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Meaning of *maintain* in English

maintain

verb [T]

US /meɪn'teɪn/

maintain verb [T] (CONTINUE TO HAVE)

to continue to have; to keep in existence, or not allow to become less:

- *Despite living in different states, the two families have maintained a close friendship.*
- *You have to maintain a minimum balance in your checking account.*

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 Learn the words you need to communicate with confidence.

maintain verb [T] (PRESERVE)

to keep something in good condition:

- *A large house costs a lot to maintain.*

maintain verb [T] (EXPRESS)

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- [+ (that) clause] *She maintains (that) she's being criticized simply for telling the truth.*

(Definition of **maintain** from the [Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary](#) © Cambridge University Press)

maintain | ENGLISH

maintain

verb [T]

UK /meɪn'teɪn/ US /meɪn'teɪn/

maintain verb [T] (CONTINUE TO HAVE)



B2

to continue to have; to keep in existence, or not allow to become less:

- *The army has been brought in to maintain **order** in the region.*
- *We have **standards** to maintain.*
- *Despite living in different countries, the two families have maintained close **links**.*
- *The film has maintained its position as the critics' favourite for another year.*

More examples

- *With an election approaching, the prime minister is keen to maintain his popularity.*
- *The Queen has maintained political neutrality throughout her reign.*
- *Security during the president's visit must be maintained at all costs.*

- *The United Nations has maintained a presence in the region for some time.*

▢ **Thesaurus: synonyms and related words**

maintain *verb* [T] (KEEP IN GOOD CONDITION)



B2

to keep a road, machine, building, etc. in good condition:

- *A large house costs a lot to maintain.*
- *The roads in the town have been very poorly maintained.*

▢ **Thesaurus: synonyms and related words**

maintain *verb* [T] (EXPRESS)



C2

to express firmly your belief that something is true:

- *Throughout his prison sentence, Dunn has always maintained his **innocence**.*
- [+ that] *He maintains **that** he has never seen the woman before.*

▢ **More examples**

▢ **Thesaurus: synonyms and related words**

maintain *verb* [T] (PROVIDE)

to provide someone with food and whatever is necessary for them to live on:

- *They barely earn enough to maintain themselves and their four children.*

▢ **Thesaurus: synonyms and related words**

(Definition of **maintain** from the **Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus** © Cambridge University Press)

maintain | BUSINESS ENGLISH

maintain

verb [T]

UK ▢ /meɪn'teɪn/ US ▢

to make something continue in the same way or at the same level:

- *Maintaining a company's brand and reputation requires a lot of hard work.*
- *Charities need only give 5% of proceeds each year to maintain a tax exemption.*
- *We have been able to maintain prices for our customers at their current level.*
- *The college has maintained links with similar institutions in other parts of the country.*

to keep a building, machine, road, etc. in good condition by checking it regularly and repairing it if necessary:

- *The premises are clean and **well maintained**.*
- *Communication is made difficult by the **poorly maintained** road network.*
- *The commission operates and maintains 20 river bridges.*

FINANCE

something that you already own:

- *More and more people are struggling to afford the cost of maintaining a home.*

to say firmly that something is true:

- **maintain (that)** *Senior accountants at the firm maintained they knew nothing of the transactions.*

(Definition of **maintain** from the [Cambridge Business English Dictionary](#) © Cambridge University Press)

EXAMPLES of **maintain**

maintain

Tearless crying is about maintaining balance in the actual situation, to protect oneself and others by covering any observable emotions.

From [Cambridge English Corpus](#)



With respect to public debt, we assume that the government maintains an exogenously fixed ratio of debt to output.

From [Cambridge English Corpus](#)



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More examples