

main

I

1. [meɪn] n

- поэт.** открытое море, океан (*тж.* main sea, the bounding main)
- уст.** = mainland
- = mainmast
- обыкн. р/л спец.** магистраль (*водопроводная, электрическая, газовая и т. п.*)
street mains - магистральные каналы, идущие под землёй вдоль улиц
connected to the mains - отведено от магистрали
this radio works from the mains - радио работает от сети
our house is not on the mains - к нашему дому не подведены коммуникации
to turn the water off at the main - отключить водоснабжение; перекрыть водопровод /воду/
the mains voltage is 250 - напряжение электросети 250 вольт
- р/л горн.** главные выработки
◇ in the main - в основном

2. [meɪn] а

- основной, главный**
main feature - основная черта
the main body of the text - главная /основная/ часть текста
main point - главный пункт (*в споре*)
main reason - главная причина
the main objective - основная цель
main office - главная контора; главная редакция; штаб
main author - первый автор (*в коллективе авторов*)
main street - главная улица
the main thing is to keep quiet - главное - это молчать /ничего не говорить/
main clause - **грам.** главное предложение
main flood - а) высокая вода (*при приливе*); б) обширное водное пространство
main title - **кино** заглавный титр, титульный кадр, надпись с названием кинофильма
main pipe - магистральная труба
main attack /effort/ - **воен.** главный удар
main body - **воен.** главные силы; ядро (*отряда и т. п.*)
main line of resistance - **воен.** передний край обороны
main guard - **воен.** а) главные силы авангарда; б) главный караул
main bearing - **тех.** коренной подшипник; подшипник коленчатого вала
main shaft - а) **тех.** главный, ведущий вал; б) **горн.** капитальная шахта
main bush - **ж.-д.** грундбукса
main girder - **стр.** а) главная балка, прогон; главная ферма, продольная балка; б) грузовая балка мостового крана
main beam - **архит.**, **стр.** несущая балка
main pin - **тех.** а) шкворень; б) главная ось вращения
main frame - а) **мор.** мидель-шпангоут; б) **авт.** рама шасси
- эмоц.-усил.** доведённый до предела
by main force /strength/ - а) только (одной) силой; б) изо всех сил
- диал.** удивительный, значительный
- мор.** относящийся к грот-мачте
main rigging - такелаж грот-мачты
main rail - планшир
main hatch - грот-люк
◇ the main chance - корысть; путь к выгоде, наживе
to have an eye to the main chance - преследовать корыстные цели
to fire one's main guns at smb. - сосредоточить огонь на ком-л.

II

[meɪn] n

- число очков, которые играющий в кости называет перед броском
- петушиный бой

II

[meɪn] adv диал.

чрезвычайно

IV

[meɪn] v сл.вводить наркотик в вену (*особ. героин*)**main**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

main [main mains] adjective, noun BrE [meɪn] ^а NAmE [meɪn] ^а

adjective only before noun

being the largest or most important of its kind

- Be careful crossing the **main road**.
- the **main course** (= of a meal)
- We have our main meal at lunchtime.

- Reception is in the main building.
- Poor housing and unemployment are the main problems.
- **The main thing** is to stay calm.

see with an eye for/on/to the main chance **at** †eye n.

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old English *mægen* 'physical force', reinforced by Old Norse *meginn*, *megn* 'strong, powerful', both from a Germanic base meaning 'have power'.

Thesaurus:

main adj. only before noun

- Health and safety is our main concern.

major • **key** • **chief** • **leading** • **central** • **principal** • **prime** • **primary** • **predominant** • |informal number one •

Opp: secondary, **Opp:** minor

a/the main/major/key/chief/central/principal/prime/primary/predominant/number one **concern**

a/the main/major/key/chief/central/principal/prime/primary **aim/focus/function/objective/task/reason**

a/the main/major/key/leading/central/principal **role**

main/major/principal **road/town/city**

Synonyms:

main

major • key • central • principal • chief • prime

These words all describe sb/sth that is the largest or most important of its kind.

main • [only before noun] largest or most important: ▫ Be careful crossing the main road. ◇ ▫ The main thing is to remain calm.

major • [usually before noun] very large or important: ▫ He played a major role in setting up the system.

Major is most often used after **a** with a singular noun, or no article with a plural noun. When it is used with **the** or **my/your/his/her/our/their** it means 'the largest or most important': ▫ Our major concern here is combatting poverty. In this meaning it is only used to talk about ideas or worries that people have, not physical things, and it is also more formal than **main**: Be careful crossing the major road. ◇ The major thing is to remain calm.

key • [usually before noun] most important; essential: ▫ He was a key figure in the campaign.

Key is used most frequently in business and political contexts. It can be used to talk about ideas, or the part that sb plays in a situation, but not physical things. It is slightly more informal than **major**, especially when used after a noun and linking verb: ▫ Speed is key at this point.

central • (rather formal) most important: ▫ The central issue is that of widespread racism.

Central is used in a similar way to **key**, but is more formal. It is most frequently used in the phrase **sth is central to sth else**.

principal • [only before noun] (rather formal) most important: ▫ The principal reason for this omission is lack of time.

Principal is mostly used for statements of fact about which there can be no argument. To state an opinion, or to try to persuade sb of the facts as you see them, it is more usual to use **key** or **central**: ▫ The key/central issue here is...

chief • [only before noun] (rather formal) most important: ▫ Unemployment was the chief cause of poverty.

prime • [only before noun] (rather formal) most important; to be considered first: ▫ My prime concern is to protect my property.

a/the main/major/key/central/principal/chief/prime **aim/concern**

a/the main/major/principal **road/town/city**

the main/key **thing** is to...

to be **of** major/key/central/prime **importance**

Example Bank:

- Please use the main entrance.
- The main course was roast lamb.
- The main thing is to remain calm.

Idiom: †in the main

noun

1. countable a large pipe that carries water or gas to a building; a large cable that carries electricity to a building

- a leaking gas main

see also †water main

2. a large pipe that carries waste/water and †sewage (= human waste, etc.) away from a building

3. the mains plural (BrE) the place where the supply of water, gas or electricity to a building or an area starts; the system of providing gas, water and electricity to a building or of carrying it away from a building

- The house is not yet connected to the mains.
- The electricity supply has been cut off **at the mains**.
- Plug the transformer into the mains (= the place on a wall where electricity is brought into a room).
- **mains gas/water/electricity**
- The shaver will run off batteries or mains.
- mains drainage

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old English *mægen* 'physical force', reinforced by Old Norse *meginn*, *megn* 'strong, powerful', both from a Germanic base meaning 'have power'.

Example Bank:

- Some of the remoter houses in the town are not on the mains.
- The main serves four towns.
- There's a burst water main in Quarry Road.
- They're laying a new gas main through the town.
- Turn the water off at the mains.
- an island without mains electricity
- water damage from broken mains
- The area was evacuated after the discovery of a leaking gas main.

main

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. main¹ S1 W1 /meɪn/ BrE^ˈ AmE^ˈ adjective [only before noun]

[Language: Old English; Origin: mægen-, from mægen 'strength']

1. larger or more important than all other things, ideas etc of the same kind:

- The main reason for living in Spain is the weather.
- What do you consider to be the main problem?
- Our main concern is that the children are safe.
- a summary of the main points of the agreement
- the main aim of the meeting
- I'll meet you outside the main entrance.
- the main bedroom

2. the main thing spoken used to say what is the most important thing in a situation:

- As long as you're not hurt, that's the main thing.
- The main thing is not to panic.

⇒ an eye for/on/to the main chance at ↑eye¹(22)

• • •

THESAURUS

- **main** larger or more important than all the others: the main entrance of the building | the main reason for his decision
- **chief/principal** most important. **Chief** and **principal** are more formal than **main**, and are often used in written English: Coffee is the country's principal export. | What is the company's chief objective?
- **major** very important or serious: Smoking is a major cause of heart disease. | Street crime is becoming a major problem.
- **key** most important, or the one that everything or everyone else depends on: Education is likely to be a key issue in the election campaign. | Hooper was a key member of the team. | Diet is key.
- **number one especially spoken** most important or best - this phrase sounds a little informal and it is used especially in spoken English: Reliability is the number one priority. | the number one cause of death | He is still in the number one position.
- **primary** most important - used especially about the most important aim, role, cause, or concern. **Primary** is more formal than **main**: The primary aim of the project was to help students develop their communication skills. | Security is our primary concern. | The primary function of the university was considered to be the teaching of 'the great cultural disciplines'.
- **prime** very important or most important - used especially about the most important reason, cause, or aim, or about the most likely ↑target or ↑suspect. **Prime** is more formal than **main**: Their prime objective is to increase profits for their shareholders. | Tourists are prime targets for theft and robbery.
- **core** most important - used especially about the things that people should pay most attention to: the core skills of reading and writing | He wants the company to focus on its core business - advertising. | The party's core values are individual freedom and reducing the amount of government bureaucracy.
- **central** most important and having more influence than anything else: The U.S. played a central role in the peace negotiations. | a central theme of the book | The central question is, why are people still so attached to their cars?
- **predominant** most common, typical, or important: Yellow was the predominant colour everywhere. | High arched windows are a predominant feature in English churches. | New York still has a predominant role in the contemporary art world.

II. main² BrE^ˈ AmE^ˈ noun

1. [countable] a large pipe or wire carrying the public supply of water, electricity, or gas:

- The report found that many of Yorkshire's water mains needed replacing.
- a burst gas main

2. British English

a) the mains the place on a wall where you can connect something to a supply of electricity:

- You can run the torch off batteries or plug it into the mains.

at the mains

- Make sure that the television is turned off at the mains.

b) mains gas/water/electricity gas, water, or electricity supplied to a building through a pipe or wire:

- The heater will run off mains gas or bottled gas.

3. in the main mostly:

- Their job in the main consisted of cleaning and maintaining the building.

main

Freakuency Pack

12500 **386**^{MCW}

15000 **804**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k MAIN** 61319

main 49306

mains 237

mainly 11776

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

28300 **878**⁴⁵⁷²⁷ *jj*

1871 **9973**³⁰⁸⁹ *np1*

269 **40382**³³⁰ *nn1*

148 **59507**¹⁶⁰ *rr33*
