

第12版  
12TH EDITION

# 牛津 现代 英汉双解大词典

Concise Oxford  
English-Chinese Dictionary



*Oxford's most  
authoritative dictionaries*

外语教学与研究出版社  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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Foreign Language Teaching and Research Publishing Co., Ltd. has made some changes to the original work in order to make this edition more appropriate for readers in the mainland of China.

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# 出版前言

本词典系获誉“现代英语之权威”的百年经典 Concise Oxford English Dictionary (一度简称 COD, 现简称 COED) 第12版的英汉双解版, 由外语教学与研究出版社与牛津大学出版社合作出版, 外语教学与研究出版社在中国内地发行, 牛津大学出版社在港、澳、台地区以及海外发行。

COED 自1911年诞生以来, 与时俱进, 日臻完美, 畅销不衰, 已成为全世界英语学习者的良师益友, 更是中国高级英语学习者首选之工具书。第12版推出之际适逢 COED 百岁华诞, 本双解版的推出具有特殊的意义, 是一种纪念, 更是站在历史新起点上的再出发。

本词典收录240,000单词、短语和释义, 涵盖全球各种英语变体。释义依托“牛津英语语料库”和“牛津阅读计划”引语语料库, 力求精确、时新、简明易懂。在秉承关注当代英语的传统的同时, 丰富呈现科技词汇, 一如既往全面收录罕用、古旧和文学语言。语法、用法疑难点辨析较上一版有所增加, 力图解决使用者感到棘手、有争议的英语问题。作为百年纪念版, 本书特设百年词义变化专栏, 揭示一个世纪来英语词义的演变脉络。在设计上, 力求直截了当、不解自明, 尽可能少用词典专用符和惯例成规。最后, 我们为本双解版全面添加了最新的第18版国际音标, 更好满足国内使用者之需。

本词典中科技词汇、专名术语异常丰富, 是为一大特色, 但也令译者、编辑格外头疼。经过多方认真查证, 这类词多数配上了规范的中文译名, 但也有为数不少的一部分始终不见载于经传。在本双解版的编辑过程中, 我们得到了各界专业人士的大力支持, 使得这类词汇的中文译名最终得以规范, 在此一并致谢。我们要特别感谢全国科学技术名词审定委员会、中国科学院动物研究所武春生研究员和中国科学院国家天文台信息与计算中心主任崔辰州博士, 感谢他们为本词典提供热心、及时的指导。

辞书之事, 千头万绪, 常怀惴惴之心, 殚精竭虑, 锱铢必较, 付梓之际亦不免诚惶诚恐, 陡生憾意。错漏之处, 敬希广大读者批评指正。

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# Preface to the twelfth edition

This twelfth edition of the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* is a special one, published to mark the centenary of the title. The first edition of *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*, as it was then known, was edited by the brothers Henry Watson Fowler and Frank George Fowler and published in June 1911, whereupon it was praised as ‘a marvel of condensation, accomplished by skillful hands’ and ‘a miracle of condensed scholarship’. Revolutionary in its concentration on current English and in its copious use of illustrative examples, the dictionary was an immediate success.

It is interesting today to look back at that first edition of the *Concise* and compare it with the work today, now in its twelfth edition. The cover, bedecked with art nouveau swirls, proclaims ‘The Concise Oxford Dictionary, adapted by H. W. and F. G. Fowler from The Oxford Dictionary’. The book contained 1,064 pages of A–Z text, whereas the new edition has 1,682 larger pages.

The words covered, and the way they are described, have of course changed along with the language and the world. *COD1* had no entry for **computer**, **radio**, **television**, or **cinema**, although it did have **cockyolly bird** (‘nursery phr. For a bird’) and **impaludism** (‘morbid state ... found in dwellers in marshes’). It defined **beverage** as ‘drinking-liquor’, **cancan** as ‘indecent dance’, and **neon** as ‘lately discovered atmospheric gas’. **Gay** meant ‘full of or disposed to or indicating mirth; light-hearted, sportive’, while **Lesbian** was simply ‘of Lesbos’. Even spelling is different: **horsebox**, **horse chestnut**, and **horsefly** were all hyphenated, and **rime** and **shew** were given as spellings of **rhyme** and **show**.

Since then the *Concise* has gone through eleven further editions. This twelfth edition has been fully updated and redesigned, and some 400 new entries and 300 new senses have been added since the eleventh. In producing this edition we have been able to draw on the language research and analysis carried out for the third edition of the groundbreaking *Oxford Dictionary of English*, which was published in 2010. As with the very first edition of the *Concise*, which made use of the ‘materials’ and ‘methods’ by which the editors of the *Oxford English Dictionary* had ‘revolutionized lexicography’, so the twelfth edition benefits from the innovative

principles and methodology devised for its larger cousin.

New entries in the twelfth edition include **cybersecurity**, **geolocation**, **nurdle**, **retweet**, and **webisode**, although there is now no place for **cockyolly bird** or **impaludism**. The spellings of around 400 words have changed since the eleventh edition: for example, **airgun**, **conman**, **deathtrap**, and **deluxe** are now one word rather than two, and **audiovisual**, **auto-suggestion**, **bittersweet**, and **fox hunting** have lost their hyphens.

The Fowler brothers, like all lexicographers until quite recently, had to rely largely on examples of usage that were derived from their own reading or sent in by others. Modern dictionaries are written and revised with the help of searchable databases containing millions of words of English. For the twelfth edition we have made use of larger amounts of evidence than ever before: we were able to call upon the two-billion-word Oxford English Corpus and the citations database of the Oxford Reading Programme. This evidence underpins what we are able to say about the language and the words within it, whether in giving information about spelling, in ensuring accurate and precise definitions, or in establishing currency or level of formality. This latest edition of the *Concise* offers a description of the language that is as accurate, up to date, and objective as possible, using resources that the editors of the first edition would never have dreamed of.

The twelfth edition aims to cover all those words, phrases, and meanings that form the central vocabulary of English in the modern world. Words relating to computing, the Internet, and mobile technology are now established as part of the mainstream language rather than being considered 'technical' terms, and many everyday words such as **bookmark**, **favourite**, **follow**, and **friend** are now almost as well known in their computing senses as in their original meanings. Rare, archaic, and literary language is represented as fully as ever before, and the *Concise* continues to celebrate all the richness and history of English. The definitions retain the hallmark of conciseness, although this is balanced by an emphasis on clarity and accessibility, using ordinary modern English to explain technical and complex terms.

Features new to this edition include a selection of special 1911–2011 features, highlighting just some of the changes in language and style between the first and the twelfth editions, and there are more boxed usage notes offering help with tricky and controversial questions of English. In the preliminary matter of the dictionary there is a history of the *Concise* by Elizabeth Knowles, who has uncovered some fascinating details from the last hundred years. The reference section in the centre of the book includes useful tables of factual information



such as Countries, Kings and Queens, Presidents, and Weights and Measures.

We are grateful to many people for their help in the preparation of this edition. Special thanks are due to Elizabeth Knowles and to archivist Beverley Hunt for her research. We are also indebted to the New Words team of the *Oxford English Dictionary* for their ongoing help in identifying and drafting new words as they come into the language.

ANGUS STEVENSON

## 第12版序（译文）

*Concise Oxford English Dictionary*（以下简称*Concise*）第12版的出版具有特殊意义，意在庆祝本词典百岁华诞。第1版出版于1911年6月，当时取名为 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*，主编为亨利·沃森·福勒和弗兰克·乔治·福勒兄弟，被誉为“妙手著就的浓缩奇迹”“简洁学问之奇迹”。本词典专注于当代英语，配以丰富的例证，这在当时都是革命性的创新，甫一问世便大获成功。

今天，回首第1版，同目前的第12版做一个比较，颇为有趣。当时，封面上装饰着新艺术风格的涡旋，清楚地印着“*The Concise Oxford Dictionary*, H. W. 福勒、F. G. 福勒改编自《牛津词典》”。第1版正文A至Z共计1,064页，而本版则有1,682页，而且页面也要大一些。

所收录的词汇、描述词汇的方式，自然会随着语言和世界而变化而变化。第1版没有收录 *computer*, *radio*, *television*, *cinema* 等条目，但收录了 *cockyolly bird*（鸟的儿语说法）和 *impaludism*（疾病……见于沼泽地居民）。第1版将 *beverage* 释为“饮用的酒”，将 *cancan* 释为“下流的舞蹈”，将 *neon* 释为“新近发现的大气中的气体”。*gay* 在当时意为“充满、喜欢或显示出欢笑的；轻松愉快的”，而 *Lesbian* 则被简单地释为“莱斯博斯的”。甚至拼写也有不同：*horsebox*, *horse chestnut* 和 *horsefly* 都用了连字符，*rhyme* 和 *show* 当时分别拼作 *rime* 和 *shew*。

继第1版之后，*Concise* 至今又出版了11个版本。第12版实现了全面更新、重新设计，比第11版增收了约400个新条目和300个新义项。在本版的制作过程中，我们得以借力为编写开创性的《牛津英语大词典》第3版（2010年出版）所做的语言研究与分析成果。正如当年 *Concise* 第1版利用了《牛津英语大词典》的编者借以使词典编纂发生革命化巨变的“材料”和“方法”一样，第12版也受益于为增修《牛津英语大词典》而制定的创新性原则和方法。

第12版中新增条目包括 *cybersecurity*, *geolocation*, *nurdle*, *retweet* 和 *webisode*，而 *cockyolly bird* 和 *impaludism* 则失去了位置。第11版以来，约400个词语的拼写发生了变化，例如 *airgun*, *conman*, *deathtrap* 和 *deluxe* 现在写作一个词，不再分写为两个词，而 *audiovisual*, *autosuggestion*, *bittersweet* 和 *fox hunting* 也不再使用连字符了。

福勒兄弟和所有近年以前的词典编纂者一样，不得不主要依赖由个人阅读得来

或由他人提供的用法例证。现代词典编写修订时，会借助于容量达亿万英语单词的可检索的数据库。我们在编写第12版时，利用的书证比以往任何时候都要多：我们利用了容量为20亿单词的“牛津英语语料库”和“牛津阅读计划”引语语料库。这些书证有力地支持了我们对英语及英语词汇所做的阐释，无论是提供拼写信息，保证给出精准的释义，还是确立一个词的通用地位或正式程度。该最新版借助于第1版编者想所未想的资源，对英语进行了尽可能精准、时新、客观的描述。

第12版力图收录当今世界构成英语中心词汇的全部词语、短语和义项。有关计算机、因特网和移动技术的词语现已被确立为主流英语的一部分，不再被视为“专业”词汇，许多日常词语，如 *bookmark*, *favourite*, *follow* 和 *friend* 在计算机领域的意义现在已经几乎和其原义同样为人所知。*Concise* 始终致力于记录英语的丰富含义和历史，故而罕用、古旧和文学语言一如既往地得到了全面的收录。本版释义继承了简明的风格特征，但同时也兼顾明晰和易懂，用当今通俗的英语解释技术性及其复杂的专有名词。

本版的新特色包括一系列精选的1911–2011百年特殊专题，彰显第1版和第12版在语言和风格上的某些变化，而且用法说明框也有所增加，帮助使用者解决棘手的、有争议的英语问题。在本词典的文前部分，收录了伊丽莎白·诺尔斯撰写的 *Concise* 历史，揭示了100年来一些引人入胜的细节。本词典的中间插页为一些参考信息，包括有用的事实性信息表，如国家、君主、总统和度量衡。

我们在制作本版的过程中，得到了许多人的帮助，在此一并致谢。我们要特别感谢伊丽莎白·诺尔斯和为我们做研究的档案管理员贝弗利·亨特。我们还要感谢《牛津英语大词典》的新词团队，他们源源不断地帮助我们发现、甄选英语新词。

安格斯·史蒂文森

# One hundred years of the Concise Oxford Dictionary

In October 1906 Humphrey Milford, Assistant Secretary to the Delegates of Oxford University Press, wrote a letter to one of his authors, then living on the island of Guernsey in the English Channel. Might Henry Watson Fowler, and his brother Frank, be interested in writing two small dictionaries for the Press? Milford described the prospect as 'a pleasant occupation for say 3 hours a day'.

In 1906 work on the great *Oxford English Dictionary* had reached the letter M. The dictionary's origins went back nearly fifty years, to 1857, when members of the Philological Society called for a complete re-examination of the language from Anglo-Saxon times onward. Thousands of quotations, providing evidence of word use, were collected, but it was to take twenty-two years before the first editor, James Murray, with the support of Oxford University Press, began work on what was then called the *New English Dictionary*. Initial estimates were for a ten-year project that would produce a four-volume dictionary of approximately six and a half thousand pages. In the event, as Murray grappled with the raw material of citation evidence collected from the work of voluntary readers, and the language obstinately continued to evolve, it must soon have been clear that such estimates were optimistic and unrealistic.

It was customary for large dictionaries to be issued in separate parts or 'fascicles'. What is now referred to as the First Fascicle, A–ANT, was published in 1884; the dictionary progressed slowly through such attractive-sounding fascicles as *Distrustfully–Doom* (1897) and *Input–Invalid* (1900) to the reaches of M, with M–*Mandragora* appearing in 1904. James Murray had been joined by Henry Bradley as second editor in 1888, and the two men worked in parallel, each with a group of lexicographers; William Craigie became the third co-editor in 1901. The effect on production was beneficial, and 1906 saw the appearance of two further fascicles. However, the outgoings for the Press were significant, and the end was not in sight (Milford described the prospect of completion as 'still misty on the horizon'). It had

long been planned that the riches of the 'big dictionary' should be mined for smaller single volumes which would offer the benefits of up-to-date language analysis to the ordinary reader, and in 1906 Milford clearly felt that he had not only the raw material, but also the right men to deal with it.

Henry Watson Fowler was a wiry, determined forty-eight-year-old, given to early morning runs and cold baths, who in earlier life had been a schoolmaster at Sedbergh School in Yorkshire. His lack of religious belief, however, meant that he could not prepare boys for confirmation in the Church of England: this was an effective block on the career path, since he could not hope for promotion to the position of housemaster, nor therefore eventually achieve a headship. He had accordingly resigned his position, and set out to earn his living by his pen. In 1906 he and his brother Frank (Francis George Fowler) were living in adjacent cottages on Guernsey. They were already Oxford University Press authors, and their classic guide to usage *The King's English* had been published earlier in the year. They were therefore the natural people to turn to when the Press wished to put into practice its long-held aim to publish small dictionaries, to be published at a price of one or two shillings, based on the magisterial *OED*.

Milford opened negotiations cautiously. 'I wonder whether the idea is utterly revolting to you,' he wrote, adding that he would not go into detail until he heard whether the Fowlers 'might consider the plan'. He must have been pleased when Henry and Frank showed that they were indeed interested, so that the promised details could be provided. The basis of the dictionary was to be the *OED*; when they got to the part of the alphabet which the bigger dictionary had not yet reached, they could make use of the evidence waiting in the *OED* files. The purpose was to publish a dictionary of *current* English: this meant excluding obsolete words, unless they were from the Bible (the text of the 1611 Authorized Version would in 1906 have been very widely known and frequently encountered by a churchgoing population). There would be full etymologies, and spelling should follow the preferred form authorized by *OED*.

Terms were set out: a fee rather than a royalty arrangement, with lump sums being paid in instalments. This could have been seen as risky from the author's perspective, if the amount of work required were underestimated. '3 hours a day' was unlikely to have been enough, and was not in any case characteristic of the way in which Henry approached a task; however, he was a frugal man, and there is no evidence at any point that he demurred over the remuneration or

asked for more. Towards the end of his life, in March 1931, he concluded a later agreement on payment with the words, 'All right, if you insist on making a millionaire of me, do so.'

As a basis for initial work, material was sent to Guernsey. Small dictionaries from other publishers (such as Annandale's *A Concise Dictionary of the English Language*, published by Blackie in 1900) offered a guide to size. There was also manuscript material: written (and printed) trial entries, which had been commented on by Henry Bradley and members of his staff. Henry and Frank got down to work, producing text based on two alphabetic sections, *M* to *macroscopic*, and *mandragora* to *manna-croup*. A letter from Henry of 4 November 1906, which radiates his customary vim, would strike a chord with many lexicographers: as Henry recognized, they were at that point of pure enjoyment when possibilities were still being explored, the work was new and exciting, and the solid grind had not yet begun:

Lexicography is a very contentious business; we fight tooth and nail over a hundred trifles per diem. As long as this lasts we go very slow and get much enjoyment; when we have made all our compromises and settled in drab uniformity, I don't know whether we shall enjoy it, but anticipate moving faster.

Initially the 'contentious business' was to include some heated exchanges once the Fowlers received Henry Bradley's comments on their work. Although his overall view was favourable, he had many detailed criticisms (some of which, in the Fowlers' view, reflected the text from which they were drawing material, rather than any changes they might have made). There were disagreements about the length of etymologies and the inclusion of foreign phrases, such as *bonnes fortunes*, defined as 'Ladies' favours, as a thing to boast of or pride oneself on', which were not found in *OED*. (The Fowlers' view prevailed on this point.) Decisions about how to represent stress marks in pronunciation (by a raised dot) even involved technological change: the Fowlers are said to have modified a typewriter to achieve the effect in their copy. But once specimens had been agreed, Henry and Frank forged ahead. In a remarkable achievement, the first *Concise Oxford Dictionary* was published in 1911, only five years after the project had first been broached to its editors. Henry had even found time, in 1908, to make what was to be an exceptionally happy and long-lasting marriage with a nurse, Jessie Wills, a few years younger than himself.

The *Concise* was described by a publicity notice of the time as 'the first-born of the O. E.

D'. With an extent of 1,064 pages and an affordable price of three shillings and sixpence, its virtues included the 'large amount of space given to common words' and the 'copious use of illustrative sentences'. Room for this treatment was made by the 'curtest possible treatment' of both 'uncommon words' and words which were 'fitter for the encyclopaedia than the dictionary'. Pre-eminently, this was, as originally planned, a dictionary of *current* English, a standby for writers and speakers in the second decade of the twentieth century.

The preface to the first edition makes clear the points that the editors themselves thought particularly important. Scientific and technical vocabulary offered 'many thousands' of old or new items, so the test had been whether such words, 'carried by accident into the mainstream of the language', had 'become known temporarily or permanently, vaguely or precisely, to all ordinarily well-informed members of the modern newspaper-reading public'.

In another area, they had responded to the 'test of currency' in a different way from most dictionaries of this size. Words classified as 'colloquial, facetious, slang, and vulgar expressions' were included freely if the evidence of their use was there, although cautionary labels were attached. Very importantly, the editors explained that if a 'well-known usage' had been omitted, 'it is not because we consider it beneath the dignity of lexicography to record it'. It would simply have been that it had been missed. One hundred years later, in a world in which we take for granted the ability to search for words online, it is salutary to be reminded that lexicographers in the early twentieth century were dependent for their evidence on someone having noticed a usage and made a note of it. If a word or phrase had not entered a comparable dictionary, or been spotted by the readers whose role was to collect evidence of actual usage, it was all too easy for something to be overlooked.

Not every problem had been resolved, and hyphenation had proved particularly intransigent. 'After trying hard at an early stage to arrive at some principle that should teach us when to separate, when to hyphen, and when to unite the parts of compound words, we had to abandon the attempt as hopeless, and welter in the prevailing chaos.' As the OUP archives show, decades later the question of hyphenation was still proving problematic. In 1944 (when other concerns must surely have claimed attention) an official of the War Office wrote to the Fowlers' successor for guidance. 'We have had some difficulty', the letter began plaintively, 'in regard to the hyphening of compound words referred to in the Oxford Concise Dictionary.' However, it turned out that the War Office's particular difficulty did not reflect the attempt to establish a principle described in the 1911 preface. Their problem came in reconciling

compounds which were solid words, in which both elements appeared in full (*blacksmith*, *blackmail*), with two-word compounds, which might or might not be hyphenated, but where to save space the headword 'black' was abbreviated to 'b.', as in *b.-beetle* and *b. book*. The two-page reply sent to the War Office laying out these details was both helpful and courteous, and only at one point does a certain restraint show. In noting that the editors had not given an explicit account of this particular practice in the prefatory matter, it suggested that this was because 'they did not think it would cause difficulty'. (There is no further correspondence on the matter, so presumably the War Office was able to return unimpeded to the drafting of reports.)

One of the most challenging parts of the whole endeavour must have been the enormous effort of compression required to distil the relevant sections of the *OED* into an extent appropriate to the *Concise*. The point was summarized by Henry Fowler in a letter of May 1907: 'The perpetual struggle between the quart and the pint pot is having serious effects on our literary style and the color [*sic*] of our hair; but we are maintaining it gallantly.' Success was achieved not only through covering rare terms very briefly, but by practising what the Fowlers in their preface called 'the severest economy of expression—amounting to the adoption of telegraphese—that readers can be expected to put up with'. As it turned out, the severe economy unfortunately extended to the omission of *telegraphese* from the text, the word having to be inserted at a later date.

The reception given to the *Concise* left no doubt that the Fowlers had achieved a triumph. A review of the time called the book 'a marvel of condensation, achieved by skilful hands'. Others asserted that it was 'the best small dictionary extant', being 'literally without a rival'.

Publication was, in one sense, only the beginning. As language develops, new words are coined, while the public's use of a dictionary can lead to suggestions of words that have been left out. The technology of the time meant that inserting new material could be a costly business. Dictionary pages were set by arranging individual pieces of type. Plates giving a three-dimensional model of the text were created, and sheets printed from these. As a result, insertion of new words or senses meant that a complete new plate would have to be made. Significant new material for later impressions or editions was often included in a supplement at the end of the main text, with a separate sequence of new entries ('addenda'). By 1914 the 'Addenda' to the first edition had found room not only for *telegraphese* but also for other new entries, including *borzoi*, *boycott*, *burble*, *flapper*, *gorgonzola*, and *hangar*.



The second edition was published in 1929. (In this instance, a new set of plates was created, so that new words could be included in the main sequence. The financial accounts of the time show that the old plates were melted down for reuse: they appear in the credit column, and presumably went a little way to offset the cost of the new edition.) The world in which the *Concise* now appeared was almost unrecognizably different. The First World War had come and gone. The Fowler brothers had both joined up to serve in the army despite their advancing years, but while Henry (to his chagrin) was ultimately invalided out, Frank was not so lucky. He died of tuberculosis in 1918 before he could be discharged. Their home in Guernsey had been left behind, and Henry and his wife were now settled in Dorset. It was Henry alone, therefore, who wrote the preface to the second edition, a short piece which has some interesting reflections on the original enterprise.

In it he describes what he and his brother had had to do for the first edition as 'plunging into the sea of lexicography without having been first taught to swim', although the existence of four-fifths of the *Oxford English Dictionary* meant that the lexicography was (as he generously phrased it) 'of the minor or dependent kind'. He makes a clear statement of the object of the dictionary: to 'present as vivid a picture as the small dictionary could be made to give of the English that was being spoken and written at that time'. However, and this was the justification for a new edition, a 'living language ... does not remain unchanged through twenty years and a great war.' The picture they had given was in need of 'a good deal of retouching' before once more being exhibited to the public. The result was judged a decided success, Humphrey Milford describing it as 'Certainly a peach!' New words in the new edition ranged from the serious to the light-hearted. The First World War had left its mark: the entry for *trench* now included *trench foot* ('affection of feet or legs with sloughing etc. caused by much standing in water') and *trench coat*. Changes in popular culture were also reflected: the *movies* made their appearance between *mover* and *mow*, and women could now have their hair *bobbed*.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* had been completed in 1928, and by the early 1930s a *Supplement to the OED* was well under way. It was obviously necessary that a dictionary of current English should include its important additions. A third edition of the *Concise*, with extensive addenda, was therefore put in hand. Henry Fowler was now in his last years. His wife had died in 1930, and his own health gave increasing cause for concern. In 1932 his doctor issued instructions about his mode of life, when he forbade not only Henry's daily routine of running