

# Principle (glossary)

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principle

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1) *a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behaviour or for a chain of reasoning.* (Oxford Dictionaries Online 2012)

2) *a rule or belief governing one's behavior.* (Oxford Dictionaries Online 2012)

## Source

(1) and (2) Oxford Dictionaries Online S.v. "Principle" Accessed February 20, 2012. Available at <http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/concept>.

## Discussion

A principle is a rule of conduct or behavior. To take this further, a principle is a "basic generalization that is accepted as true and that can be used as a basis for reasoning or conduct." (WordWeb.com) A principle can also be thought of as a "basic truth or law or assumption." [ibid.]

Principles depend on concepts in order to state a "truth." Hence, principles and concepts go hand in hand; principles cannot exist without concepts and concepts are not very useful without principles to help guide the proper way to act (Lawson and Martin 2008).

## Work Cited

Lawson, H., and J.N. Martin. 2008. "On the Use of Concepts and Principles for Improving Systems Engineering Practice". Proceedings of the 18th Annual

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