

Main Entry:

¹mor·al

Pronunciation:

\mo al \lmär-\

Function:

adjective

Etymology:

Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Latin *moralis*, from *mor-*, *mos* custom

Date:

14th century

1 a: of or relating to principles of right and wrong in behavior : [ethical](#) <*moral* judgments> b: expressing or teaching a conception of right behavior <a *moral* poem> c: conforming to a standard of right behavior d: sanctioned by or operative on one's conscience or ethical judgment <a *moral* obligation> e: capable of right and wrong action <a *moral* agent>

2: probable though not proved : [virtual](#) <a *moral* certainty>

3: perceptual or psychological rather than tangible or practical in nature or effect <a *moral* victory> <*moral* support>

— mor·al·ly \-lē\ *adverb*

Main Entry:

²mor·al

Pronunciation:

\mo r-l, mär-; 3 is m - ral\

Function:

noun

Date:

15th century

1 a: the moral significance or practical lesson (as of a story) b: a passage pointing out usually in conclusion the lesson to be drawn from a story²*plural* a: moral practices or teachings : modes of conduct

b: [ethics](#)3: [morale](#)

Main Entry:

eth·ic

Pronunciation:

\e-thik\

Function:

noun

Etymology:

Middle English *ethik*, from Middle French *ethique*, from Latin *ethice*, from Greek *ēthikē*, from *ēthikos*

Date:

14th century

¹*plural but sing or plural in constr* : the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation

2 a: a set of moral principles : a theory or system of moral values <the present-day materialistic *ethic*> <an old-fashioned work *ethic*> —often used in plural but singular or plural in construction <an elaborate *ethics*><Christian *ethics*> b: *plural but sing or plural in constr* : the principles of conduct governing an individual or a group <professional *ethics*> c: a guiding philosophy d: a consciousness of moral importance <forge a conservation *ethic*>

3 *plural* : a set of moral issues or aspects (as rightness) <debated the *ethics* of human cloning>