-ə-ˌtər-ē-ən, -jār-\ *n* (1942) : a person who believes in or advocates majoritarianism — **majoritarian** *adj*

ma-jor-i-tar-i-an-ism \-ē-ə-ˌni-zəm\ *n* (1942) : the philosophy or practice according to which decisions of an organized group should be made by a numerical majority of its members

ma-jor-i-ty \mə-ˈjör-ə-tē, -jār-\ *n*, *pl* **-ties** (1552) **1 obs** : the quality or state of being greater **2 a** : the age at which full civil rights are accorded **b** : the status of one who has attained this age **3 a** : a number greater than half of a total **b** : the excess of a majority over the remainder of the total : MARGIN **c** : the preponderant quantity or share **4** : the group or political party whose votes preponderate **5** : the military office, rank, or commission of a major — **majority** *adj*

majority leader *n* (1952) : a leader of the majority party in a legislative body (as the U.S. Senate)

majority rule *n* (1893) : a political principle providing that a majority usu. constituted by fifty percent plus one of an organized group will have the power to make decisions binding upon the whole

major league *n* (1891) **1** : a league of highest classification in U.S. professional baseball; *broadly* : a league of major importance in any of various sports **2** : BIG TIME **2** — **major-league** *adj*



Maine coon