Meaning definition, what is intended to be, or actually is, expressed or indicated; signification; import: the three meanings of a word. See more. what is intended to be, or actually is, expressed or indicated; signification; import: the three meanings of a word. the end, purpose, or significance of something: What is the meaning of life? What is the meaning of this intrusion? Linguistics. the nonlinguistic cultural correlate, reference, or denotation of a linguistic form; expression. linguistic content (opposed to expression).