

mean

I

1. [mi:n] *n*

1. середина

the golden /happy/ mean - золотая середина

2. *мат.* среднее число, средняя величина

the mean of 3, 5 and 7 is 5 - среднее между 3, 5 и 7 равно 5

3. *уст.* умеренность2. [mi:n] *a*

средний

mean time - среднее (солнечное) время

Greenwich mean time - среднее время по Гринвичу

mean solar day - средние солнечные сутки, средняя продолжительность солнечных суток

the mean yearly rainfall - средняя годовая норма осадков

mean concentration - *хим.* средняя концентрация

mean line - *мат.* биссектриса

mean line of fire - *воен.* директриса стрельбы

mean proportional - *мат.* среднее геометрическое; средняя пропорциональная величина

mean life(time) - *физ.* среднее время жизни (*частицы*)

mean course - *мор.* генеральный курс

mean observed range - *воен.* средняя дальность наблюдения, средняя видимость

mean water - нормальный уровень воды; межень

mean yield - средний урожай

mean part - *муз.* средний голос, теноровая *или* альтовая партия

II

[mi:n] *a*

1. посредственный, плохой; слабый

mean abilities - посредственные /плохие, слабые/ способности

mean orator - плохой оратор

no mean abilities - незаурядные способности

he is no mean scholar - он большой учёный

it is clear to the meanest intelligence - это даже дураку ясно

he have the meanest opinion of smb. - быть о ком-л. самого дурного мнения

he has no mean opinion of himself - он о себе высокого мнения

2. скупой, скарредный

to be mean over/about/ money (matters) - быть скупым в денежных делах /вопросах/

3. скудный, бедный, жалкий, убогий; нищенский

mean fare - скудная пища

mean appearance - жалкий /убогий/ вид

mean abode - убогое жилище

a mean house in a mean street - убогий домишко на бедной /убогой/ улочке

4. низкий, подлый, нечестный, презренный

mean remark - подлое замечание

mean trick - низкая /подлая, нечестная/ проделка

that was a mean trick - это низко /нечестно/

it is mean of him - это подло с его стороны

he is a mean creature - он низкий /подлый/ человек, он низкое /подлое/ существо

5. низкого происхождения

of mean birth /parentage/ - низкого происхождения

men of the meaner sort - люди более низкого сорта

6. *разг.* мелочный, придирчивый; неприветливый злобный

to be mean to smb. - мелочно придираться к кому-л., плохо относиться к кому-л.

don't be so mean to me - относись ко мне добрее; не будь таким злым со мной

7. *предик амер. разг.*

1) совестливый; смущающийся

to feel mean - стыдиться, смущаться, чувствовать себя неловко [*см. тж.* 2)]

it made me feel rather mean - это меня несколько смутило; я почувствовал себя неловко

2) нездоровый, чувствующий недомогание

to feel mean - быть нездоровым, чувствовать недомогание [*см. тж.* 1)]

8. 1) норовистый (*о лошади*)2) *амер. разг.* трудный, неподдающийся3) *амер. разг.* злой (*о собаке*)

be careful, that's a mean dog - осторожно, это злая собака

II

[mi:n] *v* (*meant*)

1. намереваться, иметь в виду

to mean to do smth. - намереваться что-л. сделать

I mean to succeed - я намереваюсь добиться успеха

he means to go - он намеревается /хочет/ уйти

I mean to go tomorrow - я хочу уехать завтра

I meant to write - я намеревался /собирался/ написать

what do you mean to do? - что вы собираетесь /предполагаете/ делать?

do you mean to stay long? - вы намереваетесь пробыть здесь долго?

I did not mean to do it - я не хотел этого делать

I did not mean to offend you, I meant you no offence - я не хотел вас обидеть

I don't mean to put up with it - я не собираюсь с этим мириться

without meaning it - не имея этого в виду; не желая того

to mean mischief **см.** mischief 2

to mean well [ill] (by /to/ smb.) - иметь добрые [дурные] намерения (в отношении кого-л.); желать добра [зла] (кому-л.)

he means (you) no harm - он не желает (вам) зла

2. подразумевать, иметь в виду; думать

do you mean him [me, her]? - вы подразумеваете его [меня, её]?, вы имеете в виду его [меня, её]?

what do you mean by that /by it/? - а) что вы этим хотите сказать?; б) почему вы поступаете так?

what do you mean by laughing at me? - в чём дело, почему ты смеёшься надо мной?

what exactly do you mean? - что вы, собственно говоря, имеете в виду?

this is what I mean - вот что я имею в виду, вот что я хочу сказать

I did not mean that - а) это не то, что я имел в виду; я не хотел этого; б) это не то, что я хотел сказать

I never say what I don't mean - я никогда не говорю того, чего не думаю, я всегда говорю то, что думаю

do you think he means what he says? - вы думаете, он говорит серьёзно?

he certainly meant what he said - он сказал именно то, что думал; он сказал это всерьёз

you don't mean it! - вы шутите!; неужели?!; вы этого не думаете!

I mean it! - я серьёзно говорю!; я не шучу!

he means business - он берётся за дело всерьёз

this picture is meant for him - предполагается, что это его портрет [**см. тж.** 3]

3. предназначать

to mean smth. for smb. - предназначать что-л. для кого-л.

I mean this present for you - я предназначаю этот подарок вам

I meant this remark for a joke - я сказал это в шутку, я пошутил

this picture is meant for him - эта картина предназначается для него [**см. тж.** 2]

this remark was meant for you - это замечание относилось к вам

he was meant to be /for/ a teacher - его прочили в учителя

they were meant for each other - они были созданы друг для друга

4. 1) значить, иметь значение

this word means ... - это слово значит ...

•homely•means something different in America - слово homely имеет в американском варианте английского языка другое значение

2) означать, значить, предвещать

the conflict probably means war - этот конфликт может привести к войне, этот конфликт чреват войной

it will mean a lot of expense - это повлечёт за собой большие расходы

what does all this mean? - что всё это значит?

I know what happiness means - я знаю, что значит счастье

3) (to) значить, иметь значение (для кого-л.)

to mean much [little] to smb. - много [мало] значить для кого-л.

your friendship means a great deal to me - твоя дружба много для меня значит

money means little to me - деньги для меня не имеют значения

the name means nothing to me - это имя ничего мне не говорит

modern music means nothing to me - современная музыка мне совершенно непонятна

mean

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

mean [mean means meant meaning meaner meanest] verb, adjective, noun

BrE [miːn] NAmE [miːn]

verb (meant, meant BrE [ment] ; NAmE [ment])

HAVE AS MEANING

1. (not used in the progressive tenses) to have sth as a meaning

- ~ **sth** What does this sentence mean?
- **What is meant by** 'batch processing'?
- ~ **sth to sb** Does the name 'Jos Vos' **mean anything to you** (= do you know who he is) ?
- ~ **(that)...** The flashing light means (that) you must stop.

INTEND AS MEANING

2. (not used in the progressive tenses) to intend to say sth on a particular occasion

- ~ **sth** What did he mean by that remark?
- 'Perhaps we should try another approach.' ' **What do you mean?** (= I don't understand what you are suggesting.) '
- **What do you mean** , you thought I wouldn't mind? (= of course I mind and I am very angry)
- **What she means is** that there's no point in waiting here.
- I always found him a little strange, **if you know what I mean** (= if you understand what I mean by 'strange') .
- **I know what you mean** (= I understand and feel sympathy) . I hated learning to drive too.

- (informal) It was like— weird. **Know what I mean?**
- **I see what you mean** (= I understand although I may not agree), but I still think it's worth trying.
- **See what I mean** (= I was right and this proves it, doesn't it)? She never agrees to anything I suggest.
- 'But Pete doesn't know we're here!' '**That's what I mean!** (= that's what I have been trying to tell you.)'
- Do you mean Ann Smith or Mary Smith?
- ~ **(that)...** Did he mean (that) he was dissatisfied with our service?
- **You mean** (= are you telling me) we have to start all over again?

HAVE AS PURPOSE

3. to have sth as a purpose or intention

Syn: ↑intend

- ~ **sth What did she mean by** leaving so early (= why did she do it)?
- Don't laugh! **I mean it** (= I am serious).
- He **means trouble** (= to cause trouble).
- ~ **sth as sth** Don't be upset— I'm sure she meant it as a compliment.
- ~ **what...** He **means what he says** (= is not joking, exaggerating, etc.).
- ~ **sth for sb/sth** The chair was clearly meant for a child.
- Don't be angry. I'm sure she **meant it for the best** (= intended to be helpful).
- ~ **to do sth** She means to succeed.
- I'm sorry I hurt you. **I didn't mean to**.
- I'm feeling very guilty— **I've been meaning** to call my parents for days, but still haven't got around to it.
- ~ **sb/sth to do sth** I didn't mean you to read the letter.
- **You're meant to** (= you are supposed to) pay before you go in.
- ~ **(that)...** (formal) I never meant (that) you should come alone.

INTEND SB TO BE/DO STH

4. often passive to intend sb to be or do sth

- ~ **sb for sth/sb** I **was never meant for** the army (= did not have the qualities needed to become a soldier).
- Duncan and Makiko **were meant for each other** (= are very suitable as partners).
- ~ **sb/sth to be sth** His father meant him to be an engineer.
- She did everything to get the two of them together, but I guess it just wasn't **meant to be**.

HAVE AS RESULT

5. to have sth as a result or a likely result

Syn: ↑entail

- ~ **sth** Spending too much now will mean a shortage of cash next year.
- ~ **to be/do sth** Do you have any idea **what it means to** be poor?
- ~ **(that)...** We'll have to be careful with money but **that doesn't mean** (that) we can't enjoy ourselves.
- ~ **doing sth** This new order will mean working overtime.
- ~ **sb/sth doing sth** The injury could mean him missing next week's game.

BE IMPORTANT

6. no passive ~ **sth to sb** to be of value or importance to sb

- Your friendship means a great deal to me.
- \$20 **means a lot** (= represents a lot of money) when you live on \$100 a week.
- Money **means nothing to him**.
- Her children **mean the world to her**.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	mean
	BrE /mi:n/
	NAme /mi:n/
he / she / it	means
	BrE /mi:nz/
	NAme /mi:nz/
past simple, past participle	meant
	BrE /ment/
	NAme /ment/
-ing form	meaning
	BrE /'mi:nɪŋ/
	NAme /'mi:nɪŋ/

Word Origin:

v. Old English mænan West Germanic Dutch meenen German meinen Indo-European ↑mind

adj. senses 1 to 4 and adj. senses 6 to 8 Middle English Old English gemæne Germanic Indo-European Latin communis

'common' 'common to two or more people' 'inferior in rank' 'ignoble, small-minded'

adj. sense 5 and n. Middle English Old French meien Latin medianus 'middle' medius 'mid'

Thesaurus:

mean verb

1. T (not used in the progressive tenses)

- What does this sentence mean?
- indicate** • • **imply** • • **mark** • |**formal signify** • • **denote** • |**especially journalism signal** •
mean/indicate/imply/signify sth **to sb**
mean/indicate/imply/signify **that...**
mean/indicate/mark/signify/denote/signal the **beginning /start/arrival /end** of sth
- 2. **T** (not used in the progressive tenses)
 - What do you mean by that remark?
 - suggest** • • **hint** • • **imply** • |**spoken what sb is getting/driving at** • |**formal intend** • |**disapproving insinuate** •
mean/suggest **by/as** sth
mean/suggest/hint/imply/insinuate **that...**
seem/appear to mean/suggest/hint/imply sth
- 3. **T**
 - I didn't mean to hurt you.
 - intend** • • **plan** • • **aim** • |**formal propose** •
mean/intend/plan/aim/propose **to do sth**
sb **originally** meant/intended/planned sth
- 4. **T, usually passive** (not used in the progressive tenses)
 - His father meant him to be an engineer.
 - be intended to for/as/to be sth** • • **design** • • **be aimed at sth** •
be meant/designed/intended **for/as** sth
be meant/designed/intended **to be/do sth**
- 5. **T**
 - This order will mean working overtime.
 - involve** • • **entail** • • **spell** • |**formal necessitate** • • **imply** •
sth means/implies **that...**
sth means/involves/entails/necessitates/implies a/an **increase/reduction**
sth **usually/inevitably/necessarily/actually** means/involves/entails/implies sth

Language Bank:

i.e.

Explaining what you mean

- Some poems are mnemonics, **i.e.** ▪ they are designed to help you remember something.
- Some poems are mnemonics, **that is to say** ▪, they are designed to help you remember something.
- Mnemonic poems, **that is** ▪ poems designed to help you remember something, are an excellent way to learn lists.
- A limerick's rhyme scheme is A–A–B–B–A. **In other words** ▪, the first, second, and fifth lines all rhyme with one another, while the third and fourth lines have their own rhyme.
- In this exercise the reader is encouraged to work out the meaning, **or rather** ▪ the range of meanings, of the poem.
- This is a poem about death, **or, more precisely** ▪, dying.
- He says his poems deal with 'the big issues', **by which he means** ▪ love, loss, grief and death.

Language Bank at [↑about](#)

Example Bank:

- 'But Pete doesn't know we're here!' 'That's what I mean!'
- 'Perhaps we should try another approach.' 'What do you mean?'
- Do you mean Steve Jones or Alex Jones?
- Does the name 'David Berwick' mean anything to you?
- Don't be angry. I'm sure she meant it for the best.
- Don't be upset— I'm sure he meant it as a compliment.
- Don't laugh! I mean it.
- He means trouble.
- He means what he says.
- I always found him a little strange, if you know what I mean.
- I didn't mean to read your letter.
- I know what you mean. I hated learning to drive too.
- I see what you mean, but I still think it's worth trying.
- I was never meant for the army.
- I'm sorry I hurt you. I didn't mean to.
- I've been meaning to call her, but I've been so busy lately.
- It was like— weird. Know what I mean?
- Mr President, does this mean an end to the current conflict?
- Philip and Kim were meant for each other.
- See what I mean She never agrees to anything I suggest.
- The cost would have meant financial ruin for us.
- The house was clearly meant to be a family home.
- The injury could mean him missing next week's game.
- There was a rack by the door presumably meant for umbrellas.
- They are not using the system in the way the manufacturer meant it to be used.
- Touching the wires means instant death.
- We'll have to be careful with money but that doesn't mean (that) we can't enjoy ourselves.

- What did she mean by leaving so early = why did she do it?
- What do you mean, you thought I wouldn't mind?
- What is meant by 'batch processing'?
- What she means is that there is no point in waiting here.
- You mean we have to start all over again?
- You're meant to pay before you go in.

Idioms: ↑I mean ▪ ↑happy mean ▪ ↑mean business ▪ ↑mean no harm ▪ ↑mean to say ▪ ↑mean well ▪ ↑meant to be something ▪ ↑no mean ... ▪ ↑not mean any harm

Derived Words ↑meanly ▪ ↑meanness

adjective (mean·er , mean·est)

NOT GENEROUS

1. (BrE) (NAme **cheap**) not willing to give or share things, especially money
 - She's always been mean with money.

Opp: ↑generous

see also ↑stingy

UNKIND

2. ~ (to sb) (of people or their behaviour) unkind, for example by not letting sb have or do sth
 - Don't be so mean to your little brother!

ANGRY/VIOLENT

3. (especially NAme) likely to become angry or violent
 - That's a mean-looking dog.

SKILFUL

4. (informal, especially NAme) very good and skilful
 - He's a mean tennis player.
 - She plays a mean game of chess.

AVERAGE

5. only before noun (technical) average between the highest and the lowest, etc
 - the mean temperature

INTELLIGENCE

6. (formal) (of a person's understanding or ability) not very great
 - This should be clear even to the meanest intelligence.

POOR

7. (literary) poor and dirty in appearance
 - mean houses/streets
8. (old-fashioned) born into or coming from a low social class
 - These rights apply even to the meanest labourer.

Word Origin:

v. Old English mænan West Germanic Dutch meenen German meinen Indo-European ↑mind

adj. senses 1 to 4 and adj. senses 6 to 8 Middle English Old English gemæne Germanic Indo-European Latin communis 'common' 'common to two or more people' 'inferior in rank' 'ignoble, small-minded'

adj. sense 5 and n. Middle English Old French meien Latin medianus 'middle' medius 'mid'

Thesaurus:

mean adj.

1. (BrE, disapproving)

- He was too mean to buy her a decent present.

frugal • |AmE, informal, disapproving cheap • |informal, disapproving stingy • |approving thrifty •

Opp: generous

mean/frugal/stingy with sth

Mean, cheap or stingy? Mean and stingy can describe a person or an amount of money; cheap can only describe a person.

2. (especially spoken)

- Don't be so mean to your little sister!

unkind • • hurtful • • unpleasant • • obnoxious • |formal objectionable • |especially spoken nasty •

Opp: generous

be mean/unkind/hurtful/unpleasant/obnoxious/objectionable/nasty to sb

be mean/unkind/nasty of sb (to do sth)

a/an mean/unkind/hurtful/nasty thing to say/do

Example Bank:

- He's rather mean when it comes to spending money on the children.

- He's so mean to his mother!
- I thought it was really mean of him not to let her use the car.
- She's very mean with her money.
- That was a pretty mean trick.
- Don't be so mean to your little brother!
- Don't be so mean with the chocolate sauce.
- He has a mean streak in him.
- It was difficult to manage the department on such a mean budget.
- They were too mean to buy the kids proper beds.

noun

see also ↑means

MIDDLE WAY

1. ~ (between A and B) a quality, condition, or way of doing sth that is in the middle of two extremes and better than either of them
 - He needed to find a mean between frankness and rudeness.

AVERAGE

2. (also arithmetic 'mean') (mathematics) the value found by adding together all the numbers in a group, and dividing the total by the number of numbers

see also ↑geometric mean

Word Origin:

v. Old English mænan West Germanic Dutch meenen German meinen Indo-European ↑mind

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adj. sense 5 and n. Middle English Old French meien Latin medianus 'middle' medius 'mid'

See also: ↑arithmetic mean ▪ ↑cheap

mean

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. mean ¹ S1 W1 /miːn BrE ˈmiːn AmE ˈmiːn verb [transitive] (past tense and past participle

meant /ment/)

[Word Family: adjective: ↑meaningful, ↑meaningless; verb: ↑mean; noun: ↑meaning; adverb: ↑meaningfully]

[Language: Old English; Origin: mænan]

1. HAVE A PARTICULAR MEANING [not in progressive] to have or represent a particular meaning:

• What does 'patronizing' mean?

• The red light means 'Stop'.

• The report fails to define what is meant by the term 'key issues'.

mean (that)

• This light means you're running low on fuel.

REGISTER

In written English, people often prefer to say that something indicates something is the case, rather than using mean:

• The light indicates that fuel supplies are low.

2. INTEND TO SAY SOMETHING [not in progressive] to intend a particular meaning when you say something

mean (that)

• I meant we'd have to leave early – that's all.

• It's pretty obvious what she means.

(do) you mean spoken (=used to check you have understood what someone intended to say)

• Do you mean you've changed or Chris has changed?

do/if you know/see what I mean? spoken (=used to check that someone understands you)

• I want to buy her something really special, if you know what I mean.

• We're still married but living apart in the same house, if you see what I mean.

• Oh yeah! I see what you mean (=I understand what you are trying to say).

• What I mean is, I don't feel alone anymore (=used to explain more about what you have said).

• 'I didn't really like him.' 'I know what you mean, I didn't get on with him either (=used to say you understand and have had the same experience).

• 'In three hours' time, I'll be a free man.' 'How do you mean (=used to ask someone to explain what they have just said)?'

3. INTEND TO DO SOMETHING to intend to do something or intend that someone else should do something

mean to do something

• I've been meaning to ask you if you want to come for a meal next week.

• I didn't mean to upset you.

mean somebody/something to do something

• I didn't mean this to happen at all.

• I never meant you to find out.

mean for somebody to do something especially American English:

• I didn't mean for her to get hurt.

• I'm sure she didn't mean it (=she did not intend to upset or hurt someone).

mean no harm/offence/disrespect (=not intend to harm, offend etc someone)

I'm sure he didn't mean any harm.

He may sound a bit rude at times, but he means well (=intends to be helpful or kind, even if it does not seem like that).

I wasn't criticizing you, I really meant it for the best (=wanted to be helpful, although my actions had the wrong effect).

4. RESULT IN SOMETHING [not in progressive] to have a particular result or involvesomething:

The merger will mean the closure of the company's Sydney office.

Don't let him see you. It will only mean trouble.

mean (that)

The high cost of housing means that many young people can't afford to buy a house.

mean doing something

My new job will mean travelling all over the world.

Dieting also means being careful about which foods you buy.

5. BE FAMILIAR [not in progressive] if a name, word etc means something to you, you are familiar with it or you understand it:

He said his name was 'Randall' but it meant nothing to me (=I was not familiar with it).

Does the name Bryce mean anything to you?

You need to use analogies which will mean something to the reader.

6. SAY SOMETHING SERIOUSLY [not in progressive] to be serious about what you are saying or writing:

With children, if you say 'no', you have to mean it.

I meant what I said earlier.

You don't really mean that, do you?

7. HOW IMPORTANT SOMEBODY/SOMETHING IS [not in progressive] used for saying how important someone or something is to you

mean something to somebody

I know how much your work means to you.

The medal meant a lot to him.

mean the world to somebody/mean everything to somebody (=be very important to someone)

He meant the world to her.

Time meant nothing (=it was not important) to me while I was travelling.

Of course the relationship meant something to me.

8. SHOW SOMETHING IS TRUE/WILL HAPPEN [not in progressive] to be a sign that something is true or will happen

mean (that)

Finding a lump does not necessarily mean you have cancer.

Clear skies mean that it will be a cold night.

Just because he's been in prison, it doesn't mean that he's violent.

• • •

SPOKEN PHRASES

9. what do you mean ...?

a) used when you do not understand what someone is trying to say:

'You'll be careful won't you?' 'What do you mean?'

b) used when you are very surprised or annoyed by what someone has just said:

What do you mean, you've cancelled the trip?

What do you mean by that?

c) used when you are very annoyed by what someone has just done:

What do you mean by calling me at this time of night?

10. SAY WHICH PERSON/THING used to say that a particular person or thing is the one that you are talking about, pointing to etc:

'Hey you!' 'Do you mean me?'

I meant the pink dress, not the red one.

11. I mean

a) used when explaining or giving an example of something, or when pausing to think about what you are going to say next:

You're more of an expert than me. I mean, you've got all that experience.

It's just not right. I mean, it's unfair isn't it?

b) used to quickly correct something you have just said:

She plays the violin, I mean the viola, really well.

12. see what I mean? used when something that happens proves what you said before:

See what I mean? Every time she calls me up she wants me to do something for her.

13. that's what I mean used when someone is saying the same thing that you were trying to say earlier:

'We might not have enough money.' 'That's what I mean, so we'd better find out the price first.'

14. I mean to say used when adding a reason or explanation for something you have just said, especially something you feel strongly about:

Of course she wants to see the children, I mean to say, it's only natural isn't it?

15. mean business to be determined to do something:

This decision shows the public that we mean business.

16. be meant to do something

a) if you are meant to do something, you should do it, especially because someone has told you to or because you are responsible for it:

Come on, Ellen, you're meant to be helping me.

I thought the police were meant to protect people.

b) to be intended to do something:

The diagram is meant to show the different stages of the process.

17. be meant to be good/excellent/bad etc used to say that you have heard or read that something is good, bad etc:

The play is meant to be really good.

18. **be meant for somebody/something** to be intended for a particular person or purpose:

" a book meant for children

19. **be meant for somebody** if two people are meant for each other, they are very suitable as partners for each other:

" They were meant for each other.

" She's meant for him.

20. **somebody was never meant for something/to be something** used to say that someone is not at all suitable for a particular job or activity:

" I was never meant for the army.

21. **something was meant to be/happen** used to say that you think a situation was certain to happen and that no one could have prevented it:

" Dan left me after a month so I guess it just wasn't meant to be.

22. **know/understand what it means to be something** to have experienced a particular situation, so that you know what it is like:

" I know what it means to be alone in a foreign country.

II. **mean** ² *BrE* " *AmE* " *adjective* (*comparative meaner* , *superlative meanest*)

[Sense 1-5, 7: Language: Old English; Origin: gemæne]

[Sense 6: Date: 1300-1400; Language: Old French; Origin: meien, from Latin medianus; ⇨ †median²]

1. **CRUEL** cruel or not kind:

" That was a mean thing to do.

" I felt a bit mean asking him to help.

" It's a mean trick to play on someone.

" It was mean of him not to invite her.

mean to

" Don't be so mean to her!

2. **NOT GENEROUS** *British English* not wanting to spend money, or not wanting to use much of something **SYN** *stingy, cheap* *American English*:

" He's too mean to buy a present for his wife.

mean with

" He's always been mean with his money.

" It was supposed to be garlic bread, but they'd been a bit mean with the garlic.

3. **no mean feat/achievement /task etc** something that is very difficult to do, so that someone who does it deserves to be admired:

" They sold 1 million cards in the first year of business – no mean feat, given the problems many businesses are facing.

4. **be no mean performer/player etc** to be very good at doing something:

" Kinnock is no mean performer on the rugby field.

5. **a mean something** *informal* used to say that something is very good or that someone is very good at doing something:

" He plays a mean game of poker.

" They serve a mean Sunday brunch at the restaurant on Fourth Street.

6. **AVERAGE** [only before noun] *technical* average:

" The study involved 60 patients with a mean age of 58.2 years.

" The mean annual rainfall was 852 mm.

7. **POOR** [only before noun] *literary* poor or looking poor:

" She walked briskly through the mean and dirty streets.

—**meanly** *adverb*

—**meanness** *noun* [uncountable]

• • •

THESAURUS

▪ **unkind** treating people in a way that makes them unhappy or upset. **Unkind** sounds rather formal. In everyday English, people usually say **mean** or **nasty**: Children can be very unkind to each other. | a rather unkind remark

▪ **mean** *especially spoken* unkind: Don't be mean to your sister! | It was a mean thing to do.

▪ **nasty** deliberately unkind, and seeming to enjoy making people unhappy: He said some really nasty things before he left. | a nasty man

▪ **hurtful** unkind – used about remarks and actions: Joe couldn't forget the hurtful things she had said. | Couples sometimes do hurtful things to each other.

▪ **spiteful** deliberately unkind to someone because you are jealous of them or angry with them: The other women were spiteful to her, and gave her the hardest work to do. | She watched them with spiteful glee (=pleasure).

▪ **malicious** deliberately behaving in a way that is likely to upset, hurt, or cause problems for someone: Someone had been spreading malicious rumours about him. | There was a malicious smile on her face. | an act of malicious vandalism | The accusations are malicious.

▪ **unsympathetic** not seeming to care about someone's problems, and not trying to help them or make them feel better: Her parents were very unsympathetic, and told her that she deserved to fail her exam. | an unsympathetic boss

▪ **hard-hearted** very unsympathetic and not caring at all about other people's feelings: Was he hard-hearted enough to leave his son in jail overnight? | a hard-hearted businessman

III. **mean** ³ *BrE* " *AmE* " *noun*

[Date: 1300-1400; Language: Old French; Origin: meien, from meien 'in the middle'; ⇨ †mean²]

1. **the mean** *technical* the average amount, figure, or value:

" The mean of 7, 9 and 14 is 10.

2. **the/a mean between something and something** a method of doing something which is between two very different methods, and better than either of them:

" It's a case of finding the mean between firmness and compassion.

⇨ †means

mean
12500 **126**^{MCW}

15000 **256**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** **MEAN** 177773

mean 176706

meaner 346

meanest 283

meanly 51

meanness 387

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

34869 **338**¹¹⁵⁸⁹¹ *vv0*

27788 **941**⁴³⁰⁴⁷ *vvi*

7377 **2748**¹⁵⁵⁰⁴ *jj*

1333 **12675**²¹⁹⁹ *nn1*

21 **154015**²⁶ *np1*

20 **172010**²¹ *nnu*

8 **294856**⁸ *ppy*

5 **391082**⁵ *pphis2*

5 **391447**⁵ *vd0*