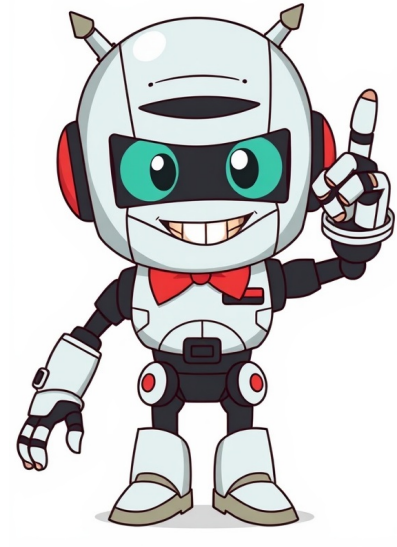


I'm not a bot



























nounIdioms jump to other results [countable, usually plural, uncountable] a moral rule or a strong belief that influences your actionsHe has high moral principles.Stick to your principles and tell him you won't do it, against your principles I refuse to lie about it; it's against my principles. on principle He doesn't invest in the arms industry on principle.She refuses to allow her family to help her as a matter of principle.Homophones principal | principleprincipal principle principal adjectiveThey were joined on stage by their principal conductor.principal nounThe college is excited to announce the appointment of a new principal.principle nounI'm opposed to the death penalty on principle.Extra ExamplesI refuse to compromise my principles by eating meat.As a man of principle, he would not cover up for his former friend.As a matter of principle she won't be visiting the president.I can't accept his offer without seriously compromising my principles.The group never departed from its principle of non-violence.Topics Personal qualitiesb2Oxford Collocations Dictionaryadjectiveverb + principleprepositionagainst your principleson principlephrasesa matter of principlea man/woman of principleSee full entry [countable] a law, a rule or a theory that something is based onThe same principles apply to both humans and animals.an important legal principle'You learn general principles from studying particular things,' he asserts. principle of something the basic principles of car maintenanceThere are three fundamental principles of teamwork.to learn the basic/general principles of somethingthe principles of justice/law principle of doing something the principles and practice of writing reports principle for something draft principles for the management of shared natural resources principle for doing something a document setting out principles for resolving the dispute principle behind something The principle behind it is very simple.Discussing all these details will get us nowhere; we must get back to first principles (= the most basic rules).The court derived a set of principles from this general rule.Extra ExamplesHis novels reject chronology as an organizing principle.She is interested in actual human relationships rather than abstract principles.She went on to explain the principles behind what she was doing.The house incorporates many principles of modern environmentally aware design.This principle applies to all kinds of selling.Topics Scientific researchb2Oxford Collocations Dictionaryadjectiveverb + principleprinciple + verbapplyunderlie somethingunderpin something... prepositionin principleprinciple behindphrasesthe pleasure principlethe precautionary principlethe uncertainty principle... See full entry [countable] a belief that is accepted as a reason for acting or thinking in a particular wayThe welfare of the child is the guiding principle of the family courts.They were accused of violating the principles of democracy.The principle of equality is enshrined in the Constitution. principle that... the application of the principle that men and women should receive equal pay for equal workThe UN declaration sought to establish the principle that everyone is entitled to the same basic rightsthe principle that free education should be available for all children in accordance with a principle Ethical behaviour entails acting in accordance with established principles of right and wrongExtra ExamplesThe order to show no mercy was contrary to the most basic principles of their religion.Freedom is the founding principle of our Republic.She sticks to the principle that everyone should be treated equally.the principles underlying Western philosophy [countable, uncountable] a general or scientific law that explains how something works or why something happensO'Sullivan was among the first chemists to apply scientific principles to brewing beer. principle that... the principle that heat rises in principle A tidal current turbine is similar in principle to a windmill.Topics Scientific researchb2 Word Originlate Middle English: from Old French, from Latin principium 'source', principia (plural) 'foundations', from princeps, princip- 'first, chief'. Idioms if something can be done in principle, there is no good reason why it should not be done although it has not yet been done and there may be some difficultiesIn principle there is nothing that a human can do that a machine might not be able to do one day. in general but not in detailThey have agreed to the proposal in principle but we still have to negotiate the terms.I agree with you in principle, but we'll need to discuss the details. See principle in the Oxford Advanced American DictionarySee principle in the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English This site is not viewable without JavaScript, and your browser currently has JavaScript disabled. Please enable JavaScript and refresh the page to properly view this site. WordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English © 2025prin•ci•ple /prɪnsəˈpəl/USA pronunciation n. a fundamental law that describes how a thing moves, works, or acts-[countable]the principles of modern physics, a personal basic rule by which one lives; [countable]to stick to your principles and be honest and forthright,[uncountable]a man of principle, the method of operating reflected or used in a certain instance-[countable]a family organized on the patriarchal principle. Idioms Idioms in principle, basically; fundamentally:He favors the plan in principle. on principle, according to rules for right conduct:I refused to support her candidacy on principle. See -prim-. WordReference Random House Unabridged Dictionary of American English © 2025prin•ci•ple (prin'sə pəl),USA pronunciation n. an accepted or professed rule of action or conduct:a person of good moral principles. a fundamental, primary, or general law or truth from which others are derived:the principles of modern physics. a fundamental doctrine or tenet; a distinctive ruling opinion:the principles of the Stoics. principles, a personal or specific basis of conduct or management:to adhere to one's principles; a kindergarten run on modern principles. guiding sense of the requirements and obligations of right conduct:a person of principle. an adopted rule or method for application in action:a working principle for general use. a rule or law exemplified in natural phenomena, the construction or operation of a machine, the working of a system, or the like:the principle of capillary attraction. the method of formation, operation, or procedure exhibited in a given case:a community organized on the patriarchal principle. a determining characteristic of something; essential quality. an originating or actuating agency or force:growth is the principle of life. an actuating agency in the mind or character, as an instinct, faculty, or natural tendency:the principles of human behavior. [Chem.]a constituent of a substance, esp. one giving to it some distinctive quality or effect. [Obs.]beginning or commencement. in principle, in essence or substance; fundamentally:to accept a plan in principle. on principle, according to personal rules for right conduct; as a matter of moral principle:He refused on principle to agree to the terms of the treaty, according to a fixed rule, method, or practice:He drank hot milk every night on principle. Middle English, alteration of Middle French principe or Latin principium, on the analogy of manceipie. See principium 1350-1400 1. 2. 3. Principle, canon, rule imply something established as a standard or test, for measuring, regulating, or guiding conduct or practice. A principle is a general and fundamental truth that may be used in deciding conduct or choice:to adhere to principle.Canon, originally referring to an edict of the Church (a meaning that it still retains), is used of any principle, law, or critical standard that is officially approved, particularly in aesthetics and scholarship:canons of literary criticism.A rule, usually something adopted or enacted, is often the specific application of a principle:the golden rule. 2. theorem, axiom, postulate, proposition. 5. integrity, probity, rectitude, honor. Collins Concise English Dictionary © HarperCollins Publishers:: principle /prɪnsɪpəl/ n a standard or rule of personal conduct: a person of principle (often plural) a set of such moral rules: he has no principles a fundamental or general truth or law the essence of something a source or fundamental cause; origin a rule or law concerning a natural phenomenon or the behaviour of a system: the principle of the conservation of mass a constituent of a substance that gives the substance its characteristics and behaviourin principle = in theory or essenceon principle = because of or in demonstration of a principleEtymology: 14th Century: from Latin principium beginning, basic tenetPrinciple and principal are often confused: the principal (not principle) reason for his departure; the plan was approved in principle (not in principal) View synonyms for principlean accepted or professed rule of action or conduct.a person of good moral principles.a fundamental, primary, or general law or truth from which others are derived.the principles of modern physics.Synonyms: proposition, postulate, axiom, theorem.a fundamental doctrine or tenet; a distinctive ruling opinion.the principles of the Stoics.principles, a personal or specific basis of conduct or management.to adhere to one's principles; a kindergarten run on modern principles.guiding sense of the requirements and obligations of right conduct.Synonyms: honor, rectitude, probity, integrity.an adopted rule or method for application in action.a working principle for general use.a rule or law exemplified in natural phenomena, the construction or operation of a machine, the working of a system, or the like.the principle of capillary attraction.the method of formation, operation, or procedure exhibited in a given case.a community organized on the patriarchal principle.a determining characteristic of something; essential quality.an originating or actuating agency or force.growth is the principle of life.an actuating agency in the mind or character, as an instinct, faculty, or natural tendency.the principles of human behavior.Chemistry, a constituent of a substance, especially one giving to it some distinctive quality or effect.Obsolete, beginning or commencement.a standard or rule of personal conduct(often plural) a set of such moral ruleshe'd stoop to anythinghe has no principlesadherence to such a moral code; moralityit's not the money but the principle of the thingtorn between principle and expediencya fundamental or general truth or lawthe essence of somethinga source or fundamental cause; origina rule or law concerning a natural phenomenon or the behaviour of a systemthe principle of the conservation of massan underlying or guiding theory or beliefthe hereditary principlesocialist principleschem a constituent of a substance that gives the substance its characteristics and behaviourin theory or essencebecause of or in demonstration of a principle"Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. 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Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Principle and principal are often confused: the principal (not principle ) reason for his departure; the plan was approved in principle (not in principal )Origin of principle1First recorded in 1350-1400; Middle English, alteration of Middle French principe or Latin principium, on the analogy of manceipie; principiumOrigin of principle1C14: from Latin principium beginning, basic tenetIdiomsin principle, in essence or substance; fundamentally:to accept a plan in principle.on principle, according to personal rules for right conduct; as a matter of moral principle.He refused on principle to agree to the terms of the treaty, according to a fixed rule, method, or practice He drank hot milk every night on principle.see in principle, Middle English, alteration of Middle French principe or Latin principium, on the analogy of manceipie. See principium 1350-1400 1. 2. 3. Principle, canon, rule imply something established as a standard or test, for measuring, regulating, or guiding conduct or practice. A principle is a general and fundamental truth that may be used in deciding conduct or choice: to adhere to principle. Canon, originally referring to an edict of the Church (a meaning that it still retains), is used of any principle, law, or critical standard that is officially approved, particularly in aesthetics and scholarship: canons of literary criticism. A rule, usually something adopted or enacted, is often the specific application of a principle: the golden rule.Examples are provided to illustrate real-world usage of words in context. 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