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English Wikipedia has an article on:Wikipedia (UK) IPA(key): /mɪn/(US) IPA(key): /mɪn/Rhymes: -ɪn From Middle English mening, menyng, equivalent to mean + -ing. Cognate with Scots mening (intent, purpose, sense, meaning), West Frisian miening (opinion, mind), Dutch mening (view, opinion, judgement), German Meinung (opinion, view, mind, idea), Danish and Swedish mening (meaning, sense, sentence, opinion), Icelandic meining (meaning). meaning (countable and uncountable, plural meanings)(of words, expressions or symbols)The denotation, referent, or idea connected with a word, expression, or symbol.1907 August, Robert W(illiam) Chambers, chapter VIII, in The Younger Set, New York, N.Y.: D. Appleton & Company, OCLC:Elbows almost touching they leaned at ease, idly reading the almost obliterated lines engraved there. "I never understood it," she observed, lightly scornful. "What occult meaning has a sun-dial for the spoonee? I'm sure I don't want to read riddles in a strange gentleman's optics."The connotation associated with a word, expression, or symbol.The purpose, value, or significance (of something) beyond the fact of that thing's existence.The number of persons attending the vigil had a lot of meaning to the families.(of a person's actions) Intention.c. 1610?, Walter Raleigh, A Discourse of War:It was their meaning to take what they needed by strong hand.1859, Charles Dickens, The Haunted House[.] there was nothing in the house, what there was, was broken, the last people must have lived like pigs, what could the meaning of the landlord be? (denotation of words etc.): acceptance, definition, parsing, sense(connotation of words etc.): flavor, implication, import, insinuation, tone(something beyond a thing's existence); purpose, significance(of a person's actions): goal, aim, plan, intent The terms below need to be checked and allocated to the definitions (senses) of the headword above. Each term should appear in the sense for which it is appropriate. For synonyms and antonyms you may use the templates {{syn|en|...}} or {{ant|en|...}}. From mean + -ing, meaning meaning (comparative more meaning, superlative most meaning)Having a (specified) intention.Well/ill meaning.Expressing some intention or significance; meaningful.1839, Edgar Allan Poe, William Wilson:I might, to-day, have been a better, and thus a happier man, had I less frequently rejected the counsels embodied in those meaning whispers which I then but too cordially hated and too bitterly despised.1907, Barbara Baynton, edited by Sally Krimmer and Alan Lawson, Human Toll (Portable Australian Authors: Barbara Baynton), St Lucia: University of Queensland Press, published 1980, page 243:There was a meaning pause, broken by old Stein again clapping his hands.1978, Jane Gardam, God on the Rocks, Abacus, published 2014, page 160:[T]he new friends [] knew nothing and did not particularly care to hear about the beautiful mother with her long, meaning looks and liquid dresses and distant smile. meaning, in OneLook Dictionary Search. Look up meaning in Wiktionary, the free dictionary.Meaning most commonly refers to meaning (linguistics), meaning which is communicated through the use of languageMeaning (non-linguistic), a general term of art to capture senses of the word "meaning", independent from its linguistic usesMeaning (philosophy), definition, elements, and types of meaning discussed in philosophyThe meaning of life, the significance, purpose, or worth of human existenceMeaning may also refer to:Meaning (psychology), epistemological position, in psychology as well as philosophy, linguistics, semiotics and sociologyMeaning (semiotics), the distribution of signs in sign relationsMeaning (existential), the meaning of life in contemporary existentialismMeaning, the product of a process of a meaning-makingMeaning, "the individual's sense of understanding events in which he is engaged", described in Social alienation MeaninglessnessMeanings (album), a 2004 album by Gad Elbaz"Meaning" (House), a 2006 episode of the TV series HouseMeaning (music), the philosophical question of meaning in relation to music"Meaning", a 2007 song by Gavin DeGraw from Chariot "The Meaning", a song on Discipline (Janet Jackson album) (2008)The Meaning (album), a 2011 album by Layzie BoneWikiquote has quotations related to Meaning.ContronymHermeneutics, the theory of text interpretationImportance, a property of entities that matter or make a differenceLinguistics, the scientific study of languageLogotherapy, psychotherapy based on an existential analysisSemantics, the study of meaningMeaningless (disambiguation)All pages with titles containing MeaningTopics referred to by the same termThis disambiguation page lists articles associated with the title Meaning.If an internal link led you here, you may wish to change the link to point directly to the intended article.Retrieved from " noun jump to other results [uncountable, countable] the things or ideas that somebody wishes to communicate to you by what they say or doIt is important to make your meaning clear.I don't quite get your meaning (= understand what you mean to say).What's the meaning of this? I explicitly told you not to leave the room.Extra ExamplesI think you misunderstood my meaning.I'm sure there's no hidden meaning in what he says.She assigns a meaning to his words they just didn't have.Oxford Collocations Dictionaryadjectiveverb + meaningprepositionin a/the meaningwith a/the meaningmeaningbehindphrasesa nuance of meanings shade of meaningSee full entry [uncountable] the quality or sense of purpose that makes you feel that your life is valuableHer life seemed to have lost all meaning.Having a child gave new meaning to their lives.Extra ExamplesFalling in love gave meaning to his life.He found spiritual meaning through religion.Her work no longer had any meaning for her.She's searching for the deeper meaning of life.Young people can feel that life is without meaning.Oxford Collocations Dictionaryadjectiveverb + meaningprepositionSee full entry Word Originate Middle English: verbal noun from mean (verb) See meaning in the Oxford Advanced American DictionarySee meaning in the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English WordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English 2025meaning/min/USA pronunciation n. what is intended to be or is expressed: [countable]Most meanings of a word are given in the dictionary.(uncountable)Did you understand the meaning of that play? the end, purpose, or significance of something:[uncountable]His life no longer had meaning after his children died. meaningless, adj. WordReference Random House Unabridged Dictionary of American English 2025meaning (mning),USA pronunciationn. what is intended to be, or actually is, expressed or indicated; signification; import:the three meanings of a word. the end, purpose, or significance of something:What is the meaning of life? What is the meaning of this intrusion? Linguistics the nonlinguistic cultural correlate, reference, or denotation of a linguistic form; expression. linguistic content (opposed to expression). adj.intentioned (usually used in combination):She's a well-meaning person. full of significance; expressive:a meaning look. 12501300; Middle English (noun, nominal); see mean1, -ing1, -ing2 meaningly, adv. meaningness, n. 1. tenor, gist, drift, trend. Meaning, purport, sense, significance denote that which is expressed or indicated by something. Meaning is the general word denoting that which is intended to be or actually is expressed or indicated:the meaning of a word or glance.Sense may be used to denote a particular meaning (among others) of a word or phrase:The word is frequently used in this sense.Sense may also be used loosely to refer to intelligible meaning:There's no sense in what he says.Significance refers particularly to a meaning that is implied rather than expressed,the significance of her glance-or to a meaning the importance of which may not be easy to perceive immediately:The real significance of his words was not grasped at the time.Purport is mainly limited to the meaning of a formal document, speech, important conversation, etc., and refers to the gist of something fairly complicated:the purport of your letter to the editor. Collins Concise English Dictionary HarperCollins Publishers:meaning /mɪn/ n the sense or significance of a word, sentence, symbol, etc; import; semantic or lexical content the purpose underlying or intended by speech, action, etc the inner, symbolic, or true interpretation, value, or message valid content; efficacy adj expressive of some sense, intention, criticism, etc: a meaning lookSee also well-meaningWordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English 2025mean1/min/USA pronunciation v.,meant/mnt/USA pronunciationmeaning, to have as its meaning or its sense; to signify: [~+object][not: be+~ -ing]The word "klock" in Swedish means "smart; wise."[~+(that)clause]That gesture means that the person hates you, to desire to express or indicate; to refer: [~+object][not: be+~ -ing]Which book did you mean?[~+(that)clause]By "perfect" I mean there should be no mistakes, to have in mind as one's purpose or intention; intend: [~+object]She meant no harm.[~+to+verb]:I've been meaning to call you, but things got too busy.[no object]I'm sure they meant well, but they didn't finish the job. to be expected to happen in a certain way:[be+meant;not: be+~ -ing]The couple were meant for each other. to produce (something) as a result: [~+object][not: be+~ -ing]Further budget cuts will mean more layoffs. [~+(that)clause]Does this traffic jam mean we'll be late? to show that something exists as a cause: [~+object][not: be+~ -ing]A grinding noise could mean a damaged disk drive.[~+(that)clause]A flickering screen could mean that your computer cables are not connected tightly. to have the value of; to have the importance of:[not: be+~ -ing]~+object[Money means everything to them. mean2/min/USA
pronunciation adj.,-er, -est, having evil or unkind intentions; malicious:a mean, cruel remark. small-minded:mean motives. stingy; miserly:mean with one's money. low in status:of mean and humble birth. bad-tempered:a mean old horse. excellent; topnotch:plays a mean game of tennis. meanly, adv. meanness, n.[uncountable] mean3/min/USA pronunciation n.[countable], pl.means. Usually,means.[plural] an instrument, thing, or method used to achieve something:They have the means, but do they have the will?[countable; singular; used with a singular verb]The quickest means of travel into the jungle is by canoe.[plural* used with a plural verb]The means of winning that election are many: bribery, threats, and smear tactics. means, [plural] available resources, esp. money:We don't have sufficient means to send our children to college. considerable financial resources:a person of means. something located in the middle between two extremes:in the mean, an average, esp. the arithmetic mean. adj.[before a noun]occupying a middle position:the mean amount of rainfall for that region. Idioms Idioms by all means, certainly:By all means, help yourself, but save some for me. Idioms by means of, by the way or method of; by the use of or by using. Idioms by no means or not by any means, not at all; definitely not:By no means is he ready to retire. He is not by any means ready to retire. WordReference Random House Unabridged Dictionary of American English 2025mean1 (mn),USA pronunciationv.,meant, meaning.v.t.to have in mind as one's purpose or intention; intend:[] meant to compliment you on your work. to intend for a particular purpose, destination, etc.:They were meant for each other. to intend to express or indicate:What do you mean by "liberal"? to have as its sense or signification; signify:The word "freedom" means many things to many people. to bring, cause, or produce as a result:This bonus means that we can take a trip to Florida. to have (certain intentions) toward a person:He didn't mean you any harm. to have the value of; assume the importance of:Money means everything to them. She means the world to him. v.i.to be minded or disposed; have intentions:Beware, she means ill, despite her solicitous manner. Idiomsmean well, to have good intentions; try to be kind or helpful:Her constant queries about your health must be tiresome, but I'm sure she means well. bef. 900, Middle English menen, Old English meanan; cognate with German meinen, Dutch meenen 1. contemplate, Seesintend.2. destine, foreordain. 4. denote, indicate; import, imply, connote. mean2 (mn),USA pronunciationadj.,-er, -est, offensive, selfish, or unaccommodating; nasty; malicious:a mean remark. He gets mean when he doesn't get his way. small-minded or ignoble:mean motives, stingy, or miserly:a person who is mean about money. inferior in grade, quality, or character:no mean reward. low in status, rank, or dignity:mean servitors, of little importance or consequence:mean little details. unimposing or shabby:a mean abode. small, humiliated, or ashamed:You should feel mean for being so stingy. Informal Termsin poor physical condition, troublesome or vicious; bad-tempered:a mean old horse. Slang Termsskillful or impressive:He blows a mean trumpet. bef. 900; Middle English mene, aphetic variant (see y-) of imene, Old English gemne; cognate with Dutch gemeen, German gemein common, Gothic gamains in common; compare common 2. contemptible, despicable. Mean, low, base, sordid, and vile all refer to ignoble characteristics worthy of dislike, contempt, or disgust. Mean suggests pettiness and small-mindedness:to take a mean advantage.Low suggests coarseness and vulgarity:low company.Base suggests selfish cowardice or moral depravity:base motives.Sordid suggests a wretched uncleanness, or sometimes an avariciousness without dignity or moral scruples:a sordid slum; sordid gain.Vile suggests disgusting foulness or repulsiveness:vile insinuation; a vile creature. 3. niggardly, close, tight, parsimonious, illiberal, ungenerous, selfish. Seestingy.5. common, humble; undignified, plebeian. 6. inconsequential, insignificant, petty, paltry, little, poor, wretched. 7. squalid, poor. mean3 (mn),USA pronunciationn. Usually,means.(used with a sing. or pl. v.) an agency, instrument, or method used to attain an end:The telephone is a means of communication. There are several means of solving the problem. means: available resources, esp. money:They lived beyond their means. considerable financial resources; riches:a man of means. something that is midway between cynicism and blind faith. [Math.] a quantity having a value intermediate between the values of other quantities; an average, esp. the arithmetic mean, at first with no pejorative sensemeanly adv meanness n mean /mɪn/ n the middle point, state, or course between limits or extremes moderation the second and third terms of a proportion, as b and c in a/b = c/danother name for average See also geometric mean a statistic obtained by multiplying each possible value of a variable by the news by any means. Idiomsby means of, with the help of; by the agency of; through:We crossed the stream by means of a log. Idiomsby no means, in no way; not at all:The prize is by no means certain. adj.occupying a middle position or an intermediate place, as in kind, quality, degree, or time-a mean speed;a mean course;the mean annual rainfall. 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