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mechanism noun

mech·a·nism | \ 'me-kə-,ni-zəm \

Definition of *mechanism*

- 1 **a** : a piece of machinery (see MACHINERY sense 1)
 // The camera's shutter *mechanism* is broken.
- b** : a process, technique, or system for achieving a result
 // the *mechanisms* of peace
 — F. D. Roosevelt
- 2 : mechanical operation or action : WORKING sense 2
 // he acknowledges nothing besides matter and motion; so that all must be performed either by *mechanism* or by accident
 — Richard Bentley
- 3 : a doctrine that holds natural processes (as of life) to be mechanically determined and capable of complete explanation by the laws of physics and chemistry
- 4 : the fundamental processes involved in or responsible for an action, reaction, or other natural phenomenon
 // meteorologists believe that this pressure jump is the *mechanism* responsible for storms and tornadoes
 — *Think*

Other Words from *mechanism*

More Example Sentences

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Examples of *mechanism* in a Sentence

// The camera's shutter *mechanism* is broken.

// Scientists are studying the body's *mechanisms* for controlling weight.

Recent Examples on the Web

// There are no handles or spout on it: The user just rotates the inner *mechanism* in a clockwise direction and the water appears.

— Maddie Hiatt, *House Beautiful*, "This Faucet May Be the Chicest One We've Ever Seen," 1 Feb. 2019

// The weight and solidity continue in the actual drive *mechanism* of the Kickr.

— James Lynch, *Popular Mechanics*, "PM Approved: Kickr Smart Bike Trainer," 29 Jan. 2019

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the

word 'mechanism.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors.
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First Known Use of *mechanism*

1662, in the meaning defined at sense 1a

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mechanics
mechanics' institute
mechanism

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survival mechanism



mechanismic

mechanist

mechanistic

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More Definitions for *mechanism*

mechanism **noun**

English Language Learners Definition of *mechanism*

: a piece of machinery : a mechanical part or group of parts having a particular function

: a process or system that is used to produce a particular result

: a way of acting, thinking, or behaving that helps or protects a person in a specified way

See the full definition for *mechanism* in the English Language Learners Dictionary

mechanism **noun**

mech·a·nism | \ 'me-kə-,ni-zəm \

Kids Definition of *mechanism*

- 1** : a piece of machinery
 - 2** : the parts by which a machine operates
*// the *mechanism* of a watch*
 - 3** : the parts or steps that make up a process or activity
*// the *mechanism* of government*
-

mechanism **noun**

mech·a·nism | \ 'mek-ə-,niz-əm \

Medical Definition of *mechanism*

- 1** : a piece of machinery
- 2 a** : a bodily process or function
*// the *mechanism* of healing*
b : the combination of mental processes by which a result is obtained
*// psychological *mechanisms**
- 3** : the fundamental physical or chemical processes involved in or responsible for an action, reaction, or other natural phenomenon

Other Words from *mechanism*

mechanistic \ ,mek-ə-'nis-tik \ *adjective*

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Rhyming Dictionary: Words that rhyme with *mechanism*

Spanish Central: Translation of *mechanism*

Nglish: Translation of *mechanism* for Spanish Speakers

Britannica English: Translation of *mechanism* for Arabic Speakers

Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about *mechanism*

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