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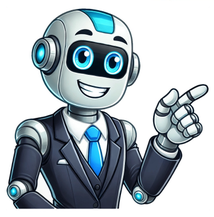

Also found in: Thesaurus, Medical, Legal, Financial, Acronyms, Idioms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. (sstm)n.1. A group of interacting, interrelated, or interdependent elements forming a complex whole, especially:a. An organism as a whole, especially with regard to its vital processes or functions: The animal's entire system seems to be affected by the disease.b. A group of physiologically or anatomically related organs or parts: the excretory system; a root system.c. A group of interacting mechanical or electrical components: the building's heating system.d. A network of structures and channels, as for communication, travel, or distribution: a highway system.e. A network of related computer software, hardware, and data transmission devices.2. a. An organized set of interrelated ideas or principles: Kant's philosophical system.b. A social, economic, or political organizational form: the feudal system.3. a. An arrangement or configuration of classification or measurement: the taxonomic system; the metric system.b. An organized and coordinated method; a procedure: We have an efficient system for processing returned merchandise. See Synonyms at method.4. a. A naturally occurring group of objects or phenomena: a cave system; a weather system.b. Geology A set of rock strata grouped by geologic time period and divided into series.5. Harmonious interaction or order: a restaurant kitchen that was completely without system.6. The prevailing social order; the establishment. Used with the: You can't beat the system.[Late Latin systma, systmat-, from Greek sustma, from sunistanai, to combine : sun-, syn- + histanai, set up, establish; see st- in Indo-European roots.]American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (sstm) n1. a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc: a system of currency; the Copernican system. 2. any scheme of classification or arrangement: a chronological system. 3. a network of communications, transportation, or distribution4. a method or complex of methods: he has a perfect system at roulette. 5. orderliness; an ordered manner6. (Sociology) the system (often capital) society seen as an environment exploiting, restricting, and repressing individuals7. (Physiology) an organism considered as a functioning entity8. (Physiology) any of various bodily parts or structures that are anatomically or physiologically related: the digestive system. 9. one's physiological or psychological constitution: get it out of your system. 10. (Electronics) any assembly of electronic, electrical, or mechanical components with interdependent functions, usually forming a self-contained unit: a brake system. 11. (Astronomy) a group of celestial bodies that are associated as a result of natural laws, esp gravitational attraction: the solar system. 12. (Chemistry) chem a sample of matter in which there are one or more substances in one or more phases. See also phase rule13. a point of view or doctrine used to interpret a branch of knowledge14. (Minerals) mineralogy one of a group of divisions into which crystals may be placed on the basis of the lengths and inclinations of their axes. Also called: crystal system 15. (Geological Science) geology a stratigraphical unit for the rock strata formed during a period of geological time. It can be subdivided into series[C17: from French systme, from Late Latin systma, from Greek sustma, from syn- + histanai to cause to stand]Collins English Dictionary Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (ss tm) n. 1. an assemblage or combination of things or parts forming a complex or unitary whole. 2. any assemblage or set of correlated members. 3. an ordered and comprehensive assemblage of facts, principles, doctrines, or the like in a particular field. 4. a coordinated body of methods or a scheme or plan of procedure; organizational scheme: a system of government. 5. any formulated, regular, or special method or plan of procedure. 6. a. an assemblage of organs or related tissues concerned with the same function: the digestive system. b. the entire human or animal body considered as a functioning unit: an ingredient toxic to the system. 7. a. a number of heavenly bodies associated and acting together according to certain natural laws, as the solar system. b. a hypothesis or theory of the characteristics of heavenly bodies by which their phenomena, motions, changes, etc., are explained: the Copernican system. 8. one's psychological makeup, esp. with reference to desires or preoccupations: to get something out of one's system. 9. a method or scheme of classification: the Linnaean system. 10. (sometimes cap.) the prevailing structure or organization of society, business, or politics or of society in general; establishment (usu. prec. by the): to work within the system. 11. a major division of rocks comprising sedimentary deposits and igneous masses formed during a single geologic period. 12. Physical Chem. a combination of two or more phases, each of which consists of one or more substances, that is attaining or is in equilibrium. 13. a working combination of computer hardware, software, and data communications devices. [161020; < Late Latin systma < Greek sstma=syst-, variant s. of synistnai to combine, organize (syn- syn- + histnai to stand) + -ma, n. suffix of result] Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. (sstm) A group of elements or parts that function together to form a complex whole. For example, the bones, joints, and other structures making up the skeleton of an animal form its skeletal system. A weather system is made up of the different masses of warmer and cooler air that are present in a region, along with any winds, clouds, and rain or snow that they produce.The American Heritage Student Science Dictionary, Second Edition. Copyright 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.an assembly of things arranged in a series that conforms to a plan.Examples: system of beacons, 1868; of botany; of communications; of deceit, 1781; of iniquity, 1663; of logic, 1699; of philosophy; of railways; of rocks, 1830; of truths, 1845; of telegraph wires, 1855.Dictionary of Collective Nouns and Group Terms. Copyright 2008 The Gale Group, Inc. All rights reserved.1. The rocks formed during a geological period.2. A group of organs that function together to perform specific functions, e.g. the digestive system.Dictionary of Unfamiliar Words by Diagram Group Copyright 2008 by Diagram Visual Information Limited Noun1.system - instrumentality that combines interrelated interacting artifacts designed to work as a coherent entity; "he bought a new stereo system"; "the system consists of a motor and a small computer"communication system - a system for communicatingcontainment - (physics) a system designed to prevent the accidental release of radioactive material from a reactorcontrol system - a system for controlling the operation of another systemdrainage system - a system of watercourses or drains for carrying off excess waterexhaust system, exhaust - system consisting of the parts of an engine through which burned gases or steam are dischargedEDS, explosive detection system - a rapid automatic system to detect plastic explosives in passengers' luggage using X-ray technology and computers; designed for use in airportsETD, explosive trace detection - a system for screening luggage in airports; an agent passes a swab around or inside luggage and then runs the swab through a machine that can detect trace amounts of explosivesassemblage, hookup - a system of components assembled together for a particular purposelockage - a system of locks in a canal or waterwaylabyrinth, maze - complex system of paths or tunnels in which it is easy to get lostmodule - a self-contained component (unit or item) that is used in combination with other componentsnavigational system - a system that provides information useful in determining the position and course of a ship or aircraftnetwork - a system of intersecting lines or channels; "a railroad network"; "a network of canals"propulsion system - a system that provides a propelling or driving forceresonator - any system that resonatesscaffolding, staging - a system of scaffoldssecurity system - (computing) a system that enforces boundaries between computer networksselsyn, synchro - a system consisting of a generator and a motor so connected that the motor will assume the same relative position as the generator; the generator and the motor are synchronizedshipboard system - a system designed to work as a coherent entity on board a naval shipsolar thermal system - a system that converts sunlight into heatsprinkler system - a system for extinguishing fires; water from a network of overhead pipes is released through nozzles that open automatically with the rise in temperaturesynchromesh - an automotive system for shifting gears in which the gears revolve at the same speed and so shift smoothly2.system - a group of independent but interrelated elements comprising a unified whole; "a vast system of production and distribution and consumption keep the country going"group, grouping - any number of entities (members) considered as a unitlanguage system - a system of linguistic units or elements used in a particular languageecosystem - a system formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their physical environmenthierarchy - a series of ordered groupings of people or things within a system; "put honesty first in her hierarchy of values"dragnet - a system of coordinated measures for apprehending (criminals or other individuals); "caught in the police dragnet"machinery - a system of means and activities whereby a social institution functions; "the complex machinery of negotiation"; "the machinery of command labored and brought forth an order"network, web - an interconnected system of things or people; "he owned a network of shops"; "retirement meant dropping out of a whole network of people who had been part of my life"; "tangled in a web of cloth"nonlinear system - a system whose performance cannot be described by equations of the first degreesubsystem - a system that is part of some larger systemorganism - a system considered analogous in structure or function to a living body; "the social organism"syntax - a systematic orderly arrangementbody - a collection of particulars considered as a system; "a body of law"; "a body of doctrine"; "a body of precedents"shebang - an entire system; used in the phrase `the whole shebang'solar system - the sun with the celestial bodies that revolve around it in its gravitational fieldwater system - a river and all of its tributariesroot system, rootage - a developed system of roots3.system - (physical chemistry) a sample of matter in which substances in different phases are in equilibrium; "in a static system oil cannot be replaced by water on a surface"; "a system generating hydrogen peroxide"matter - that which has mass and occupies space; "physicists study both the nature of matter and the forces which govern it"physical chemistry - the branch of chemistry dealing with the physical properties of chemical substances4.system - a complex of methods or rules governing behavior; "they have to operate under a system they oppose"; "that language has a complex system for indicating gender"method - a way of doing something, especially a systematic way; implies an orderly logical arrangement (usually in steps)accounting - a system that provides quantitative information about financesdiscipline - a system of rules of conduct or method of practice; "he quickly learned the discipline of prison routine"; "for such a plan to work requires discipline";gambling system - a system of rules for placing bets that is believed to lead to winning; "he has a perfect gambling system at roulette"government - (government) the system or form by which a community or other political unit is governed; "tyrannical government"honor system - a system of conduct in which participants are trusted not to take unfair advantage of others; "the students are on the honor system"logical system, system of logic, logic - a system of reasoningmerit system - the system of employing and promoting civil servants on the basis of abilitypoint system - a system of evaluation based on awarding points according to rulesspoils system - the system of employing and promoting civil servants who are friends and supporters of the group in powerorganon - a system of principles for philosophic or scientific investigations; an instrument for acquiring knowledgeprogram, programme - a system of projects or services intended to meet a public need; "he proposed an elaborate program of public works"; "working mothers rely on the day care program"theosophy - a system of belief based on mystical insight into the nature of God and the soulanthroposophy - a system of beliefs and practices based on the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner; it claims to integrate the practical and psychological in child-centered educationlogic - the system of operations performed by a computer that underlies the machine's representation of logical operationstheological system, theology - a particular system or school of religious beliefs and teachings; "Jewish theology"; "Roman Catholic theology"ethical code, ethic - a system of principles governing morality and acceptable conduct5.system - an organized structure for arranging or classifying; "he changed the arrangement of the topics"; "the facts were familiar but it was in the organization of them that he was original"; "he tried to understand their system of classification"organization, arrangement, organisationstructure - the complex composition of knowledge as elements and their combinations; "his lectures have no structure"classification system - a system for classifying thingscontrivance - an artificial or unnatural or obviously contrived arrangement of details or parts etc.; "the plot contained too many improbable contrivances to be believable"data structure - (computer science) the organization of data (and its storage allocations in a computer)design, plan - an arrangement scheme; "the awkward design of the keyboard made operation difficult"; "it was an excellent design for living"; "a plan for seating guests"genetic map - graphical representation of the arrangement of genes on a chromosomekinship system - (anthropology) the system of social relationships that constitute kinship in a particular culture, including the terminology that is used and the reciprocal obligations that are entailedlattice - an arrangement of points or particles or objects in a regular periodic pattern in 2 or 3 dimensionsliving arrangement - an arrangement to allow people (or ideas) to coexistontology - (computer science) a rigorous and exhaustive organization of some knowledge domain that is usually hierarchical and contains all the relevant entities and their relationscalendar - a system of timekeeping that defines the beginning and length and divisions of the year6.system - a group of physiologically or anatomically related organs or parts; "the body has a system of organs for digestion"body part - any part of an organism such as an organ or extremityarticulatory system - the system of joints in the bodyendocrine system - the system of glands that produce endocrine secretions that help to control bodily metabolic activityimmune system - a system (including the thymus and bone marrow and lymphoid tissues) that protects the body from foreign substances and pathogenic organisms by producing the immune responseintegumentary system - the skin and its appendagesRES, reticuloendothelial system - a widely distributed system consisting of all the cells able to ingest bacteria or colloidal particles etc, except for certain white blood cellsmusculoskeletal system - the system of muscles and tendons and ligaments and bones and joints and associated tissues that move the body and maintain its formgenital system, reproductive system - organs and tissues involved in the production and maturation of gametes and in their union and subsequent development as offspringsensory system - the body's system of sense organstract - a system of body parts that together serve some particular purposevascular system - the vessels and tissue that carry or circulate fluids such as blood or lymph or sap through the body of an animal or plant7.system - a procedure or process for obtaining an objective; "they had to devise a system that did not depend on cooperation"plan of action - a plan for actively doing somethingcredit system - a system for allowing people to purchase things on creditlegal system - a system for interpreting and enforcing the lawspricing system - a system for setting prices on goods or servicespromotion system - a system for advancing participants to higher-status positions8.system - the living body considered as made up of interdependent components forming a unified whole; "exercise helped him get the alcohol out of his system"live body - the body of a living animal or person9.system - an ordered manner; orderliness by virtue of being methodical and well organized; "his compulsive organization was not an endearing quality"; "we can't do it unless we establish some system around here"organisation, organizationmethodicalness, orderliness - the quality of appreciating method and systemBased on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.noun3. method, practice, technique, procedure, routine, theory, usage, methodology, frame of reference, modus operandi, fixed order the decimal system of metric weights and measuresCollins Thesaurus of the English Language Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002noun2. A usually large entity composed of interconnected parts:The American Heritage Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. systmmetodaorganismussoustavasystemsytemkroppenmetodenetSystemNetzOrdnungOrganismussistemaaparatomtodoorganismojrjestelmsysteemielimistaferkerfilffrakerfiskipulag, kerfiskipuleg vinnubrgsistemacircitoimpiantisticaimpiantometodosistemasistemingaisistemingassisteminissistemikaisistmatklsmetodeorganismspamienssistemusulvcutyntemyntemler dzeniCollins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005Collins English/French Electronic Resource. HarperCollins Publishers 2005 : system building n (Archit) Systembauweise f system control n (Comput etc) Systemsteuerung f system crash n (Comput) Systemabsturz m system error n (Comput) Systemfehler m system failure system fault n (Comput) Systemfehler m system file n (Comput) Systemdatei f: system information n (Comput) Systeminformationen pl system menu n (Comput) Systemmen nt system policies n (Comput) Systemrichtlinien pl system program n (Comput) Systemprogramm nt system prompt n (Comput) Eingabeaufforderung fCollins German Dictionary Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005. William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007Collins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition HarperCollins Publishers 1995 (sistm) noun1. an arrangement of many parts that work together. a railway system; the solar system; the digestive system. stelsel sistema systm das System, das Netz system; -system sistema ssteem jrjestelm systme sustav, sistem rendszer jaringan kerfi sistema sistema, tinklas sistma; (dzelzceu) tkls sistem stelselsystemsie, ukad, system sistema sistem systm sistem sistem system sistem, dzen h thng 2. a person's body. Take a walk every day it's good for the system! liggaam organismo organismus der Organismus kroppen organismo organism elimist organisme tijelo, organizam szervezet tubuh manusia lffrakerfi organismo organizmas organisms tubuh badan gestelorganisme, kropporganizm organismo organism organizmus organizem sistem kroppen vcut, bnye c th con ngi 3. a way of organizing something according to certain ideas, principles etc. a system of government/education. stelsel sistema systm das System system; net sistema korraldus jrjestelm systme sustav rendszer sistem skipulag, kerfi sistema sistema sistma sistem systeemsystem, ordningsystem sistema sistem systm sistem sistem system sistem, yntemler dzeni ; ch , h thng 4. a plan or method. What is your system for washing the dishes? plan, metode sistema metoda das System sytem; metode mtodo meetod menetelm mthode sistem, metoda mdszer cara afer sistema, metodo metodas metode; (darba) pamiens kaedah systeemplan, metodemetoda, plan sistema metod metda metoda sistem system, metod pln, yntem phng thc 5. the quality of being efficient and methodical. Your work lacks system. metodiek mtodo systm das System plan; system organizacin, sistema, mtodo ssteemsus jrjestelmllisyys mthode sistematinost, sustavnost rendszer(essg) efisiensi skipuleg vinnubrg metodo sistema, sistemingumas sistma sistem systeemplan, system systematyczno mtodo metod systm sistematinost sistematinost planmssighet, ordning dzen tnh h thng systematic (-mtik) adjectivesystematically adverb sistematies sistematicamente systematicky systematisch systematiskt sistemticamente sstemaatiliselt jrjestelmllisesti systmatiquement sistematino, sustavno rendszeresen, mdszeresen secara sistematis kerfisbundinn htt sistematicamente sistemikai, sistemingai sistemtiski secara sistematik systematischsystematisk systematycznie sistematicamente (n mod) sistematic systematicky sistematino sistemski systematiskt sistemli olarak c h thng, phng php Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary 2006-2013 K Dictionaries Ltd. systm system System sistema jrjestelm systme sistem sistema systeem system system sistema system sistem h thng Multilingual Translator HarperCollins Publishers 2009n. sistema, grupo de partes u rganos combinados que constituyen un conjunto que desempea una o ms funciones vitales en el organismo;cardiovascular ___ ___cardiovascular; digestive ___ ___ digestivo; endocrine ___ ___ endocrino; genitourinary ___ ___ genitourinario; hematopoietic ___ ___ hematopoytico; immune ___ ___ de inmunidad; lymphatic ___ ___ linftico; nervous ___ ___ nervioso; reproductive ___ ___ reproductivo; respiratory ___ ___ respiratorio; reticuloendothelial ___ ___ reticuloendotelial. V. cuadro en la pgina 240.English-Spanish Medical Dictionary Farlex 2012Collins Multilingual Translator HarperCollins Publishers 2009 n sistema m; autonomic nervous sistema nervioso autnomo; cardiovascular sistema cardiovascular; central nervous (CNS) sistema nervioso central (SNC); digestive sistema digestivo; endocrine sistema endocrino; immune sistema inmunolgico; metric sistema mtrico; musculoskeletal sistema locomotor or musculoesqueltico; parasympathetic nervous sistema nervioso parasimptico; peripheral nervous sistema nervioso perifrico; reproductive sistema reproductor or reproductivo; respiratory sistema respiratorio; skeletal sistema seo or esqueltico; sympathetic nervous sistema nervioso simpticoEnglish-Spanish/Spanish-English Medical Dictionary Copyright 2006 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. All rights reserved. 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: A piece of matter, as it is known empirically, is not a single existing thing, but a system of existing things.Thus we see that when organic beings are placed under new and unnatural conditions, and when hybrids are produced by the unnatural crossing of two species, the reproductive system, independently of the general state of health, is affected by sterility in a very similar manner.Creakle and his friends what were supposed to be the main advantages of this all-governing and universally over-riding system? I found them to be the perfect isolation of prisoners - so that no one man in confinement there, knew anything about another; and the reduction of prisoners to a wholesome state of mind, leading to sincere contrition and repentance.The bourgeoisie naturally conceives the world in which it is supreme to be the best; and bourgeois Socialism develops this comfortable conception into various more or less complete systems. In requiring the proletariat to carry out such a system, and thereby to march straightway into the social New Jerusalem, it but requires in reality, that the proletariat should remain within the bounds of existing society, but should cast away all its hateful ideas concerning the bourgeoisie.There were no switchboards of any account, no cables of any value, no wires that were in any sense adequate, no theory of tests or signals, no exchanges, NO TELEPHONE SYSTEM OF ANY SORT WHATEVER.IN ADDITION to the defects already enumerated in the existing federal system, there are others of not less importance, which concur in rendering it altogether unfit for the administration of the affairs of the Union.Although, in most of these examples, the system has been so dissimilar from that under consideration as greatly to weaken any inference concerning the latter from the fate of the former, yet, as the States will retain, under the proposed Constitution, a very extensive portion of active sovereignty, the inference ought not to be wholly disregarded.What matters is, that this advantage is remarkable from the very fact that it breaks down all our classifications, and continually shatters every system constructed by lovers of mankind for the benefit of mankind.He had read a number of books, but they did not help him much, for they were based on the morality of Christianity; and even the writers who emphasised the fact that they did not believe in it were never satisfied till they had framed a system of ethics in accordance with that of the Sermon on the Mount.Do you call that a rational system?" said the landowner, obviously rather proud of the word "rational."Patriotism consists in a brief impulse of forgetfulness of self and self-interest, while Christianity is a complete system of opposition to the depraved tendencies of mankind."I do not know whether hotel servants in New York get any wages or not, but I do know that in some of the hotels there the feeing system in vogue is a heavy burden. Definition of a systemA system is any collection of things that interact together to produce some sort of behavior of the whole.Systems Thinking is the study ofhow and why systems behave the way they do by examining the structure of their parts, relationships, and resulting behaviors.A basketball game is a system of players, referees, and rules that interact to produce a game. Silicon valley is a system with entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and resources that create a culture of innovation as well as exuberance. A wildlife ecosystem is a system of living organisms,climates, and consumption patterns that interact to create rising and falling populations of various species.A system is not equal tothe sum of its partsIf you take the parts of a system apart, thesystem will behave differentlybecause the interactions are cut off. It is these interactions that tell us how and why a system functions the way it does. Take out referees from the game of basketball and players will behave differently. Take out venture capitalists and Silicon Valley would look very different today. Remove aspecies from its wildlife habitat and other species that were previously food source or predator will react.You cant understand a system if you only study its parts in isolation.3 Types of SystemsSystems can be generally categorized as physical, biological, or social.Physical systems can be understood based on naturalphysical laws and ignore questions of values, motivations, and preferences. These include the the study of mechanical, electrical, and chemical systems. Problems in the area of physical systems tend to be more straight forward when designing products or conducting experiments in physical systems, the designer can select the parts, pre-program the goals, and with enough trialand error design a system that achieves a defined function. We can design watches, thermostats, and machinesto performcertain ways according to our expectation, of course with some room for designererror.Biological systemsare made up of the organs in the body of living organisms. Your brain, spine, heart, muscles, and lungseach and together serve integral functionsthat support your life.Its impossible to study this complex set of relationships by researching any particular organ in isolation. The field of healthcare and medicine seeks answers to questions about ourwellbeing and longevity, but different schools of medicine and diet gurus will tell you different things, each finding scientific research thatcan support their claims. Unlike mechanical systems, causal relationships are much less straightforwardwhile the interconnections across cells are infinitely more complex.Therefore we experience side effects when takingsymptom-relieving drugs, and sometimes dont see the effects of our health choices until many years to come.Social systems deal with the interactions of people. They involve the laws of human nature and bring in questions of values, motivations, and morals absent in physical systems. And because each individual has unique goals and therefore preferences, social systems are much harder for any one to plan and control. There are an infinite number of parts, interconnections, and goals making them unpredictable.Attempts to command and control populations such as the case in authoritarian regimes is often met with policy resistance, addiction, and eroding goals over time. Social systems also have very fuzzy boundaries because all organisms must interact with their environments for survival. With globalization, policy choicesenacted in onecountry can have an impact on the quality and costs of items purchased by someone on the other side of the globe.While Systems Thinking can be applied to all 3 types of systems, we are much more interested in social systems on this site.Systems impact each otherYouare a part of many systems and systems within systems the company you work for, the industry you work in, the national economy, the global economy, nature. Economic systems are entwined with political systems which are entwined with social systems which are entwined with environmental systems. Meanwhile your nervous system functions within your body system which functions within our many community systems. We may draw boundaries between one system and another to help us wrap our heads around too much complexity, but we harm our own thinking when we become too fixated on these boundaries and fail to see relationships across boundaries. We often overlookhow an interference in one part of the system canhave damaging unintended consequences that we didnt intend to produce. The abrupt decline of the honeybee population around the world has impacted and been impacted by humans. Honeybees are vital for pollination in agricultural crops and natural ecosystems. Their collapse is due to a variety of interactions including disease, insecticide use, and the commercial transport of bees. We live in a world where humans, animals, and the environment are closely interconnected.If you dont care about the honeybees, at least care about delicious foods! Image by Whole Foods.The agents of a system can have different goalsSystems can often be broken down into smaller systems with differing goals. Take College Education. Students attend college in order to get a degree and improve their job prospects. Although professors are there to teach, professors might be more concerned by their own research and pursuit of tenure. Each university department, then, is a system where the goal is to strive for its own prestige. All of these are parts of the larger university system, and it is in everyones interests to maintain the greater universitys reputation.System behavior is caused by the interactions from within its own structure causes the good and bad that we observe. Cities with high crime rates cannot be blamed on individual criminals. Instead, the system has set conditions that have allowed crime to develop poor educational opportunities, growing income inequality, and tensions between different groups of people create a toxic environment. We cant fix crime just by arresting people and punishing them more criminals will spring up if we dont solve the root causes of problems.Try this: Think of 5 systems that you are a part of. Identify the parts, how those parts interact, and what behavior is generated from these interactions. Do these systems have goals? Are the incentives designed in a way to ensure that the intended goal is being met? Be careful here because often times people state that their goal is one thing, but the system behaves in a different way (you should be picturing politicians right now). Leave a comment below with the parts, interactions and behavior for one of your systems and get feedback from other members of the community!We are embedded in many systems, all of which we can impact and be impacted by. Systems thinking appreciates thecomplex parts and relationships of systems,seen and unseen. Further Reading:What is systems thinking?FoundationsArchetypes an assemblage or combination of things or parts forming a complex or unitary whole.a mountain system; a railroad system.any assemblage or set of correlated members.a system of currency; a system of shorthand characters.an ordered and comprehensive assemblage of facts, principles, doctrines, or the like in a particular field of knowledge or thought.a coordinated body of methods or a scheme or plan of procedure; organizational scheme.any formulated, regular, or special method or plan of procedure.a system of marking, numbering, or measuring; a winning system at bridge.due method or orderly manner of arrangement or procedure.There is no system in his work.the world or universe.Astronomy.a number of heavenly bodies associated and acting together according to certain natural laws.a hypothesis or theory of the disposition and arrangements of the heavenly bodies by which their phenomena, motions, changes, etc., are explained.the Ptolemaic system; the Copernican system.Biology.an assemblage of organs or related tissues concerned with the same function.the nervous system; the digestive system.the entire human or animal body considered as a functioning unit.an ingredient toxic to the system.one's psychological makeup, especially with reference to desires or preoccupations.to get something out of one's system.a method or scheme of classification.the Linnean system of plants.Usually the system the prevailing structure or organization of society, business, or politics or of society in general; establishment.to work within the system instead of trying to change it.Geology.a major division of rocks comprising sedimentary deposits and igneous masses formed during a single geologic period.Physical Chemistry.a combination of two or more phases, as a binary system, each of which consists of one or more substances, that is attaining or is in equilibrium.Computers.a working combination of hardware, software, and data communications devices.Checkers.either of the two groups of 16 playing squares on four alternate columns.a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etca system of currencythe Copernican systemany scheme of classification or arrangementa network of communications, transportation, or distributiona method or complex of methodshe has a perfect system at rouletteorderliness; an ordered manner(often capital) society seen as an environment exploiting, restricting, and repressing individualsan organism considered as a functioning entityany of various bodily parts or structures that are anatomically or physiologically relatedone's physiological or psychological constitutionget it out of your systemany assembly of electronic, electrical, or mechanical components with interdependent functions, usually forming a self-contained unita group of celestial bodies that are associated as a result of natural laws, esp gravitational attractionchem a sample of matter in which there are one or more substances in one or more phases See also phase rulea point of view or doctrine used to interpret a branch of knowledgeAlso called: crystal system.mineralogy one of a group of divisions into which crystals may be placed on the basis of the lengths and inclinations of their axesgeology a stratigraphical unit for the rock strata formed during a period of geological time. It can be subdivided into seriesCollins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012systemless adjectiveintersystem adjectivesupersystem nounOrigin of system1First recorded in 161020; from Late Latin systma, from Greek sstma whole compounded of several parts, equivalent to sy- with, together + st- (variant stem of histnai to cause to stand; akin to Latin stre to stand) + -ma noun suffix denoting result of action; sy-, standOrigin of system1C17: from French systme, from Late Latin systma, from Greek sustma, from syn- + histanai to cause to standsee all systems go; out of one's system.Examples have not been reviewed.It said that there was "no evidence the Allianz Life network or other company systems were accessed, including our policy administration system".GHF's food aid distribution system has been marred by near-daily scenes of chaos and killing since it was implemented in May with Israeli and US support.On a fundamental level, racism and the race concept itself are based on a system of absurdities, lies and fantasies of innate human difference based upon skin color.Cuts to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which provides essential weather forecasting, and to the Bureau of Reclamation, which oversees water systems in the West, threaten the basic functionality of farm life.They have been running bullpen games because they had no one in their farm system ready to fill the vacancy.systalticsystematicBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrsstuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day! 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC

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