

## Relation between Morals and Ethics

- Ethics and morality are often used interchangeably. But, in reality, are they same or different? It needs to be understood in a crisp manner.

### #1 What is Ethics?

- The word **Ethics** is derived from a Greek word “Ethikos” which means character.
- Ethics = rules provided by an external source, which governs our actions. For e.g., codes of conduct in workplaces or principles in religions.
- Ethics are followed because society has decided that it is the right course of action, it is necessarily come from an outside source such as an institution.

### #2 What are Morals?

- The word **Morals** is derived from a Greek word “Mos” which means custom.
- Morals = an individual’s own principles regarding right and wrong.
- Morals refer to the beliefs what is not objectively right, but what is considered right for any situation, so it can be said that what is morally correct may not be objectively correct.
- Morality is followed because a person believes that it is the right course of action, so morals though influenced by the society and culture, at the end, are one’s own personal beliefs.

### #3 How is ethics different from morals?

Parameters	Ethics	Morals
<b>What are they?</b>	The rules of conduct recognized in respect to a particular class of human actions or a particular group or culture.	Principles or habits with respect to right or wrong conduct. While morals also prescribe dos and don'ts, morality is ultimately a personal compass of right and wrong.
<b>Where do they come from?</b>	Social system – External whether organisations, institutions, particular groups or classes of people, even certain religions.	Individual – Internal personal beliefs of individuals which they deem to categorise into right or wrong conduct.
<b>Why do we adhere to them?</b>	Because society says it is the right thing to do.	Because we believe in something being right or wrong.
<b>Acceptability</b>	Ethics are governed by professional and legal guidelines within a particular time and place	Morality transcends cultural norms