牛津计算机英语辞典

OXFORD
DICTIONARY OF
COMPUTING

FOR LEARNERS OF ENGLISH

牛津计算机英语辞典

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出 版 说 明

　　这本计算机英语辞典是中国北京大学出版社和英国牛津大学出版社为中国读者合作出版的一部工具书。

　　计算机,又称电脑,已广泛应用于国民经济各个部门和教育、科学、文化、卫生等各个领域。计算机和计算机科学又是无国界的,东西方的科学家和工程技术工作者为发展计算机科学和使用计算机已经和正在做出巨大的努力。这部辞典是专门为从事计算机科学学习、研究和应用的朋友们学习英语而编撰出版的。

　　为了给中国读者学习和使用这部计算机英语辞典提供方便,我们的编辑工作者给每一个词目加上了对应的汉语词目,并编辑了汉语索引,以便读者更快更有效地学习使用这部辞典。

　　这部辞典是北京大学出版社和牛津大学出版社合作出版的一个尝试,难免有不尽人意之处,欢迎各界读者提出宝贵的建议和批评。今后,我们两家出版社将努力为中国读者提供更多更好的图书,以利于发展中英文化交流,共同繁荣科学文化事业。

1997年9月

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OXFORD DICTIONARY OF
COMPUTING
FOR LEARNERS OF ENGLISH

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and Allene Tuck**

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Oxford University Press

Preface

This is the first dictionary of computing written especially for learners of English to be published by Oxford University Press. It is the second dictionary in a series, following the *Oxford Dictionary of Business English for Learners of English*.

In researching and writing this dictionary, it has been necessary to draw on the combined expertise of people in the world of computing and those involved in teaching English as a foreign language. The result is a dictionary that is comprehensive and up-to-date in its coverage of words and phrases used in computing. Clear explanations of the grammar and meaning of words, along with authentic examples showing how words are really used make this dictionary a useful tool for helping to read, write speak and understand the English used in computing today.

We would like to thank the following people for their careful and committed work in the making of this dictionary: John Jaworski, Bill Coumbe, John Acton and Kathryn Phillips-Miles. We would also like the acknowledge the work of the large team of people involved in the production of the dictionary once the text was complete.

User's Guide to the Dictionary

This dictionary is intended for learners of English of intermediate to advanced level who need to understand, speak, read and write the English used in computing. It will be a valuable reference work for people who use computers and people who study computing. Words and phrases are explained clearly and simply using a limited number of words which are easy to understand.

To ensure that the words and examples included in this dictionary are modern and authentic, this dictionary has been compiled with the help of the British National Corpus, a collection of 100 000 000 words of both written and spoken English. Many of the examples in the dictionary are corpus-based.

This dictionary has been specially designed so that it is easy to use. The headword is followed by a definition and examples. If more detailed information on grammar or pronunciation is needed, or if cross references, collocates, plurals, synonyms, parts of the verb or spelling and American variants are required, they have all been conveniently placed together in the separate language column.

Sandra Pyne

Oxford, 1995

Allene Tuck

前　　言

　　这是由牛津大学出版社出版的第一本特别为英语学习者编写的计算机辞典。它是丛书中继 Oxford Dictionary of Business English for Learners of English 之后的第二本辞典。

　　在本辞典的研究和编写中，有必要把从事计算机工作的和那些教授英语的人们的专长吸收进来。其成果就是这本辞典，它全面而又最新地涵盖了计算机中使用的词汇和短语。对语法和词汇含义的清晰的解释，以及展示词汇实际上如何使用的权威性范例使本辞典成为帮助阅读、编写、谈论和理解当今计算机中使用的英语的有用的工具。

　　我们要感谢下述众人在编写本辞典中的认真而又尽责的工作：John Jaworski，Bill Coumbe，John Acton 和 Kathryn Phillips-Miles。我们还要对在正文完成后参与辞典制作的一大批人员的工作表示感谢。

辞典用户指南

　　本辞典是为那些需要理解、谈论、阅读和编写计算机程序中使用到英语的中级到高级水平的英语学习者而编写的。它将成为使用计算机和学习计算的人们的有价值的参考书。词汇和短语均使用有限数量的、易于理解的单词来清晰而简明地解释。

　　为确保本辞典中包含的词汇和短语既新且有权威性，本辞典是在 British Notional Corpus 的帮助下编辑而成的，该全集汇总了书面和口头英语的1亿个单词。本辞典的许多范例都是依据该全集的。

　　本辞典被特意设计得易于使用。每个词目后都有定义和范例。如果需要语法或发音的更详细的信息，或者如果需要交叉参考、搭配、复数、同义词、动词或拼写的各种形式以及美语变体，那么它们都被方便地放置在分开的语言栏中。

<div align="right">

Sandra Pyne

Allene Tuck

牛津，1995

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Phonetic Symbols

Consonants

p	pen	/pen/
b	bad	/bæd/
t	tea	/tiː/
d	did	/dɪd/
k	cat	/kæt/
g	got	/gɒt/
ʧ	chain	/ʧeɪn/
dʒ	jam	/dʒæm/
f	fall	/fɔːl/
v	van	/væn/
θ	thin	/θɪn/
ð	this	/ðɪs/
s	so	/səʊ/
z	zoo	/zuː/
ʃ	shoe	/ʃuː/
ʒ	vision	/ˈviʒn/
h	hat	/hæt/
m	man	/mæn/
n	no	/nəʊ/
ŋ	sing	/sɪŋ/
l	leg	/leg/
r	red	/red/
j	yes	/jes/
w	wet	/wet/

Vowels and dipthongs

iː	see	/siː/
i	happy	/ˈhæpi/
ɪ	sit	/sɪt/
e	ten	/ten/
æ	cat	/kæt/
ɑː	father	/fɑːðə(r)/
ɒ	got	/gɒt/
ɔː	saw	/sɔː/
ʊ	put	/pʊt/
u	actual	/ˈæktʃuəl/
uː	too	/tuː/
ʌ	cup	/kʌp/
ɜː	bird	/bɜːd/
ə	about	/əˈbaʊt/
eɪ	say	/seɪ/
əʊ	go	/gəʊ/
aɪ	five	/faɪv/
aʊ	now	/naʊ/
ɔɪ	boy	/bɔɪ/
ɪə	near	/nɪə(r)/
eə	hair	/heə(r)/
ʊə	pure	/pjʊə(r)/

(r) shows a possible linking /r/, pronounced before a following vowel sound only. The mark ' shows strong stress, and ˌ a weaker stress. Where two or more strong stresses are included, the last one should always be made stronger than the others.

Areas of computing covered in this dictionary

applications	electronics	networks
communications	graphics	personnel
data manipulation	hardware	printing
data representation	mathematics and logic	programming
data storage	memory management	software

Contents

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A *abbr*

1 ▶ **ampere**
2 the letter which represents the decimal number 10 in hexadecimal notation

/eɪ/
2 ▶ **base 16**

---

abandon *verb* (operations)
to leave a file without saving the data it contains, or to leave a program before it has finished executing: *abandon the file and revert to the saved version*

/əˈbændən/
abandon, abandoning, abandoned
note transitive verb
▶ **abort, quit**

---

abbr *abbr*
▶ **abbreviation**

note used in written English only

☆**abbreviation** *noun*
a short form of a word or phrase: *'DTP' is an abbreviation for 'desktop publishing'.*

/əˌbriːviˈeɪʃn/
pl abbreviations
abbr abbr, abbrev
◄ use an **abbreviation**
▶ **acronym, mnemonic**

---

abend *noun*
▶ **abnormal end**

/ˈæbend/

---

abnormal end *noun*
an unexpected end to a program caused by an error in the program or data: *This batch of processing included 8 successful runs and 3 abnormal ends.*

/æbˌnɔːmlˈend/
pl abnormal ends
syn abend

☆**abort** *verb* (operations)
to stop a program while it is running: *The operators aborted the program at an early stage.* ○ *The program aborted because the data was in the wrong format.*

/əˈbɔːt/
abort, aborting, aborted
note transitive or intransitive verb
◄ **abort** an operation, a program
▶ **abandon, cancel, interrupt², terminate 1**

---

absolute address *noun* (hardware)
1 the fixed place where an item of data is always stored: *find any absolute address in the computer's memory* **2** the name, number or code of this place: *The machine-code instructions contain the absolute addresses for all the items of data required by the program.*

/ˌæbsəluːt əˈdres/
pl absolute addresses
syn direct address, machine address
▶ **address, relative address**

---

absolute addressing *noun*
a way of accessing data by using its ABSOLUTE ADDRESS: *The program uses absolute addressing.*

/ˌæbsəluːt əˈdresɪŋ/
note not used with *a* or *an*. No plural and used with a singular verb only.
syn direct addressing
▶ **indirect addressing**

---

absolute assembler *noun* (software)
a program that converts assembly language into machine code by using the same part of memory

/ˌæbsəluːt əˈsemblə(r)/
pl absolute assemblers
▶ **assembler**

---

absolute code *noun* (software)
a programming code that can be executed directly by the CPU: *a program written in absolute code*

/ˌæbsəluːt ˈkəʊd/
note no plural

---

abbr abbreviation   **pl** plural   **syn** synonym   ▶ see   ◄ collocate (*word often used with the headword*)

▶ use, write **absolute code**

▶ **low-level language, machine code**

---

absolute loader *noun* (software)

a program that always loads another program into the same absolute address

/ˌæbsəluːt ˈləʊdə(r)/

pl absolute loaders

▶ **loader**

---

absolute value *noun* (mathematics and logic)

the size of a number that ignores if it is positive or negative: *The absolute value of -8.44 and 8.44 is 8.44.* ○ *a function that returns the absolute value of a number*

/ˌæbsəluːt ˈvæljuː/

pl absolute values

---

abstract data type *noun* (software)

a data type that is defined by the data it contains and the operations that can be performed on it. Changes in abstract data types can be made without creating errors in the code that uses it: *change the definition of the abstract data type*

/ˌæbstrækt ˈdeɪtə taɪp/

pl abstract data types

abbr ADT

AC *abbr*

▶ **alternating current**

/ˌeɪ ˈsiː/

note pronounced as individual letters

ACC *abbr*

▶ **accumulator**

/ˌeɪ siː ˈsiː/

note pronounced as individual letters

☆**accept** *verb* (system operation)

to receive something as correct or suitable: *The computer won't accept the password.*

/əkˈsept/

accept, accepting, accepted

note transitive verb

▶ **accept** a disk, file

---

acceptance testing *noun* (hardware/software)

an amount of time in the development of a computer system for checking that it works in the way required in the contract: *After the installation of the network there was a period for acceptance testing to identify any possible problems.* ○ *The time allowed for carrying out acceptance testing is three months.*

/əkˈseptəns ˌtestɪŋ/

note no plural

▶ an **acceptance testing** period, routine, scheme

▶ **requirements specification, systems analysis**

☆**access**[1] *noun* (user operation)

the process of looking at (reading) or recording or changing (writing) data: *Enter a password to gain access to the database.* ○ *Access to confidential files is restricted to senior staff members.*

/ˈækses/

note not used with *a* or *an*. No plural and used with a singular verb only.

▶ allow, deny, gain, have, restrict **access**; read-only, write-only **access**

▶ **asynchronous access, carrier sense multiple access, cyclic access, disk access, parallel access, random access, sequential access, serial access**

☆**access**[2] *verb*

to use a computer system or part of it in order to look at (read) or to record or change (write) data: *The system cannot be accessed by unauthorized users.* ○ *access the computer via a remote host* ○ *use the pull-down menus to access other files*

/ˈækses/

access, accessing, accessed

note transitive verb

> ⋈ **access** a computer, database, hard disk, program, system
>► **enter, log on**

---

access charge *noun*

the price paid to use a computer system: *pay an access charge to use a bulletin board* ○ *The access charge is made up of an amount per minute plus an amount for storage.*

>/ˈækses tʃɑːdʒ/
>**pl** access charges
>► **connect time**

---

access code *noun*

a group of letters and/or numbers that are needed to gain access to a computer system or part of it: *input an access code at the initial prompt screen* ○ *The access code includes a secret password.*

>/ˈækses kəʊd/
>**pl** access codes
>⋈ **allocate, use an access code**
>► **password**

---

access control *noun*

1 the control of requests from users or programs to use parts of a computer system: *Permission to use certain data files is restricted by access control.* **2** (*software*) the software that controls access requests

>/ˈækses kən,trəʊl/
>**note** usually singular
>**2** ⋈ an **access control** module, routine

---

accessible *adjective*

able to be reached, entered or used: *Most university computers are accessible via the Internet.*

>/əkˈsesəbl/
>⋈ an **accessible** computer, file, system

---

access mechanism *noun*

a device that places the READ HEAD (= part of the disk drive that transfers information from the storage medium) in the correct place on a magnetic disk

>/ˈækses ,mekənɪzəm/
>**pl** access mechanisms
>⋈ adjust, maintain, repair the **access mechanism**
>**syn** actuator

---

access method *noun*

the way data items are read from a file or data structure: *The company is developing a simple data access method for all databases.*

>/ˈækses ,meθəd/
>**pl** access methods
>⋈ a record at a time **access method**
>**syn** access type
>► **ISAM, random access, sequential access, serial access, SQL**

---

access path *noun*

the route to a particular file, starting from the ROOT DIRECTORY (= the place where the first details of a disk are stored): *The access path C:ØMAILØTEXT shows that the file TEXT is on drive C, in directory MAIL.*

>/ˈækses pɑːθ/
>**pl** access paths
>⋈ specify the **access path**
>► **directory, pathname, subdirectory**

---

access request *noun*

a message to the operating system asking for the use of a data file: *The access request failed because the file was already in use.*

>/ˈækses rɪ,kwest/
>**pl** access requests
>⋈ act *on*, make an **access request**

---

access time *noun*

the time taken for a data item to be supplied after it has been requested: *an average access time of less than 100 milliseconds*

>/ˈækses taɪm/
>**pl** access times
>⋈ measure, record the **access time**
>► **disk access time, latency**

---

abbr abbreviation   **pl** plural   **syn** synonym   ► see   ⋈ collocate (*word often used with the headword*)

access type *noun*
▶ **access method**

/ˈækses taɪp/

---

accounting file *noun*
a file on a multi-user computing system that records the resources used for each job: *The system administrator checked the accounting file to see how often the database had been accessed.*

/əˈkaʊntɪŋ faɪl/
pl accounting files
◄ access, update the **accounting file**
▶ **audit**

☆**accumulator** *noun* (hardware)
a register that holds the results of operations done by the ARITHMETIC AND LOGIC UNIT (= the part of the CPU where mathematical operations are done): *store bytes/results in an accumulator*

/əˈkjuːmjəleɪtə(r)/
pl accumulators
abbr ACC

☆**accuracy** *noun*
the correctness of a calculation or result: *calculate to an accuracy of four decimal places*

note 'Accuracy' is not the same as 'precision'. 'Accuracy' is how correct a result is. 'Precision' is how detailed a result is.

/ˈækjərəsi/
note no plural
◄ test *for* **accuracy**
▶ **precision**

ACIA *abbr* (applications/communications)
an asynchronous communications interface adaptor. An integrated circuit that is used in a SERIAL COMMUNICATIONS pathway.

/ˌeɪ siː aɪ ˈeɪ/
note pronounced as individual letters

ACK *abbr*
the ASCII character which shows POSITIVE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (= a message reporting successful receipt of data): *The receiving unit sent back the ACK character.*

/æk/
note pronounced as a single word
▶ **control character**

---

acknowledge *verb*
to show or report that a message has been successfully received

/əkˈnɒlɪdʒ/
acknowledge, acknowledging, acknowledged
note transitive verb
◄ **acknowledge** a fax, message, transmission

---

acknowledgement *noun*
a message that reports the result of a data transmission

/əkˈnɒlɪdʒmənt/
pl acknowledgements
◄ receive, send, transmit an **acknowledgment**
▶ **negative acknowledgement, positive acknowledgement**

☆**acoustic coupler** *noun* (hardware)
a device attached to a telephone line that connects computers to the telephone system by converting computer signals to sound and sounds to computer signals: *use an acoustic coupler to convert digital signals to audio tones*

note Acoustic couplers are now usually replaced by modems.

/əˌkuːstɪk ˈkʌplə(r)/
pl acoustic couplers
◄ connect, use an **acoustic coupler**
▶ **modem**

ACR *abbr*
audio cassette recorder

/ˌeɪ siː ˈɑː/
note pronounced as individual letters

ACR interface *noun*
an audio cassette recorder interface. A device that allows a computer to store programs and data on an ordinary cassette recorder: *Many early home computers used an ACR interface.*

/ˌeɪ siː ˈɑːr ˌɪntəfeɪs/
pl ACR interfaces
◄ install, use an **ACR interface**
► **interface**

☆**acronym** *noun*
a word formed from the first letters of a group of words: *The acronym 'ROM' stands for 'Read Only Memory'.*

/ˈækrənɪm/
pl acronyms
◄ an **acronym** *for* something
► **abbreviation, mnemonic**

---

activate *verb*
to make something start to work: *The ON switch activates the modem.* ○ *Infected programs activate the virus when started up.* ○ *activate the circuit by passing an electric current through it*

/ˈæktɪveɪt/
activate, activating, activated
note transitive verb
◄ **activate** a printer, process, program

☆**active** *adjective*
working or being used: *make the window active by clicking on it*

/ˈæktɪv/
◄ an **active** display, file, program, window

---

activity ratio *noun*
the number of data items that are used by a process compared to the total number of data items that are stored: *an increase in the activity ratio*

/ækˈtɪvəti ˌreɪʃiəʊ/
pl activity ratios
◄ measure, record the **activity ratio**

---

actual address *noun*
► **absolute address**

/ˌæktʃuəl əˈdres/

---

actual instruction *noun*
the machine code instruction that is executed after any INDIRECT ADDRESSING or INDEXING

/ˌæktʃuəl ɪnˈstrʌkʃn/
pl actual instructions
◄ decode, execute the **actual instruction**
► **addressing, index register**

---

actuator *noun*
► **access mechanism**

/ˈæktʃueɪtə(r)/

ACU *abbr*
► **automatic calling unit**

/ˌeɪ siː ˈjuː/
note pronounced as individual letters

Ada *noun*
a high-level computer programming language designed for military systems: *algorithms programmed in Ada*

note Ada is an imperative, procedural language which was designed in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

/ˈeɪdə/
note not used with *a* or *an*. No plural and used with a singular verb only.
(also **ADA**)
◄ program *in* **Ada**; an **Ada** compiler, program

---

abbr abbreviation   **pl** plural   **syn** synonym   ► see   ◄ collocate (*word often used with the headword*)

adapter *noun*
► **adaptor**

/ə'dæptə(r)/

---

adaptive channel control *noun* (applications)
a method of sharing pathways in a communications network according to the needs of the users

/ə,dæptɪv 'tʃænl kən,trəʊl/
note no plural
► **multiplexing**

---

adaptive control system *noun* (applications)
a method of control that uses FEEDBACK or other information to alter the way a system operates: *use an adaptive control system so that the communications network is self-regulating*

/ə,dæptɪv kən'trəʊl ,sɪstəm/
pl adaptive control systems
◄ implement, install, maintain, use an **adaptive control system**

---

adaptive routing *noun*
the ability of a network to choose the path that a message takes by responding to conditions at the time, and not by working in a fixed way following fixed procedures: *If there is a line failure, adaptive routing is used to make sure that messages are not delayed.*

/ə,dæptɪv 'ruːtɪŋ/
note no plural
◄ use **adaptive routing**: an **adaptive routing** algorithm, technique
► **alternate route**

☆**adaptor** *noun* (hardware)
a device such as an add-in board that allows a computer to be connected to another device: *use an adaptor to connect the machine to the network*

/ə'dæptə(r)/
pl adaptors
(also **adapter**)
◄ connect, install, use an **adaptor**
► **enhanced graphics adaptor**

---

adaptor board *noun*
a PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD added to a computer to allow it to communicate with an external device: *install a video adaptor board*

/ə'dæptə bɔːd/
pl adaptor boards
(also **adapter board**)
◄ install, maintain, test, use an **adaptor board**
syn adaptor card

---

adaptor card *noun*
► **adaptor board**

/ə'dæptə kɑːd/

---

adaptor plug *noun*
a device that connects equipment with different plugs and SOCKETS (= a device which a plug fits into)

/ə'dæptə plʌg/
pl adaptor plugs
(also **adapter plug**)
► **gender changer**

☆**ADC** *abbr*
► **analog-to-digital converter**

/,eɪ diː 'siː/
note pronounced as individual letters

A/D converter *abbr*
► **analog-to-digital converter**

/,eɪ 'diː kən,vɜːtə(r)/

---

add *verb*
1 to put something together with something else, so that capacity, size or value is increased: *add a hard disk drive to the PC to increase data storage capacity* **2** to put numbers or amounts together to get a total: *add 3 and 4 to get 7* ○ *add 2 to 3 to make 5*

/æd/
add, adding, added
note transitive verb
◄ **add** something *to* something