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Dictionary.com definitions maxim

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# maxim

[mak-sim]

Synonyms Examples Word Origin

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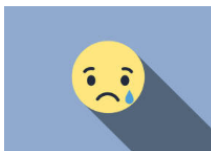
## noun

- an expression of a general truth or principle, especially an aphoristic or sententious one:  
*the maxims of La Rochefoucauld.*
- a principle or rule of conduct.

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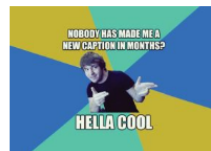
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## Origin of maxim

1400–50; late Middle English *maxime* << Medieval Latin *maxima* (orig. in phrase *maxima prōpositiō axioma*, literally, greatest proposition), noun use of feminine of Latin *maximus*, superlative of *magnus* great; see *much*

## Can be confused

adage aphorism apothegm axiom **maxim** proverb

## Synonyms

See more synonyms on Thesaurus.com

- aphorism, saying, adage, apothegm. See *proverb*.

# Maxim

[mak-sim; for 4 also French mak-seem, Russian muh-ksyeem]

## noun

- Hiram Percy**, 1869–1936, U.S. inventor.
- his father **Sir Hiram Stevens**, 1840–1916, English inventor, born in the U.S.: inventor of the Maxim gun.
- Hudson**, 1853–1927, U.S. inventor and explosives expert (brother of Sir Hiram Stevens Maxim).
- a male given name, form of *Maximilian*.

Dictionary.com Unabridged  
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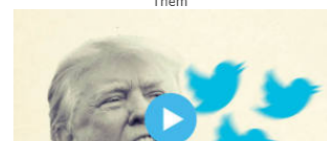
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## Examples from the Web for maxim

### Contemporary Examples


He should have stuck to his own *maxim*: march separately and fight together.

 [Napoleon Was a Dynamite Dictator](#)  
J.P. O'Malley  
November 7, 2014


Her book, for example, does not discuss her buzzed-about, scantily clad *Maxim* photo shoot from last year, and so neither do we.

 ['Boy Meets World' Star Danielle Fishel Is OK with Being Topanga Forever](#)  
Kevin Fallon  
September 11, 2014

And now one of the nastiest men in Russia, *Maxim* Martsinkevich, has been sentenced to five years in prison.

 [Jail Won't Stop Russia's Anti-Gay Psycho](#)  
Jay Michaelson  
August 20, 2014

The *maxim* proved true: Necessity is the mother of invention.

 [Cheap Trick: Most Magicians Are Lazy Hacks](#)  
Rick Lax  
August 19, 2014

She felt a *Maxim* cover would be too racy, but now she finds herself performing solo acts for fans on MyFreeCams.

 [Jenna Jameson Breaks Her Vow](#)  
Aurora Snow  
November 18, 2013

### Historical Examples

He fired his volley of explanation at his employer with the rapidity of a *Maxim* gun.

[Thoroughbreds](#)  
W. A. Fraser

Apply this *maxim*—you may do it a thousand ways, especially in company.

[Tales And Novels, Volume 4 \(of 10\)](#)  
Maria Edgeworth

"No faith with duns" became, as he frankly declared, a *maxim* of his morality.

[Tales And Novels, Volume 4 \(of 10\)](#)  
Maria Edgeworth

What a man does by another he does by himself, says the *maxim*.

[The Works of Whittier, Volume VI \(of VII\)](#)  
John Greenleaf Whittier

This expression has ever since held its place as a *maxim* of polite conversation.

[Punchinello, Vol. 1, No. 13, June 25, 1870](#)  
Various

### British Dictionary definitions for maxim

# maxim

noun

- a brief expression of a general truth, principle, or rule of conduct

### Word Origin

C15: via French from Medieval Latin, from *maxima*, in the phrase *maxima prōpositio* basic axiom (literally: greatest proposition); see maximum

# Maxim

noun

- Sir **Hiram Stevens**. 1840–1916, British inventor of the first automatic machine gun (1884), born in the US

Collins English Dictionary - Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition



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maxilliped  
maxilloidental  
maxillofacial  
maxillomandibular  
maxillotomy

### maxim

maxim gun  
maxima  
maximal  
maximal dose  
maximal ideal

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### Word Origin and History for maxim

n. "precept, principle," early 15c., from Middle French *maxime*, from Late Latin *maxima*, shortened from phrases such as *maxima propositio*, *maxima sententiarium* "axiom," literally "greatest premise, greatest among propositions" (one which is general and absolute), from fem. of *maximus* "greatest" (see [maximum](#)).

# Maxim

single-barreled water-cooled machine gun, 1885, named for inventor, U.S.-born British engineer Sir Hiram S. Maxim (1840-1916).

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