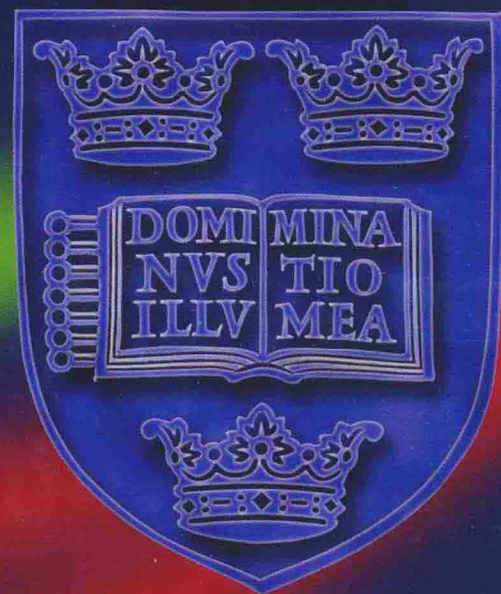


# Shorter Oxford ENGLISH Dictionary



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# Shorter Oxford English Dictionary

ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

*Fifth edition*

VOLUME 1 • A–M

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# Preface

TO THE NEW SHORTER OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY · 1993

The *New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* is a historical dictionary of modern English. It sets out the main meanings and semantic developments of words current at any time between 1700 and the present day: those which have been in regular literary or colloquial use at some point in their history; slang or dialect words which are nevertheless likely to be generally encountered through accessible literature or the modern mass media; and in addition a wide range of scientific and technical words such as may be of interest to serious amateurs or advanced students. Every headword is traced back to the time of its first known use, however early, in many cases to the manuscript records of the Old and Middle English periods.

Words which have fallen into disuse during the past three centuries are included if they meet the other general criteria. Words which became obsolete before 1700 appear if they are significant in the formation or history of some other headword in the text, or if they remain familiar from the works of Shakespeare, the 1611 Authorized Version of the Bible, and a small number of other influential literary sources (notably the poems of John Milton and Edmund Spenser's *Faerie Queene*).

This work is a replacement for the third edition of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, but not a direct revision of its text. The *New SOED* editors returned to the *Oxford English Dictionary* itself (in later stages the second edition of 1989, originally the first edition of 1884–1928 and its four-volume *Supplement* of 1972–86), and reabridged, conflated, revised, restructured, added, and updated. Every entry has been written afresh, taking into account the linguistic evidence of the Dictionary Department's extensive quotation files and computer databases. Many new words and senses have been added, and all have been reviewed in the light of social and political changes.

A more strictly chronological basis for entry structure has been adopted than in previous editions (which followed the *OED* more directly). Senses within major semantic and grammatical units are arranged according to the period or date range within which the first known example of each falls (for the definition of date ranges used see p. xvi). In many cases dates are at variance with those in the *OED* because earlier and later examples have now been identified. For the *New SOED*, researchers have systematically scrutinized historical dictionaries such as the *Middle English Dictionary* in progress in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue*, the *Scottish National Dictionary*, the *Dictionary of American English*, the *Dictionary of Americanisms*, and the *Australian National Dictionary*, looking for examples which would affect dates or descriptive labels. New information was sought in other known relevant publications, such as Jürgen Schäfer's

*Documentation in the O.E.D.* and articles in *Notes and Queries*. Unresolved first dates in the *OED* were pursued and clarified. Several million paper slips in the English Dictionary Department's files were scanned for individual antedatings or postdatings. The editors of the *Middle English Dictionary* have further provided some information from their drafts of later parts of the alphabet which have not yet been published, and a number of unpublished earlier uses have been verified in the files of the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue*. New significant information will continue to come to light, but every effort has been made to present the most accurate and up-to-date record possible at the time of going to press.

The *New SOED* is founded in the *OED*, and shares its coverage of many words and senses from North America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere within the English-speaking world. Many of the entries for recent vocabulary are based on as yet unpublished additions prepared by members of the *OED*'s New Words section.

The main senses of the headwords are illustrated by 83,000 quotations, drawn from the Dictionary Department's quotation files and computerized databases. Their primary function here is to illuminate semantic distinctions and exemplify possible grammatical constructions. Defined phrases and combinations, and derivatives and minor words related to a headword, cannot receive such expansive treatment and are not illustrated. Where possible and historically appropriate, modern sources have been used, but real examples are notoriously ambiguous or resistant to intelligible abridgement, and the undeniable quotability of Defoe, Macaulay, and Dickens has ensured the use of many earlier quotations directly from the *OED*.

Pronunciations are provided in symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet, and represent a style of British Received Pronunciation. Coverage of the wide regional, social, and other differences in spoken English in Britain and throughout the world would require more space and a more complex technical apparatus than would be suitable, given the emphases and intended non-specialist readership of the *New SOED*.

Editorial work on this completely new edition of the *SOED* began in 1980, with a build-up of staff from late 1983. Until well into the letter I, entries were handwritten on 6-by-4-inch paper slips. Then in 1987 the availability of the second edition of the *OED* in electronic form prompted a radical revision of editorial procedures. A complex specification was drawn up for the automatic modification of the *OED* text: certain categories of entry and types of information were omitted, senses and structural units were

reordered, old-fashioned modes of expression were modified, and many other changes were made to bring it closer to the spirit and style of the *New SOED*. This provisional abridged and transformed *OED* was made a reality as an electronic database and in proofed paper form on editors' desks by members of the Reference Computing team at Oxford University Press and members of the Centre for the New *OED* at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. Thereafter a team of keyboarders made the lexicographers' substantial alterations and additions directly to the central database.

Meanwhile International Computaprint Corporation (ICC) in Pennsylvania, who had undertaken data-capture of the second edition of the *OED*, keyed the handwritten slips for *A* to *interwreathe*, converting their conventional typographical mark-up into a generic form which identified the start and end points of the many different elements of dictionary structure. The tagging of the output was then refined and enhanced by programs written within OUP. Soon the sections of dictionary text produced by such contrasting means were formally indistinguishable.

Almost every member of the lexicographical team took part in the first round of editing. Proofs of the results were sent out to advisers for criticisms and suggestions, and many individual entries were also submitted to subject specialists. Comments from both these sources were then fed into a revision of the whole text by senior lexicographers. But for the requirement of publication, this revision could continue for ever.

A project of the size and duration of the *New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* inevitably draws upon the time and expertise of members of many different departments within Oxford University Press. The editors thank them all. In particular the Reference Computing team helped transform working methods and perceptions and provided the support to sustain the transformation. From outside the organization we wish to mention Hazel Wright and Deborah Honoré, for general critical reading of the text; Dr Clive Upton, for advising on pronunciation and checking phonetic transcriptions; G. Elizabeth Blake, for the programs for preliminary shortening of the *OED*; Julia Cresswell, for historical research in published materials; Ralph Bates, for bibliographical and other library research; Lidie Howes and Barbara Grant, for information from the *Middle English Dictionary* materials; Lorna Pike, for quotations from the *DOST* collections; Helen De Witt, Sara Hawker, Rachel James, Marcia Slater, Jerry Spring, Jeremy Trevett, Penny Trumble, Penny Waddell, Carl Watson, Seren Wildwood, and Jane Windebank, for data-capture and structural tagging; Patricia Moore, for this and on-line regularization of stylistic inconsistencies; Fabia Claris, Louise Keegan, Christina Malkowski-Zaba, Helen Mariage, Margaret McKay, and Coralie O'Gorman, for proof-

reading and checking of underlying structure; Dorothy McCarthy, for establishing proofreading procedures; Patricia Greene, Lisa Johnston, and Sandy Vaughan, for cross-reference checking; Fred Gill and Peter Gibbs, for checking final page-proofs; Peter Robinson, Catherine Bates, Stephen Shepherd, Lynda Mugglestone, Alexandra Barratt, and Rod McConchie, particularly for searching files for dating and usage information; Margaret Davies, for file-searching and research for the list of authors and publications; Philippa Berry, for work on the authors' list and for identifying potential cross-references for inclusion; Clare Todd, particularly for research for the authors' list, for identifying cross-references, and for quotation abridgement and copying; Kate Batchelor, Mary Burns, and Katie Weale, for quotation copying and for other clerical and administrative help; Colinette Dorey, for file-searching and for filing and clerical help; Kay Pepler, particularly for keying information for the authors' list; Clare Senior, for clerical and filing assistance; Carol Percy, for bibliographical research; Anna Taylor, for distributing proofs. At various earlier stages of the project Karen Cooper, Hania Porucznik, and Annabella Duckit were project administrative assistants, and M. A. Mabe, K. Atherton, and M. C. Palmer contributed to early editorial work.

For specific advice on particular languages and areas of knowledge, we are indebted to Mrs A. J. Allott, Dr Philip Baker, Mr David Barrett, Professor Tomás de Bhaldraithe, Mr R. J. Bowater, Dr Savile Bradbury, Dr Jean Branford, Mr David Bunker, Mr Andrew Burrows, Miss Penelope Byrde, Dr Stanley Chapman, Mr Howard Colvin, Mr Yassin Dutton, Mr Colin Dyson, Mr Elwyn Hartley Edwards, Mr D. H. Fowler, Mr J. B. Franks, Mr Alan J. Gamble, Professor Bryan Garner, Dr Ives Goddard, Mr Noël Goodwin, Mrs Judy Gray, Dr Anne Grinter, Dr P. T. Harries, Mr Andrew Hawke, Professor Tony Honoré, Mr Simon James, Dr W. J. Johnson, Dr Russell Jones, the late Mr Peter Kemp, Professor Harriet Klein, Dr Ann Lackie, M. Pierre-Yves Lambert, Professor J. D. Latham, Professor G. L. Lewis, Professor Robert E. Lewis, Dr Andrew Louth, Professor J. B. McMillan, Dr C. M. MacRobert, Dr F. H. C. Marriott, Professor P. H. Matthews, Dr M. J. Morris, Mr James Mosley, Professor P. Nailor, Mr David Parlett, Professor Andrew Pawley, Ms Jenny Putin, Dr D. A. Roe, Dr H. M. Rosenberg, Captain A. B. Sainsbury, Dr Geoff Sharman, Mr Jonathan Spencer, Professor N. S. Sutherland, Professor M. Twyman, Professor J. O. Urmson, Professor Geza Vermes, Miss Freda Walker, Lord Walton of Detchant, Mr Harry D. Watson, Ms Niki Watts, Dr M. Weitzman, Mr Ken Whyld, Mr Thomas Woodcock, Professor Clifford Wright, Mrs Hazel Wright, and Dr R. David Zorc.

L. B.

March 1993



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# Preface

## TO THE FIFTH EDITION

This edition contains many extra entries for words and phrases which have entered the language since the *New Shorter* was published in 1993, together with new illustrative quotations and other necessary updating. Importantly, the dictionary design has been completely rethought by Professor Paul Luna of the Department of Typography & Graphic Communication at the University of Reading, and we have taken the opportunity to complement the new design by expanding many of the abbreviated forms for parts of speech, subject labels, and etymological apparatus used by the previous edition. In addition, entries for abbreviations (previously nested in initial-letter entries) are now to be found in their expected alphabetical places, in line with the usual practice in Oxford dictionaries.

We have taken advantage of the work in progress for the Third Edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, and we would like to acknowledge the generous help of members of the staff of that project, in particular Michael Proffitt and Emma Lenz, for information relating to new words, and Ed Weiner and his colleagues for help with etymologies. The experience of two prominent contributors to the *New Shorter* was invaluable: Alan Hughes, who 'minded' the dictionary between editions, and Elizabeth Knowles, who read and commented on the new material prepared for this edition. Susan Wilkin gave valuable advice on pronunciations, and Jonathan Blaney and Richard Jones assisted with research.

April 2002

W. R. T.

A. J. S.

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# Guide

## TO THE USE OF THE DICTIONARY


### 1 Purpose

The following guide aims to explain to the user the kind of information that is available in the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, and to assist in the finding of particular information. It outlines the types of entry which appear in the dictionary, lists the possible places where certain kinds of words or phrases may be found, details the different features which may occur in an entry, and explains some of the conventions the dictionary uses.

### 2 The dictionary entry

#### 2.1 TYPES OF ENTRY

There are five basic types of entry in this dictionary: standard entries, combining entries, letter entries, variant entries, and abbreviation entries.

**2.1.1 Standard entries.** The majority of entries are standard entries. In these the headword, or word being defined, does not belong to any of the other entry types below. The typical standard entry has a headword (in **bold** type), pronunciation (in the International Phonetic Alphabet), part of speech (in *italic* type), date (expressed as a period of part of a century), etymology (in square brackets [ ]), and definition section. The definition section may be accompanied by one or more paragraphs containing illustrative quotations, phrases which contain the headword, compounds whose first element is the headword, or derivatives consisting of the headword and a suffix. Sections containing illustrative quotations are tinted and begin with a book symbol, . Usage indicators (labels), variant spellings, and grammatical or other information may also appear in the entry. More information on all these features is given in section 4 below.

**2.1.2 Combining entries.** In these entries the headword either begins or ends with a hyphen, and in use generally occurs joined to another word (either hyphenated or as a solid word). Combining entries include affixes of three types: suffixes (like *-ly*, *-ness*), prefixes (like *re-*, *un-*), and combining forms (like *hyper-*, *kilo-*). See further under section 6 below.

**2.1.3 Letter entries.** Each letter of the alphabet has an entry which contains a brief account of the history of the letter and lists its most important uses as an abbreviation or symbol. See further under section 7 below.

**2.1.4 Variant entries.** A variant entry refers an alternative spelling or grammatical form of a headword to the standard or combining entry with the main form and all other information. See further under section 8 below.

**2.1.5 Abbreviation entries.** Abbreviations and symbols consisting of more than one letter have their own entries. See further under section 9 below.

#### 2.2 ORDERING OF ENTRIES

Entries are listed in strict alphabetical order. Those with hyphens or spaces follow otherwise identical words written solid; a headword with an accent or diacritic over a letter follows one consisting of the same sequence of letters without. Capital and lower-case letters are regarded as equivalent. Strict alphabetical order applies also to prefixes of titles and names (such as *Mc-*, *St* (saint)) which in other contexts may conventionally be placed elsewhere.

The order of headwords which are spelled the same way but have different parts of speech is as follows:

abbreviation  
symbol  
noun  
pronoun  
adjective  
verb  
adverb  
preposition  
conjunction  
interjection  
prefix/combining form  
suffix

Entries are positioned in the headword sequence by their first part of speech. The order of headwords with the same spelling and the same (first) part of speech is chronological (according to date ranges: see 4.8 below), with variant entries following any full entries: see 4.4 below.

Subcategorizations of parts of speech, such as participial (*ppl*) of adjectives, verbal of nouns, or personal (*pers.*) of pronouns, are disregarded in determining entry order.

### 3 How to find a word or phrase

Look in the obvious alphabetical place in the main sequence of entries. If the item sought is not there, consider the following:

(i) Is it formed from a prefix or a combining form (as *dis-*, *Euro-*)? If so, is it included in the entry for that prefix or combining form? It may be listed (in italics) as an example there, or be treated in a small-type paragraph.

(ii) Is it a derivative, i.e. does it end with a suffix (as *-ly*, *-ness*)? If so, is it included at the end of the entry for the word from which it is derived? For example, *befitting* appears under **benefit verb**, *disclosing* under **disclose verb**, and



*lacelike* and *lacery* under **lace** *noun & adjective*: none would be found in its own alphabetical place.

(iii) Is it a phrase or combination, or other compound? If so, is it included in a small-type **paragraph** in the entry for one of the words which it contains? For example, *three cheers* and *sling mud* are respectively under **cheer** *noun*<sup>1</sup> and **mud** *noun*<sup>1</sup>, *colour-blind* is under **colour** *noun*, and *infant prodigy* is under **infant** *noun*<sup>1</sup> & *adjective*. Sometimes an entry for one word in a phrase or compound will contain a cross-reference to one of the other elements, under which the definition will be found. For two-word compounds it is generally best to look initially under their first element. For further information see 4.14 below.

(iv) Is it very similar to a word included as a headword? If so, and especially if it is an uncommon or obsolete word, it may also be included in the small-type derivative block at the end of the entry for that word. (See 4.16 below for more information on derivatives.)

#### 4 The features of a standard dictionary entry

This section describes the elements which may appear in a standard dictionary entry, in the order in which they most usually occur. Some, such as labels or phrases, can occur in several places: this is mentioned, and the range of places indicated, later in the guide in the section for the feature in question. Many of the characteristics of standard entries are shared by the other types of dictionary entry.

##### 4.1 HEADWORD

Every entry opens with a headword, printed in bold type. The headword is the word whose meaning, etymology, history, pronunciation, etc., are the subject of the entry.

If the headword is obsolete (i.e. no longer in use in current English) it is preceded by a dagger: †.

If the headword is a word (or phrase) which, although used in English, is still regarded as essentially foreign, it is printed in bold italics. In their normal contexts such items are often written or printed in light italics or within quotation marks, and many may still usually be pronounced in a foreign way.

Where a word has more than one spelling, the spelling used for the headword is usually the one regarded as the dominant or preferred current form. Other spellings may be given later in the entry, as variants (see 4.6 below). Historical considerations occasionally require a form which is less usual for some senses to be chosen as the headword, but in such cases current usage is made clear.

##### 4.2 PRONUNCIATION

4.2.1 The pronunciations shown are those which can safely be regarded as allowable in British English at the present time, within the form of received pronunciation that does not give rise to any negative social judgement when heard by most native speakers. An attempt has been made to represent the English spoken by the current

generation, older forms being discarded where necessary, but absence of a variant need not indicate that it is completely unacceptable, and the order of variants need not be one of decreasing frequency.

Pronunciations are given, between slashes, in the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). The symbols and conventions used are intended to provide sufficient information for accurate production of the appropriate sounds, without needless detail.

4.2.2 *Vowels*. In a conventional vowel diagram (representing the position and degree of raising of the tongue in articulating each sound), the vowel symbols used in this dictionary appear as follows:

	Front	Central	Back
High	i y ɪ		u ʊ
	e ø	ə	o
Mid	ɛ œ	ʌ	ɔ
Low	a		ɑ ɒ

Lengthening is indicated by :

Nasality is indicated by the superscript diacritic ~

The front vowels with lip-rounding, /y/, /ø/, and /œ/, occur only in words which are not fully naturalized. See further the Pronunciation Guide.

The English vowel sounds are

Short	Long
a as in <b>cat</b>	ɑ: as in <b>arm</b>
ɛ <b>bed</b>	ə: <b>her</b>
ɪ <b>sit</b>	i: <b>see</b>
i <b>cosy</b>	ɔ: <b>saw</b>
ɒ <b>hot</b>	u: <b>too</b>
ʌ <b>run</b>	ɛ: <b>hair</b>
ʊ <b>put</b>	
ə <b>ago</b>	

##### *Diphthongs*

ʌɪ as in <b>my</b>
aʊ <b>how</b>
eɪ <b>day</b>
əʊ <b>no</b>
ɪə <b>near</b>
ɔɪ <b>boy</b>
ʊə <b>poor</b>
ʌɪə <b>tire</b>
aʊə <b>sour</b>

4.2.3 *Consonants and semivowels*. The following sounds are recorded in this dictionary:

Plosives: p, b, t, d, k, g

Fricatives: f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, ç, x, h

Affricates: tʃ, dʒ

Liquids and nasals: l, ɫ, m, n, ŋ, r

Semivowels: j, w, ɥ

Of these, b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w, and z have their usual English values. Other symbols are used as follows:

g	as in <b>get</b>
tʃ	<b>chip</b>
dʒ	<b>jar</b>
ŋ	<b>ring</b>
θ	<b>thin</b>
ð	<b>this</b>
ʃ	<b>she</b>
ʒ	<b>vision</b>
j	<b>yes;</b>

in some Scottish and foreign words

x as in **loch**, German **ach**;

and only in respect of words which are not fully naturalized

ç as in German **nicht**

ʎ as in Spanish **ll** or Italian **gl** in *gli*

ɲ as in Spanish **ñ**, French **gn**, Italian **gn** in *gnocco*

ʁ as in French **nuit**.

See further the Pronunciation Guide.

4.2.4 Primary stress is indicated by superscript ' before the stressed syllable, secondary stress by subscript . Primary stress is shown for words with two or more syllables; secondary stress only where its marking is needed to avoid doubt. Word stress is not a significant feature of the French language, and no stress is marked in words retaining a true French pronunciation. See further 4.2.9 below.

4.2.5 Unstressed vowels are reduced to /ə/ unless they are likely to have their full phonetic value when the word is pronounced in isolation.

4.2.6 Optional sounds, sometimes pronounced, sometimes not, are enclosed within round brackets.

E.g. **prompt** /prom(p)t/  
**delivery** /di'liv(ə)ri/.

The bracketing of schwa, (ə), before /l/, /m/, and /n/ shows that these consonants are often syllabic in the words concerned.

4.2.7 An explicit pronunciation is given for a derivative only if it differs in some unpredictable way from that of the headword or from that usual in combination with the suffix in question. If the derivative bears primary stress on a different syllable from the headword (and consequently has a predictably different pronunciation) this is indicated by a primary stress mark before the stressed syllable within the actual form; any secondary stress is assumed to fall on the syllable bearing primary stress in the headword unless otherwise marked.

E.g. (s.v. **FALSIFY**) **falsifiable** bears no stress mark so is stressed like falsify on the first syllable, but **falsi'fiable'ility**.

Among predictable changes associated with the position of primary stress are

ə or (ə) → a in nouns in *-ality* formed from adjectives in *-al* (e.g. **practi'cality** and not the full phonetic tran-

scription /praktɪ'kalɪti/ is given under **practical** /'praktɪk(ə)l/);

əʊ or ə(u) → ɒ in derivatives of combining forms in *-o* or words formed from them (e.g. **ma'cropterous** and not the full phonetic transcription /ma'krɒpt(ə)rəs/ is given under **macro-** /'makrəʊ/).

A final *-r* is pronounced in derivatives formed with a suffix beginning with a vowel.

E.g. **authoress** under **author** /'ɔ:θə/ is to be understood as /'ɔ:θəris/.

**cellarage** under **cellar** /'sɛlə/ is to be understood as /'sɛləridʒ/.

An exception to this is the suffix *-ed*, which results in a pronunciation /əd/ not /-əd/ after /ə/.

The pronunciation of *-icity* in derivatives of adjectives in *-ic* (/i-ik/) is /-ɪsɪti/.

4.2.8 A second or subsequent pronunciation is often abbreviated so as to show just the part where it differs from the first; the same applies to pronunciations of variant or inflected forms.

4.2.9 An alternative non-Anglicized pronunciation may be given for a word which is largely but not fully naturalized. Such pronunciations are preceded by *foreign*. The first (or only) pronunciation of any non-naturalized word, phrase, or form (printed in italic bold) from one of the more familiar modern European languages will represent the foreign pronunciation but will have no specifying label. A second or subsequent fully Anglicized pronunciation will often be given.

4.2.10 A hyphen may be used in a phonetic transcription to clarify or emphasize that the divided sounds are to be separately pronounced, for example where they could be mistaken for a diphthong or single affricate, or where /l/ is repeated when *-less* or *-ly* is added to a word ending in *-l*.

E.g. **Mazdaism** /'mæzdə-ɪz(ə)m/

**potsherd** /'pɒt-ʃə:d/

**drolly** /'drɒl-li/

**moralless** /'mɒr(ə)l-lɪs/.

Most often, however, hyphens simply open or close truncated pronunciations.

4.2.11 Additional examples of words illustrating particular sounds are to be found in the Pronunciation Guide, and the main English sounds are summarized at the foot of the page throughout much of the dictionary.

#### 4.3 PART OF SPEECH

A part of speech is given for all entries, except letter entries. It appears in italics after the pronunciation, or after the headword if no pronunciation is shown.

All the parts of speech of a headword are listed at the beginning of an entry, e.g. *adjective & adverb*; *noun, adjective, & verb*. Sometimes parts of speech are treated together, but more often they are in separate sections, in which case each section is headed with a capital initial followed by

the part(s) of speech being treated in that section, e.g. **A noun, B adjective**.

If the headword consists of two or more separate words, it may be specified as a phrase (*phr.*). For example, *noun phr.*, or *adjectival phr.*, or (when parts of speech are combined) *noun & adverbial phr.*

If the headword is a verb, the part of speech may be followed by an indication of the verb's transitivity (e.g. *verb intrans.*, *verb trans.*). For more information about transitivity see 4.11.1 below.

Parts of speech are also given for some of the items in combination and other subentry blocks (see 4.14 below) and for derivatives (see 4.16 below).

#### 4.4 HOMONYMS

If two or more headwords have the same spelling and part of speech, but each has a different origin and meaning, the headwords are homonyms. They are distinguished by a superscript number after the relevant part of speech. In this dictionary, homonyms include headwords whose only difference is an initial capital, but not headwords which differ in respect of hyphenation, spacing, or letters with accents or diacritics. If the first part of speech of two or more homonyms is the same, the entries are presented in chronological order (according to date range: see 4.8 below). If successive entries have more than one part of speech, homonym numbers of later parts of speech are allocated in the order in which the entries appear in the text. E.g. if *noun<sup>1</sup> & adjective<sup>1</sup>* is followed by *noun<sup>2</sup> & adjective<sup>2</sup>*, it is to be understood that the second noun is recorded later (or at least no earlier) than the first, but nothing is implied about the relative first dates of the adjectives. Homonyms which are variant entries follow all standard- or combining-entry homonyms of the same (first) part of speech.

E.g. **cupper** ... *noun<sup>1</sup>* ... ME.  
**cupper** ... *noun<sup>2</sup>* ... E20.  
**cupper** *noun<sup>3</sup>* var. of **CUPPA**.

Only the simple part of speech is relevant in allocating homonym numbers. Qualifications such as *verbal* and *ppl* are disregarded (cf. last paragraph of 2.2 above).

E.g. **picking** *noun<sup>1</sup>*  
**picking** *verbal noun<sup>2</sup>*.

In cross-references to combining entries the part of speech is omitted and the homonym number is attached to the small-capital form, e.g. -ER<sup>1</sup>, -Y<sup>6</sup>.

#### 4.5 LABELS AND SYMBOLS

4.5.1 *Subject and status labels.* Restrictions in the usage of words or senses are frequently conveyed by the use of labels: subject labels in small capitals, regional and other labels in italics. These can show restriction to the English of a particular geographical area (e.g. *dial.*, *Scot.*, *US*, *Austral.*), to a specific style or register of language (e.g. *colloq.*, *poet.*, *slang*), or to a particular branch of knowledge or field of activity (e.g. *CRICKET*, *HERALDRY*, *LAW*, *NAUTICAL*), or can denote frequency or extent of use (e.g. *rare*).

Subject labels precede any definition (or partial defini-

tion) or any variant spelling or form to which they apply. (If they apply to a complete entry they therefore follow the etymology.)

E.g. **infauna** /ɪnˈfɑːnə/ *noun*. E20. [...] ZOOLOGY. The animal life ...  
 (S.V. **COLOUR** *noun*) **8** MINING. (A particle of) gold. M19.  
 (S.V. **OCCCLUDE** *verb*) **5** *verb intrans.* METEOROLOGY. Of a front ...

Geographical, stylistic, and frequency labels (together here referred to as 'status labels') applying to the whole entry appear at the top of the entry after the part of speech.

E.g. **peripheral** /pəˈrɪəriəl/ *adjective*. rare. L17.

In a main definition section a status label applying to a complete dated sense follows the definition and immediately precedes the date.

E.g. (S.V. **CHIP** *verb<sup>1</sup>* 9) **1b** *verb trans.* Tease, chaff. *colloq.* L19.

Within dated senses, a status label applying to only part of a definition generally precedes that part to which it applies. If the definition has formal divisions (as (a), (b), etc.) the label always precedes the part it qualifies; if there is no formal division, the label follows the first part of the definition but precedes any later parts.

E.g. (S.V. **OVERLANDER** *noun*) **1** A person who journeyed from one part of Australia to another (*obsolete exc. Hist.*); a person who drives livestock overland; *slang* a tramp.

In small-type subentries (as combinations or derivatives) labels of any kind precede the relevant definition or partial definition.

E.g. (S.V. **BASE** *noun<sup>1</sup>*) **base hit** BASEBALL a hit enabling the batter to reach a base safely.  
 (S.V. **LOCAL** *adjective*) **local talent** the talented people or (*colloq.*) the attractive women or men of a particular locality.  
 (S.V. **PUPPET** *adjective & noun*) **puppetish** *adjective* (*rare*) pertaining to ...  
 (S.V. **JESSED**) wearing jesses; HERALDRY having jesses of a specified tincture.

Status labels precede any variant spelling or form to which they apply.

E.g. **kiln** /kɪln/ *noun & verb*. Also (now *Scot.*) **kill** ...

Interests of clarity may produce some variation of label positioning, particularly in subentries and individual parts of definitions.

Labels can be combined with other labels, of either the same or a different type. Combined subject and status labels are positioned as for the latter. Labels can also be qualified by words like 'Now' or 'Only'.

E.g. Now *rare* or *obsolete*.  
 Somewhat *derog.*  
 Chiefly *US*.  
*obsolete exc. Hist.*

These are largely self-explanatory. 'Long' (as in 'long *rare* or *obsolete*') implies for several centuries, usually from before the eighteenth.

Certain italic labels can also be used to link or clarify the relationship between (parts of) definitions, e.g. *esp.*, *spec.*, *fig.*, *gen.*, *transf.* The abbreviations used in these labels also appear in other contexts. (The specification *esp.* is in

italics if it introduces a complete definition, but in roman if introducing a parenthetical part of a larger definition.)

4.5.2. *Status symbols.* Two symbols are used to express status: a dagger (†) and an asterisk (\*).

The dagger indicates that a word, sense, form, or construction is obsolete. It is placed before the relevant word(s) or relevant sense number.

The asterisk indicates that a spelling or form is now used primarily in the United States, and elsewhere where US spelling conventions are followed. The asterisk does not exclude the possibility that the form was standard or common in British use in the past. It is placed before the form it qualifies.

E.g. (s.v. **FAVOURITE**) Also \***favorite**.

Very occasionally an American pronunciation is given, in which case an asterisk is similarly used.

#### 4.6 VARIANT SPELLINGS

If a headword has a significant alternative spelling, this is given, in bold type, before the date (and inflection if appropriate) at the top of the entry. Variants are generally preceded by 'Also', or sometimes 'Orig.', and are often further qualified in some respect.

E.g. **defence** ... *verb trans.* Also \***defense**.

**locale** ... *noun.* Also †**local**.

**jaunty** ... *adjective.* Also (earlier) †**janty**.

**disc** ... *noun.* Also (US & COMPUTING now the usual form) **disk**.

**sett** ... *noun*. Also (now chiefly in senses 16, 23, 24, 32, 33) **set**.

Frequently the difference from the headword is highlighted by abbreviating the variant to the significant part, the missing part(s) being indicated by a hyphen.

E.g. **émigré** ... *noun.* Also **é-**.

**dislikeable** ... *adjective.* Also **-likable**.

**Amerikan** ... *adjective.* Also **-kkk-**.

If a variant form is current and has a different pronunciation from the headword, this is given.

E.g. **McCoy** /mə'kɔɪ/ *noun*. ... Also **Mackay** /mə'kAɪ/.

Variants differing only in initial capitalization are not usually given except for proprietary terms, for nouns from modern German, and for words passing into names or titles. If the capitalization difference applies only to certain senses, it can be specified under those senses.

E.g. **La** /la/ *adjective (def. article)*. Also **la**.

(s.v. **BEAUTY** noun 1) †**b** (**B-**) This quality personified.

Many compounds can be (or, in the past, have been) written in several different ways: as two or more words, hyphenated, or (increasingly) as one solid word. In most cases one form (the usual modern form) is given, but this does not mean that the others are unacceptable or even, in some cases, uncommon.

This dictionary follows the tradition of Oxford University Press in using *-ize* (and corresponding *-ization*, *-izer*, etc.) rather than *-ise* for verbs (and corresponding nouns etc.) derived from Greek *-izein* or Latin *-izare*, and for words modelled on these forms. The *-s* variants are specified for headwords and are to be assumed for derivatives.

Variants with the ligatures *æ* and *œ* are to be assumed for words (usually of classical origin) written in this dictionary with *ae* and *oe*.

Not all possible variants (current or obsolete) of a headword are listed, but only those of particular significance. Among these are variants which are used in the works of a major author (such as Shakespeare), variants which are important for the development or current spelling of the headword or for the etymology of another word, obsolete variants which were widely current up to the modern period, and current variants which are usual in the United States.

A variant entry in the main alphabetical sequence cross-refers the user to the full entry for the word except where the two would be immediately adjacent (see further under 8 below).

#### 4.7 INFLECTIONS

Three kinds of inflected forms may be specified:

1. plurals of nouns (and very occasionally of French adjectives)
2. forms of verbs (according to person, tense, aspect, etc.)
3. comparatives and superlatives of adjectives.

Inflections are specified only if they are unpredictable or irregular in some way, or if there are several alternative inflections for one headword.

4.7.1 *Nouns.* No plural form is given for nouns which simply add *-s* or (in the case of those ending in *-s*, *-x*, *-z*, *-sh*, or soft *-ch*, or in *-j*) *-es*, including those in which final *-y* inflects as *-ies*. Other plural forms are specified, and they include those for:

- nouns ending in *-o* (as the plural may vary between *-os* and *-oes*);
- nouns ending in Latin forms such as *-a* and *-um*;
- nouns with more than one plural form;
- nouns whose plural involves a change in the stem (as **foot, feet**);
- nouns whose plural and singular are the same (as **sheep**; in such cases the formula used is 'Pl. same').

'Pl. pronounced same' with no specified form implies a regular inflection.

4.7.2 *Verbs.* Inflections which are regarded as regular and are not specified are (i) third person singular forms adding *-s* or *-es* (when the stem ends in *-s*, *-x*, *-z*, *-sh*, or soft *-ch*), including most of those in which *-y* inflects as *-ies*; (ii) past tenses and past participles adding *-ed* and, where appropriate, dropping a final silent *-e* (as **changed, walked**); (iii) present participles adding *-ing* and, again where appropriate, dropping a final silent *-e* (as **changing, walking**); (iv) regular archaic *-est* and *-eth* in older verbs. Other inflections are specified, and they include:

- inflections where a final consonant is doubled (as **bat**,

**batted, batting**; in such cases the formula used is 'Infl. -tt-');

- inflections for the past tense and past participle which involve a change in the stem (as **drink, drank, drunk** and **go, went, gone**).

4.7.3 *Adjectives*. Adjectives which add *-er* and *-est* to form the comparative and superlative, including those which drop a final silent *-e* (e.g. **braver, bravest**), or replace a final *-y* by *-i* (e.g. **happier, happiest**), are regarded as regular and their inflections are not specified. Single-syllable adjectives which double a final consonant (as **hot, hotter, hottest**) do have their inflections specified (the formula used is 'Compar. & superl. -tt-'), as do adjectives with irregular inflections (as **good, better, best**).

4.7.4 Inflected forms are given in bold type, usually at the top of the entry before the date. Frequently only the part of a form which differs from the headword is specified. Pronunciations are not given for the most regular forms. The pronunciations of *-ed*, *-s*, and *-es* vary according to the preceding letter(s) or sound(s): for fuller details see the entries for *-ed suffix*<sup>1</sup>, *-s suffix*<sup>2</sup>, and *-es suffix*<sup>3</sup>.

E.g. **hoof** /hu:f/ *noun*. Pl. **hoofs, hooves** /hu:vz/.  
**canephora** /kə'nef(ə)rə, -'ni:/ *noun*. Pl. **-rae** /-ri:/.  
**fly** /flaɪ/ *verb*. Pa. t. **flew** /flu:/; pa. pple **flown** /fləʊn/.  
**learn** /lɜ:n/ *verb*. Pa. t. & pple **learned** /lɜ:nd/, **learnt** /lɜ:nt/.  
**learned** ... *adjective*. Compar. (arch.) **learneder**; superl. (arch.) **learnedest**.

4.7.5 Inflectional information usually follows any variant forms, except where it does not apply to the variant(s).

E.g. **defer** /dr'fɜ:/ *verb*<sup>1</sup>. Infl. **-rr-**. Also. † **differ**.

If an entry has several parts of speech and an inflection applies to only one of them, the inflection is usually specified at the beginning of the section for that part of speech.

E.g. **lasso** ... *noun & verb* ... ▶ **A noun**. Pl. **-o(e)s**.

#### 4.8 DATES

Provision of information about the age of all words included, and of their principal senses, is one of the distinctive features of this dictionary. The date of first (and, if relevant, last) recorded uses is given in terms of date ranges: after the Middle English period (and the introduction of printing) according to a tripartite division of centuries into early, middle, and late; in earlier times, where dating depends on less secure manuscript sources, according to broader divisions. The date ranges are defined and abbreviated as follows.

OE Old English -1149  
 LOE late Old English 1000-1149  
 ME Middle English 1150-1349 or, in some contexts, 1469  
 LME late Middle English 1350-1469  
 L15 late fifteenth century 1470-1499  
 E16 early sixteenth century 1500-1529  
 M16 mid sixteenth century 1530-1569

L16 1570-1599

E17 1600-1629

M17 1630-1669

L17 1670-1699

E18 1700-1729

M18 1730-1769

L18 1770-1799

E19 1800-1829

M19 1830-1869

L19 1870-1899

E20 1900-1929

M20 1930-1969

L20 1970-1999

E21 2000-

Every standard entry bears at least one date, indicating the earliest recorded use of the word. Combining entries are also sometimes individually dated for the combining form.

The word's earliest recorded date is given at the top of the entry, immediately before the etymology. Exceptions to this are Old English words which are presumed to be older than the written record (for example because of the existence of parallel words in other Germanic languages) or for which the exact Old English form is considered to be significant. In these cases OE (or LOE) and a specified form begin the etymology, and the date is not repeated immediately before the opening etymological bracket.

Old English words and senses are usually only specified as 'late' if use earlier in the period (for which written records are scarce) seems unlikely.

Every main numbered or lettered sense in the large-type section of an entry also bears a date, at the end of the definition and after any labels.

4.8.1 *Obsolete words and senses*. If a word or sense is obsolete, the date of its last recorded use is given, linked to the opening date by a dash (e.g. LME-E18). If an obsolete headword has only one sense, or if all senses have exactly the same period of currency, a final date is given with the opening date at the top of the entry. In other cases final dates are given after the opening dates at the end of each obsolete sense.

Currency for only one date range, or for one main period or century, is indicated by 'Only in'. For example, 'Only in L16', 'Only in ME' (either only between 1150 and 1349 or only in the Middle English period as a whole, 1150 to 1469), 'Only in 17' (in all three parts of the 17th century only). If a word or sense is current for two consecutive date ranges in the same century, the century is given only in the closing date, e.g. E-M17; M-L18.

4.8.2 *Dates for derivatives*. Derivatives at the end of a standard entry and in most combining entries are also dated. Each bears a single date of first (or, if obsolete, first and last) use at the end of its entry. The dates of individual senses or parts of speech are not distinguished.



## 4.9 ETYMOLOGY

All entries which are not simply variant entries contain etymological information, explaining the origin and formation of the headword. In standard entries and some combining entries, this information is generally placed in square brackets on a new line after the first date. In some combining entries and all letter entries the etymological information is not formally distinguished, but forms part of a general description of the head form.

Within an entry a particular sense or subentry may also have its own additional etymology.

Etymologies in square brackets frequently contain a great deal of information, sometimes in abbreviated form, with various conventions of presentation. This section aims to explain only those most likely to require clarification.

4.9.1 *Basic etymological forms and facts.* If a word is formed from one or more other words (as by contraction or combination, or by the addition of a prefix or suffix) the etymology gives the words from which it is formed and often explains the nature of the formation.

E.g. **Amerindian** ... *noun*. ... [Contr. of *American Indian*.]  
**fatuous** ... *adjective*. ... [from Latin *fatuus* foolish ... + -OUS.]  
**initial** ... *verb*. ... [from the *noun*.]  
**jama** ... *noun*<sup>3</sup>. ... [Abbreviation.] Pyjama.  
**matchmake** ... *verb intrans.* ... [Back-form. from *MATCHMAKER noun*.]  
**outswinger** ... *noun*. ... [from OUT- + *SWINGER noun*<sup>1</sup>.]

If a word is an adoption from another language, the etymology opens with a specification of the language of origin and, if it differs from the English spelling of the headword, the form of the word in the foreign language.

E.g. **scandal** ... *noun*. ... [Old & mod. French *scandale* ...]  
**bigot** ... [French, of unkn. origin.]

'From' is widely used to open etymologies where the headword is formed from several combined elements or from another headword. The formula 'formed as' (usually followed by a cross-reference) indicates that the headword is from the same principal or initial word as the other word mentioned.

E.g. **anonymity** ... [formed as *ANONYMOUS* + -ITY.]  
 —the etymology of **anonymous** is also valid for the *anonym*-part of **anonymity**.

References to other headwords are in the usual cross-reference style of small capitals (see section 5), unless the headword is adjacent to the entry in question, when it is often referred to as 'prec.' (for 'preceding entry') or 'next' (for 'next entry').

A half bracket can be used to exclude part of a word in an etymology that is not represented in the headword.

E.g. **Politbureau** ... [Russian *politbyuro*, from *polit(icheskii)* political + *byuro* bureau.]

Foreign forms from languages which do not use the Roman alphabet (as Greek, Russian, Sanskrit, Hebrew, Arabic, and Chinese) are transliterated. The transliteration system used for Chinese is Pinyin, although the Wade-Giles transliteration is also given if it sheds light

on the English form. Transliteration tables for Greek and Russian are on p. xxviii.

4.9.2 *References and cross-references in etymologies.* Etymologies often contain cross-references to other entries, frequently at the end of the etymology, preceded by either 'see' or 'cf.'

E.g. **nitrogen** ... [French *nitrogène*, formed as *NITRO*: see -GEN.]  
**lecherous** ... [Old French *lecherous*, from *lecheor*: see *LECHER noun*<sup>1</sup>, -OUS.]  
**buffalo** ... [Prob. immed. from Portuguese *bufalo* ... Cf. *BUFF noun*<sup>2</sup>, *BUFFLE*.]

If 'see' is used to refer to another entry, the etymology of the entry referred to directly extends or elaborates on the first etymology, and there is usually an identifiable point of contact, often a shared foreign form. For example in **lecherous** above there is a reference 'see *LECHER noun*<sup>1</sup>', and under **lecher noun**<sup>1</sup> the etymology runs [Old French *lichiere* (nom.), *lecheor*, -ur (accus.), from *lechief* live in debauchery ...]. The point of contact is the form *lecheor* and the etymology of **lecher noun**<sup>1</sup> contains more information about that form.

'Cf.' simply draws attention to some parallel or point of interest shared by etymologies.

A reference beginning 'See also' usually refers to a word derived from, or from the same source as, the headword.

## 4.10 DIVISIONS IN AN ENTRY

Every standard entry has a possible maximum of five hierarchical levels of formal sense division, though in practice two levels (those designated by bold arabic numerals and bold lower-case letters) are most frequent. The five levels are as follows:

► **A**, ► **B**, etc.—Bold capital letters are used in entries with more than one part of speech, each of which is treated separately. The section for each is designated by a capital letter. A statement of the part(s) of speech being treated in that section immediately follows the letter: ► **A noun**, ► **B attrib.** or as *adjective*.

► **I**, ► **II**, etc.—Bold capital roman numerals are used to indicate major grammatical or semantic divisions of the same part of speech, especially in long or complex entries. The basis of the division may be specified after the roman numeral.

**1**, **2**, etc.—Bold arabic numerals divide different basic meanings of the same part of speech. These are the most common sense divisions.

**a**, ► **b**, etc.—Within basic senses identified by arabic numerals, related subsenses are designated by bold lower-case letters. The first division, **a**, may be unmarked if further subsenses are subdivisions of or subordinate to the first definition.

(**a**), (**b**), etc.—Bold italic lower-case letters in brackets are used to designate minor divisions in a main sense and senses of phrases, derivatives, and other subentries.

The first, third, and fourth of these levels are individually



dated, and the second is implicitly dated from the next following sense. Within each dated level senses and divisions are ordered chronologically. The dagger for obsolete uses is usually attached to the highest relevant sense level and not repeated for each of the ranks below.

#### 4.11 GRAMMATICAL INFORMATION

Many definitions (and other parts of entries) contain grammatical information about the word being defined. Much of this information is straightforward, and this section aims only to explain some features which may require further clarification.

**4.11.1 Transitivity of verbs.** All verbs have a specification of transitivity, according to the two main categories transitive and intransitive: *verb trans.* and *verb intrans.* Fully established uses of fundamentally transitive verbs with an object understood are in this dictionary classed as intransitive.

If a verb has the same transitivity in all its senses, a single indication of transitivity is given. This will be at the top of the entry beside the part of speech if the headword is a verb only, or has no part-of-speech divisions, and after a bold capital if the entry is divided into separate parts of speech. If transitivity varies among senses, it is shown after each relevant sense number or letter, before the definition. Possibilities are *verb trans.*, *verb intrans.*, and, where the definition covers both transitive and intransitive uses, *verb trans. & intrans.* or *verb intrans. & trans.* (either the older or the more frequent being specified first).

Reflexive senses may be marked by *refl.*, alone if the verb is otherwise only transitive, as *verb refl.* if transitivity is mixed.

If a sense of a transitive verb occurs only in the passive, the definition is expressed in the passive form, preceded by 'in pass.'

If transitivity is the basis of major divisions within an entry, it is specified after each roman numeral, and not at the lower sense divisions.

**4.11.2 Plurality of nouns.** A use or sense of a noun may be specified as 'In pl.'. This means that the following definition relates to the plural form of the noun.

E.g. **acoustic noun**, sense 1 opens 'In pl.' and the definition which follows is of *acoustics*.

**gubbin noun**, sense 3 opens 'In pl. (treated as sing.)' and the definition which follows ('A fool') is of *gubbins*.

By contrast *pl.* alone implies no change of form (as in **people noun**, **2 a pl.** The persons belonging to a particular place ..., where the use defined is of *people* not *peoples*).

**4.11.3 Constructional information.** Many definitions contain information about the constructions which the headword takes or the contexts in which it is habitually used. Most of this information is in the form of self-explanatory statements of fixed or typical phrases, but in entries for verbs and for limited-set grammatical words (such as determiners) details can be more complex. Often the focus is on what the headword is followed by: either a

general category of grammatical construction, for example 'with double object' (as *envied her her job*), 'Foll. by inf. without to' (as *shall go*), or a particular word (especially an adverb or preposition) specified in italics, as 'Foll. by *out*'. In these contexts *to do* stands for any infinitive, *doing* stands for any gerund, and *that* stands also for object clauses without explicit *that* ('I said I would' as well as 'I said that I would').

Constructional information can appear before or after a definition, or can form an integral part of it. If the constructional statement precedes the definition, the definition is of the whole construction. If it follows the definition, the definition is of the headword only.

E.g. (s.v. **LAY verb<sup>1</sup>** **18**) **18** *NAUTICAL*. Foll. by *aboard*: run into or alongside (a ship), usu. for boarding.

—the definition is of *lay aboard* and in this use *lay* is always followed by *aboard*.

(s.v. **LIVE verb**) **5** *verb intrans.* Continue in life ... Also foll. by *on*.  
—the definition is of *live* but *live on* means the same and is also covered.

(s.v. **REFER verb**) **2** Assign to a particular class ...

—when *refer* means 'assign' it is always followed by *to*.

(s.v. **ENCLOSE verb**) **3** Surround with or with a wall, fence, etc.

—*enclose* means 'surround with a wall etc.' and may or may not be followed by a specifying phrase beginning with.

Following elements which occur frequently (but not always) and which extend the meaning of the headword are shown in brackets or preceded by 'Also'.

E.g. (s.v. **PRELUDE verb** 2 b) be introductory (*to*).

(s.v. **LIKENESS**) **4** The quality or fact of being like ... (Foll. by *between*, *to*, *with*.)

(s.v. **RACKET verb<sup>2</sup>**) **3** *verb intrans.* Make a racket, esp. by noisy movement. Also foll. by *about*, *along*, *around*.

Verbal transitivity can be qualified by constructional information.

E.g. (s.v. **HARE verb<sup>2</sup>**) **2** *verb intrans. & trans.* (with *it*). Run or move with great speed.

—the verb is used either intransitively, or transitively in the form *hare it*.

(s.v. **LICK verb<sup>1</sup>**) **1** *verb trans. & intrans.* (with *of*, *on*). Lap with the tongue; drink, sip, (a liquid).

—*lick of* and *lick on* mean the same here as *lick* with a direct object.

#### 4.12 USE OF BRACKETS

Brackets are used in many places and for many purposes, and this section does not cover all of these.

A specified direct object of a verb is bracketed.

E.g. (s.v. **LIMB verb trans.**) **3** Remove branches from (a tree).

Definitions in such a form may, when the usage of the verb permits, be designated both transitive and intransitive. In such cases the intransitive definition is to be understood by mentally removing the brackets from around the direct object.

The referent of an adjective or subject of a verb is bracketed when it applies to only part of a sense or to a subsense.

E.g. (s.v. **GREEN** *adjective*) **2** Covered with herbage or foliage; (of a tree) in leaf.  
 (s.v. **GO** *verb*) (**b**) (of a firearm etc.) explode.

If the referent applies to a whole main sense it opens the definition and is followed by a colon.

E.g. (s.v. **FOUL** *adjective*) **4** Of speech etc.: indecent, obscene.

Brackets are frequently used in definitions to combine information and avoid repetition.

E.g. (s.v. **CHEEP** *noun*) A shrill feeble sound (as) of a young bird.  
 (s.v. **LEAVE** *verb*) **1** *verb trans.* **a** (Arrange to) transfer possession of at one's death ...  
 (s.v. **COLOUR** *noun*) **8** *MINING*. (A particle of) gold.  
 (s.v. **BEEP** *verb trans. & intrans.*) (Cause to) emit a beep or beeps.  
 (s.v. **MINNESOTAN** *noun & adjective*) (A native or inhabitant) of Minnesota ...  
 (s.v. **LACK** *verb*) **lackland** *adjective & noun* (designating) a person owning no land ...  
 (s.v. **COLOUR** *noun*) **colour-wash** *noun & verb trans.* (paint with) coloured distemper.

In such cases, separate definitions are obtained by including and excluding the bracketed section.

A clarifying or reinforcing part of a definition, which may be useful but is not essential, may also be bracketed.

E.g. (s.v. **CYLINDER** *noun*) **2** A (solid or hollow) body ...

#### 4.13 ILLUSTRATION BLOCKS

Any main definition section in an entry may be followed by a small-type tinted paragraph containing illustrative quotations and phrases linked to individual senses.

**4.13.1 Illustrative quotations.** The purpose of the illustrative quotations is to complement the definitions by clarifying sense distinctions, illustrating constructions, and representing common collocations. Consequently, quotations are selective and many words and senses are not illustrated. The first quotation for any use is not the first known example.

All quotations in this dictionary are from published sources.

The first quotation included for any sense (when an entry has more than one sense) is preceded by the number (and letter) of that sense, in bold type. If an entry has more than one quotation for a sense, these are arranged in basically chronological order. If a quotation illustrates a type of usage not explicitly covered by the definition, the quotation may be preceded by a qualification, such as *attrib.*, *fig.*.

The source of a quotation is given immediately before the quotation text. This is usually either an author (in small capitals except for true capitals) or a published newspaper, journal, etc. (in italics). No quotation from a periodical dates from before the nineteenth century, and the great majority are from the twentieth. With a few exceptions titles of individual works are given only for Shakespeare. Chapter and verse are given for books of the Bible.

E.g. (s.v. **CHEER** *noun*<sup>1</sup>) **6** *Times* The market took cheer ... and marked the shares up 3p.

(s.v. **RAIN** *verb*) **3** *SHAKES.* Twel. N. The rain it raineth every day.

(s.v. **DISCIPLE** *noun*) **1** *AV John 20:20* Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

Quotations specified 'OED' reproduce examples included in the *Oxford English Dictionary* but attributed to no particular source and usually described as 'Modern'. They belong to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

Omissions from quotations are indicated by ellipses.

See also the list of Authors and Publications Quoted.

**4.13.2 Other illustrative material.** Illustration blocks can also contain defined phrases and cross-references to phrases defined elsewhere. Typical or common types of uses of a headword may be illustrated by italic examples rather than quotations from specified sources.

E.g. (s.v. **ANALYSIS**) **2** **bowling analysis** *CRICKET* a statement of a bowler's performance record.

(s.v. **BUTCHER** *noun*) **1** **FAMILY butcher.**

(s.v. **RHYME** *noun*) **3** **double rhyme, eye rhyme, imperfect rhyme, treble rhyme,** etc.

An illustration block containing no quotations is not tinted.

#### 4.14 PHRASES AND COMPOUNDS

Phrases and compounds (collectively referred to here as subentries) are usually included (either listed or defined) in small-type blocks in the main entry for one of their significant words. The blocks in which they appear are located after a definition section and any illustration block. These blocks are of several kinds, and each has an italic heading, as

*Phrases:*

*Comb.:*

*Attrib. & comb.:*

*Special collocations:* (only of adjectives)

*With adverbs (or prepositions) in specialized senses:* (only of verbs)

or some combination of these. Within such blocks subentries are in alphabetical order. Defined items are in bold type, and there may also be cross-references to similar phrases containing the headword but defined under another entry (see section 5). Subentries in these blocks are not dated. Separate senses or parts of speech of a subentry can be divided by a bracketed bold italic lowercase letter: (**a**), (**b**), etc. Any status labels and symbols at the top of an entry apply also to the subentries in these blocks.

**4.14.1 Phrases.** Phrases can appear in several places in an entry: in a small-type block headed *Phrases.*; in an illustration block (see 4.13.2), in a main definition, or (occasionally) in another subentry block as a phrase of a compound. The examples below illustrate the latter two of these:

(s.v. **KIBOSH** *noun*) **1** **put the kibosh on**, put an end to; dispose of finally.

(s.v. **LEG** *noun*) **leg-of-mutton** *adjective* resembling a leg of mutton, esp. in shape; **leg-of-mutton sail**, a triangular mainsail; **leg-of-mutton sleeve**, ...

Phrases are usually treated in the entry for their first

significant word, but if a later word in the phrase has particular importance, the phrase can be treated under that word.

E.g. **ship of the line** is treated under **line noun**<sup>2</sup>, not under **ship noun**.

4.14.2 *Combinations*. A combination is a compound (usually a two-word compound) the first element of which is the headword. A combination most often consists of two nouns, but may also be made up of a noun and some other part of speech (especially an adjective), a verb plus a noun object or adverb, or an adjective plus any part of speech other than a (separately written) noun (when the formation is classed as a special collocation: see 4.14.3 below). If a combination is a noun only, no part of speech is given. Otherwise a part of speech is specified.

If a noun is particularly frequently used attributively in a certain manner or sense, a combination paragraph may be headed *Attrib. & comb.*, and may open with a statement of the headword's attributive use(s) and some italic examples.

E.g. (s.v. **LAND noun**<sup>1</sup>) *Attrib. & comb.*: In the senses ... 'situated or taking place on land ...', 'living on land ...', as **land-battle**, **-bird**, ... **-journey**, **-monster** ... etc. Special combs., as **land-agency** ...

If the first word of the definition of a combination would simply repeat the second word of the combination, a colon may be substituted.

E.g. (s.v. **CREAM noun**<sup>2</sup>) **cream bun**, **cream cake**: filled with cream.

4.14.3 *Special collocations*. A special collocation is a compound (written as two words) consisting of an adjective (the headword) and a following noun used in a fixed way or in a way which is not simply determinable from the separate meanings of its two elements.

No part of speech is given; all special collocations are nouns.

4.14.4 *Verbs with adverbs/prepositions in specialized senses*. A verbal phrase consisting of a verb headword plus a preposition or adverb, whose meaning is not simply the sum of its parts, has a 'specialized sense', and such phrases may be treated (in verb entries) in a block headed

*With adverbs in specialized senses:*

*With prepositions in specialized senses:*

*With adverbs & prepositions in specialized senses:*  
etc.

Adverbs in such verbal constructions are sometimes referred to in grammatical literature as 'particles', and with transitive verbs can typically both precede and follow a direct object: *phone her up*, *phone up her father*.

A small-type block like this is normally created only when the uses with adverbs or prepositions are numerous. Isolated or specific examples can be treated under numbered senses or in an illustration block.

E.g. (s.v. **LIGHT verb**<sup>1</sup>) **4 verb trans. & intrans. NAUTICAL**. Move or lift (a sail etc.) along or over.

**11 verb intrans.** Foll. by out: depart, get out.

Transitivity for items in these blocks is not usually specified unless a definition is ambiguous or transitivity varies among senses.

#### 4.15 NOTES

Information of relevance or interest, usually relating to a whole entry, which does not fit obviously into the normal entry structure appears in a small-type note at the end of an entry (but before any derivative block). Such a note opens with a paragraph sign ¶.

Notes can be on a range of subjects, including dating, pronunciation, etymology, usage, and other relevant entries.

E.g. (s.v. **SERENDIPITY**) ¶ Rare before 20.

(s.v. **PORT noun**<sup>1</sup>) ¶ See also **CINQUE PORTS**.

(s.v. **LUNCH noun & verb**) ¶ As a synonym of **LUNCHEON noun** 2, verb, now the usual word exc. in specially formal use & in certain combs., though formerly objected to as vulgar.

#### 4.16 DERIVATIVES

A derivative is formed by adding a suffix (such as *-able*, *-ly*, *-ness*) to a word. Many such formations are treated as main entries, but many others, especially if they are fairly simple, with few senses and without further derivatives or compounds of their own, are placed in a small-type derivative block at the end of an entry.

A derivative block always comes last in its entry. Derivatives themselves are in bold type and always have a part of speech and one date, but regular formations with readily deducible meanings (e.g. those with the adverbial suffix *-ly* or the noun suffix *-ness*) may be left undefined.

Derivatives appear in alphabetical order. Alphabetically adjacent items with the same part of speech, definition, and date may be combined.

E.g. (s.v. **METAPHYSICS**) **metapsychic**, **metapsychical** *adjectives* E20.

(s.v. **NEW JERSEY**) **New Jerseyan**, **New Jerseyite** *nouns* a native or inhabitant of New Jersey M20.

If a derivative is divided into formal senses or parts of speech, or if it has a compound definition (i.e. its definition contains a semicolon), its date is separated from its definition(s) by a colon.

A variant of a derivative may be given after the main form, often abbreviated to its differing element.

E.g. (s.v. **CONTEST verb**) **contester**, **-or** *noun* a person who contests L19.

As long as historically appropriate, any variant spellings specified for the headword occur also in its derivatives. Status and subject labels given at the top of an entry and applying to all its senses are assumed also to apply to any derivatives.

A derivative preceded by 'Also' is a synonym of the headword.

E.g. (s.v. **CONVALESCENCE**) Also **convalescency** *noun* (rare) M17.

Minor words which are not formal derivatives of the headword but which are etymologically related to it may also be included in the derivative block.