

# English Vocabulary - "to mean"

(mean / meant / meant)

## 1) to signify (PT: significar)

- A: What does 'grouchy' **mean**? B: 'Grouchy' **means** 'in a bad mood'.
- 'Manga' can **mean** 'sleeve' or 'mango' in English.
- What does the middle finger sign **mean**?
- What does it **mean** when your skin is very pale?

## meaning (PT: significado)

- What is the **meaning** of this symbol?
- The word "get" has many **meanings**.

## 2) to want to say (PT: querer dizer)

- What did you **mean** when you shook your head?
- I **meant** that I didn't understand your reaction.
- I didn't understand what he **meant** when he spoke to me.

## 3) to want to do (intention)(PT: querer fazer)

- I'm sorry, I didn't **mean** to hurt you. (It was not my intention to hurt you.)
- Did you **mean** that? (Did you do that intentionally?)
- He **meant** everything that he did. (He intended everything that he did.)
- I'm sure that he didn't **mean** any harm. (He didn't intend anything bad.)

## 4) Expressions

- **to mean well** = to do something with good intentions
  - He always means well.
- **to mean what you say** = to speak honestly
  - I meant what I said.
- **to mean something to someone** = to make sense
  - Does this mean anything to you?
- **to mean a lot to me** = to have strong feelings for someone/something
  - You mean a lot to me. / This means a lot to me.
- **to mean nothing to me** = to have no feelings for someone/something
  - You mean nothing to me. / This means nothing to me.
- **to be meant for someone** = to be intended for someone
  - The flowers weren't meant for me! They were meant for you!

Note that the word 'mean' can also be an **adjective**, and 'mean' and 'means' can be **nouns**.

**Adjective:** He is really **mean**! He never gives me a present. (mean = not generous)  
He is really **mean**! He always pulls the cat's tail. (mean = cruel)  
She is no **mean** singer! (mean = average)  
It's no **mean** task! (mean = average)

**Noun:** The **mean** of the numbers is 6.2. (mean = average)  
The end justifies the **means**. (means = method)  
He succeeded by violent **means**. (means = method)

**Expressions:**

You can stay here, **by all means**.

(by all means = certainly)

**By no means** can you stay here.

(by no means = no way)

I will succeed, **by any means** necessary!

(by any means = any way)

**Exercise.** Translate these sentences to Portuguese:

1. What does 'glitch' mean?

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2. Excuse me. What did you mean?

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3. Don't worry. I'm sure that he didn't mean it.

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4. Thank you. That means a lot to me.

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5. Did you mean what you said?

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6. This doesn't mean anything to me.

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7. I'm sure that he means well.

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8. My brother thinks that I am mean, but I'm trying to save for a new computer.

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9. Did you really mean to do that?

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10. Did you understand what he meant?

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11. Can you tell me what the word 'elope' means?

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12. What is the mean of all the numbers from 1 to 100?

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