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Also found in: Thesaurus, Medical, Financial, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia.Related to fundamentals: fundamentals of nursing, Computer Fundamentals (See also ESSENCE.)down to bedrock Down to basics or fundamentals; down to the essentials. Bedrock is literally a hard, solid layer of rock underlying the upper strata of soil or other rock. Thus, by extension, it is any foundation or basis. Used literally as early as 1850 in Nelson Kingsleys Diary, the phrase appeared in its figurative sense by 1869 in Our New West by Samuel Bowles.get down to brass tacks To get down to business; to get down to the essential or fundamental issues. Although the precise origin is unknown, this expression is said to have been originally a nautical phrase referring to the brass nails exposed during the cleaning of the hulls on early sailing ships. Brass was used to resist the corrosion of sea water in fastening metal sheathing to the hull. The phrase appeared as early as 1897 in Liars by H. A. Jones.meat-and-potatoes Basic, fundamental, essential, main. Meat and potatoes have long been the basic ingredients of a traditional hearty meal.Its the meat-and-potatoes appealthe old pull at the heartstringsthatll put us over at the box office. (S. J. Perelman, Listen to the Mocking Bird, 1949)nitty-gritty The heart of a matter. This American slang term first appeared in 1963 as part of the Black militant slogan get down to the nitty-gritty.The Negroes present would know perfectly well that the nitty-gritty of a situation is the essentials of it. (Time, August, 1963)The phrase is conjectured to be an oblique reference to the small hard-to-remove nuts or lice that are often found attached to the hair and scalp of poor ghetto-dwellers because of unclean living conditions.nuts and bolts Basics, brass tacks, the nitty-gritty, the heart of the matter. Since literal nuts and bolts are essential parts of virtually any machine, it is only logical that figuratively they symbolize the essence or core of something, the practical basics. This expression, apparently of fairly recent coinage, dates from at least 1960.His preference was for journalism. He learnt the nuts and bolts of his profession with the Montreal Gazette. (The Times, June, 1971)Picturesque Expressions: A Thematic Dictionary, 1st Edition. 1980 The Gale Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.Collins Thesaurus of the English Language Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002 [fndmmtlz] npl (= basics) principes mpl de baseCollins English/French Electronic Resource. HarperCollins Publishers 2005 [fndmmtlz] npl basi fpl, fondamenti mpl, principi mpl fondamentaleCollins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition HarperCollins Publishers 1995 Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: The defects," he added, with a look at the ruined brick-work, "are merely basic and fundamental."Throughout the previous pages I have been assuming -- what perhaps should have been laid down at the beginning as a distinct and fundamental proposition -- that every human being in Flatland is a Regular Figure, that is to say of regular construction.Will it be said that the FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES of the Confederation were not within the purview of the convention, and ought not to have been varied?Both these extremes are to be avoided; which will be done, if the league of Christians, penned by our Savior himself, were in two cross clauses thereof, soundly and plainly expounded: He that is not with us, is against us; and again, He that is not against us, is with us; that is, if the points fundamental and of substance in religion, were truly discerned and distinguished, from points not merely of faith, but of opinion, order, or good intention.Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding.The fundamental principle on which it rests, that the empire is a community of sovereigns, that the diet is a representation of sovereigns and that the laws are addressed to sovereigns, renders the empire a nerveless body, incapable of regulating its own members, insecure against external dangers, and agitated with unceasing fermentations in its own bowels.Besides the fundamental principle already hinted at, I demanded the fresh bloom of youth, pearly teeth, glossy ringlets, and the whole list of lovely items, with the utmost delicacy of habits and sentiments, a silken texture of mind, and, above all, a virgin heart.For fear--that is man's original and fundamental feeling; through fear everything is explained, original sin and original virtue.I think that what has permanent value in the outlook of the behaviourists is the feeling that physics is the most fundamental science at present in existence.The most fundamental idea, the idea of existence, has not been received by me through sensation; indeed, there is no special sense-organ for the transmission of such an idea."We thus see, that although there is a clear and fundamental difference between the mere adhesion of grafted stocks, and the union of the male and female elements in the act of reproduction, yet that there is a rude degree of parallelism in the results of grafting and of crossing distinct species.And the worst of it was, and the root of it all, that it was all in accord with the normal fundamental laws of over-acute consciousness, and with the inertia that was the direct result of those laws, and that consequently one was not only unable to change but could do absolutely nothing. From Late Latin fundamentlis, from Latin fundamentum (foundation), from fund (to lay the foundation (of something), to found), from fundus (bottom), from Proto-Indo-European *budmn. IPA(key): /fndmntl/Hyphenation: fundamental fundamental (plural fundamentals)(generic, singular) A basic truth, elementary concept, principle, rule, or law. An individual fundamental will often serve as a building block used to form a complex idea.(generic, plural) A collection of essential component ideas that are often grouped together to serve as the foundational basis of a complex idea.one of the fundamentals of linear algebra1722, John Locke, The Works of John Locke ...: With Alphabetical Tables ..., page 572:When any one offers me a compleat Catalogue of his Fundamentals, he does not unreasonably demand me to quit mine for nothing[I](physics) The lowest frequency of a periodic waveform.(music) The lowest partial of a complex tone. fundamental (comparative more fundamental, superlative most fundamental)Related to a foundation, base, or basis; serving as a foundation.Essential, extremely important.Synonym: elementarya fundamental truth, a fundamental axiom, a fundamental element, fundamental principle; fundamental lawa need for belonging seems fundamental to humans.2013 June 26, Joris Luyendijk, Our banks are out of control, in The Guardian Weekly, volume 189, number 3, page 21:Seeing the British establishment struggle with the financial sector is like watching an alcoholic[1. Until 2008 there was denial over what finance had become.[1. But the scandals kept coming.[1. A broad section of the political class now recognises the need for change but remains unable to see the necessity of a fundamental overhaul. Instead it offers fixes and patches. groundlayingSee also Thesaurus:bare-bones fundamental, in Websters Revised Unabridged Dictionary, Springfield, Mass.: G. & C. Merriam, 1913, OCLC.William Dwight Whitney, Benjamin Elii Smith, editors (1911), fundamental, in The Century Dictionary[1, New York, N.Y.: The Century Co., OCLC. From fundamēt + -al. IPA(key): /fndamntal/, [fndamntl] fundamentalInflection of fundamēntalpositivcomparativesuperlativeindefinite common singularfundamēntal2indefinite neuter singularfundamēntalt2pluralfundamēntale2definite attributive1fundamēntale1 When an adjective is applied predicatively to something definite,the corresponding "indefinite" form is used.2 The "indefinite" superlatives may not be used attributively. afgrendebasalgrundliggende, grundliggende fundamentalismefundamentalist From Latin fundmentlis. By surface analysis, fundamēnto + -al. IPA(key): /fundamēntal/ [fun.da.mnt]IPA(key): /fundamntal/ [fun.da.mnt]Rhymes: -alHyphenation: fundamentalfundamēntal or f (plural fundamēntais) Borrowed from Latin fundmentlis. By surface analysis, Fundamēt + -al. IPA(key): /fndamntal/Hyphenation: fundamental fundamental (strong nominative masculine singular fundamēntaler, comparative fundamēntaler, superlative am fundamēntalsten)fundamēntalSynonym: grundlegend Fundamentalismus, Fundamentalist Borrowed from English fundamental, from Late Latin fundamentlis, from Latin fundamentum (foundation), from fund (to lay the foundation (of something), to found), from fundus (bottom), from Proto-Indo-European *budmn. fundamental (comparative lebih fundamental, superlative paling fundamental) From Latin fundamentalis. fundamental (masculine and feminine fundamental, neuter fundamēntalt, definite singular and plural fundamēntale) From Latin fundamentalis. fundamental (neuter fundamēntalt, definite singular and plural fundamēntale) fundamental in The Nynorsk Dictionary. Borrowed from Latin fundmentlis (Brazil) IPA(key): /f.da.mtaw/[f.da.mta] Hyphenation: fundamental fundamēntal or f (plural fundamēntais) fundamentalismofundamentalistafundamentalmente Borrowed from French fondamental, from Latin fundamentalis. Equivalent to fundamēt + -al. IPA(key): /fun.da.mēntal/ fundamēntal or n (feminine singular fundamēntal, masculine plural fundamēntali, feminine and neuter plural fundamēntale) fundamēntfundamēntafundamēntabilfundamēntarefundamēntat From Latin fundmentlis. IPA(key): /fundamēntal/ [fn.da.mntal]Rhymes: -alSyllabification: fundamēntal fundamēntal or f (masculine and feminine plural fundamēntales) fundamēntarfundamēntofundar fundamēntal (not comparable) 1 The indefinite superlative forms are only used in the predicative.2 Dated or archaic.3 Only used, optionally, to refer to things whose natural gender is masculine. WordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English 2025fundamental/fndmntl/USA pronunciation adj. serving as, or being an essential part of, a foundation or basis; basic:fundamental principles of physics. of great importance; essential:a fundamental revision of a theory. being an original or primary source; being a starting point:a fundamental idea. n.[countable]a basic principle, rule, law, or the like:the fundamentals of engineering. fundamentally, adv. WordReference Random House Unabridged Dictionary of American English 2025fundamental (fund mēntl),USA pronunciationadj. serving as, or being an essential part of, a foundation or basis; basic; underlying:fundamental principles; the fundamental structure. of, pertaining to, or affecting the foundation or basis:a fundamental revision. being an original or primary source:a fundamental idea. Music and Dance(of a chord) having its root as its lowest note. n.a basic principle, rule, law, or the like, that serves as the groundwork of a system; essential part:to master the fundamentals of a trade. Music and DanceAlso calledfundamental note, fundamental tone, the root of a chord, the generator of a series of harmonics. Physicsthe component of lowest frequency in a composite wave. Medieval Latin fundmentlis of, belonging to a foundation. See fundamēt, -al1 late Middle English 140050 fundamentality, fundamentalness, n. fundamentally, adv. 1. indispensable, primary. Collins Concise English Dictionary HarperCollins Publishers:fundamental /fndmntl/ adj of, involving, or comprising a foundation; basic of, involving, or comprising a source; primary denoting or relating to the principal or lowest note of a harmonic series n a principle, law, etc, that serves as the basis of an idea or system: teaching small children the fundamentals of road safety the principal or lowest note of a harmonic series the bass note of a chord in root positionfundamentality, fundamentalness n [more fundamental; most fundamental] 1 : forming or relating to the most important part of something : basic The Constitution ensures our fundamental rights. There's a fundamental difference between these two political parties. a fundamental truth/concept/belief often + to beliefs that are fundamental to our society 2 : of or relating to the basic structure or function of something These ideas are of fundamental importance. The revolution brought about a fundamental change in the country. We need to make some fundamental changes in the way we do business. We need to address these problems on a more fundamental level. [count] : one of the basic and important parts of something : a fundamental part usually plural Reading, writing, and arithmetic are the fundamentals of education. the fundamentals of algebra

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