

6. A course; a duct. *Act of Parliament.*  
*For the main, in the main, for the most part; in the greatest part.*
- MAIN, *n.* [L. *manus*, hand; Fr. *main*.] A hand at dice. We throw a merry *main*.  
 And lucky *mains* make people wise. [Not used.] *Prior.*
2. A match at cock fighting.
- MA'IN-LAND, *n.* The continent; the principal land, as opposed to an *isle*. *Dryden.*
- MA'INLY, *adv.* Chiefly; principally. He is *mainly* occupied with domestic concerns.
2. Greatly; to a great degree; mightily. *Bacon.*
- MA'IN-MAST, *n.* The principal mast in a ship or other vessel.
- MA'IN-KEEL, *n.* The principal keel, as distinguished from the false keel.
- MA'INOR, *n.* [Old Fr. *manoeuvre*, *meinour*, L. *a manu*, from the hand, or in the work.] The old law phrase, to be taken as a thief with the *mainor*, signifies, to be taken in the very act of killing venison or stealing wood, or in preparing so to do; or it denotes the being taken with the thing stolen upon him. *Blackstone.*
- MAINPERN'ABLE, *a.* That may be admitted to give surety by mainperners; that may be mainprized.
- MAINPERN'OR, *n.* [Old Fr. *main*, the hand, and *prendre*, to take; *pernon*, *pernez*, for *prenon*, *prenez*.] In law, a surety for a prisoner's appearance in court at a day. *Mainperners* differ from *bail*, in that a man's *bail* may imprison or surrender him before the stipulated day of appearance; *mainperners* can do neither; they are bound to produce him to answer all charges whatsoever. *Blackstone.*
- MA'INPRIZE, *n.* [Fr. *main*, hand, and *prendre*, *pris*, to take.]
1. In law, a writ directed to the sheriff, commanding him to take sureties for the prisoner's appearance, and to let him go at large. These sureties are called *mainperners*. *Blackstone.*
  2. Deliverance of a prisoner on security for his appearance at a day.
- MA'INPRIZE, *v. t.* To suffer a prisoner to go at large, on his finding sureties, *mainperners*, for his appearance at a day.
- MA'IN-SAIL, *n.* The principal sail in a ship. The *main-sail* of a ship or brig is extended by a yard attached to the *main-mast*, and that of a sloop, by the boom.
- MA'IN-SHEET, *n.* The sheet that extends and fastens the *main-sail*.
- MA'INSWEAR, *v. i.* [Sax. *manswerian*; *man*, evil, and *swearian*, to swear.] To swear falsely; to perjure one's self. *Blount.*
- MAINTA'IN, *v. t.* [Fr. *maintenir*; *main*, hand, and *tenir*, to hold; L. *manus* and *teneo*.]
1. To hold, preserve or keep in any particular state or condition; to support; to sustain; not to suffer to fail or decline; as, to *maintain* a certain degree of heat in a furnace; to *maintain* the digestive process or powers of the stomach; to *maintain* the fertility of soil; to *maintain* present character or reputation.
  2. To hold; to keep; not to lose or surrender; as, to *maintain* a place or post.

3. To continue; not to suffer to cease; as, to *maintain* a conversation.
  4. To keep up; to uphold; to support the expense of; as, to *maintain* state or equipage.  
 What *maintains* one vice would bring up two children. *Franklin.*
  5. To support with food, clothing and other conveniences; as, to *maintain* a family by trade or labor.
  6. To support by intellectual powers, or by force of reason; as, to *maintain* an argument.
  7. To support; to defend; to vindicate; to justify; to prove to be just; as, to *maintain* one's right or cause.
  8. To support by assertion or argument; to affirm.  
 In tragedy and satire, I *maintain* that this age and the last have excelled the ancients. *Dryden.*
- MAINTA'INABLE, *a.* That may be maintained, supported, preserved or sustained.
2. That may be defended or kept by force or resistance; as, a military post is not *maintainable*.
  3. That may be defended by argument or just claim; vindicable; defensible.
- MAINTA'INED, *pp.* Kept in any state; preserved; upheld; supported; defended; vindicated.
- MAINTA'INER, *n.* One who supports, preserves, sustains or vindicates.
- MAINTA'INING, *ppr.* Supporting; preserving; upholding; defending; vindicating.
- MA'INTENANCE, *n.* Sustenance; sustentation; support by means of supplies of food, clothing and other conveniences; as, his labor contributed little to the *maintenance* of his family.
2. Means of support; that which supplies conveniences.  
 Those of better fortune not making learning their *maintenance*. *Swift.*
  3. Support; protection; defense; vindication; as the *maintenance* of right or just claims.
  4. Continuance; security from failure or decline.  
 Whatever is granted to the church for God's honor and the *maintenance* of his service, is granted to God. *South.*
  5. In law, an officious intermeddling in a suit in which the person has no interest, by assisting either party with money or means to prosecute or defend it. This is a punishable offense. But to assist a poor kinsman from compassion, is not *maintenance*. *Encyc.*
- MA'IN-TOP, *n.* The top of the *main-mast* of a ship or brig.
- MA'IN-YARD, *n.* The yard on which the *main-sail* is extended, supported by the *main-mast*.
- MAISTER, for *master*, is obsolete. *Spenser.*
- MAISTRESS, for *mistress*, is obsolete. *Chaucer.*
- MAIZ, *n.* A plant of the genus *Zea*, the native corn of America, called Indian corn. [In the Lettish and Livonic languages, in the north of Europe, *mayse* is bread. *Thoeke.* In fr. *maise* is food; perhaps a different orthography of *meal*.]

- MA'JA, *n.* A bird of Cuba, of a beautiful yellow color, whose flesh is accounted a delicacy. *Dict. Nat. Hist.*
- MAJES'TIC, *a.* [from *majesty*.] August; having dignity of person or appearance; grand; princely. The prince was *majestic* in person and appearance.  
 In his face  
 Sat meekness, heightened with *majestic* grace. *Milton.*
2. Splendid; grand.  
 Get the start of this *majestic* world. *Shak.*
  3. Elevated; lofty.  
 The least portions must be of the epic kind; all must be grave, *majestic* and sublime. *Dryden.*
  4. Stately; becoming *majesty*; as a *majestic* air or walk.
- MAJES'TICAL, *a.* *Majestic*. [Little used.]
- MAJES'TICALLY, *adv.* With dignity; with grandeur; with a lofty air or appearance.
- MAJ'ESTY, *n.* [L. *majestas*, from the root of *magis*, *major*, more, greater.]
1. Greatness of appearance; dignity; grandeur; dignity of aspect or manner; the quality or state of a person or thing which inspires awe or reverence in the beholder; applied with peculiar propriety to God and his works.  
 Jehovah reigneth; he is clothed with *majesty*. *Ps. xciii.*  
 The voice of Jehovah is full of *majesty*. *Ps. xxix.*  
 It is applied to the dignity, pomp and splendor of earthly princes.  
 When he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom—the honor of his excellent *majesty* many days— *Esth. i.*
  2. Dignity; elevation of manner.  
 The first in loftiness of thought surpass'd,  
 The next in *majesty*— *Dryden.*
  3. A title of emperors, kings and queens; as most royal *majesty*; may it please your *majesty*. In this sense, it admits of the plural; as, their *majesties* attended the concert.
- MA'JOR, *a.* [L.] Greater in number, quantity or extent; as the *major* part of the assembly; the *major* part of the revenue; the *major* part of the territory.
2. Greater in dignity.  
 My *major* vow lies here. *Shak.*
  3. In music, an epithet applied to the modes in which the third is four semitones above the tonic or key-note, and to intervals consisting of four semitones. *Busby.*
- Major* and *minor*, in music, are applied to concords which differ from each other by a semitone.
- Major tone*, the difference between the fifth and fourth, and *major semitone* is the difference between the *major fourth* and the third. The *major tone* surpasses the *minor* by a comma. *Encyc.*
- MA'JOR, *n.* In military affairs, an officer next in rank above a captain, and below a lieutenant colonel; the lowest field officer.
2. The mayor of a town. [See *Mayor*.]
- Aid-major*, an officer appointed to act as *major* on certain occasions.
- Brigade-major*. [See *Brigade*.]
- Drum-major*, the first drummer in a regiment, who has authority over the other drummers.
- Five-major*, the first or chief fifer.