

THE OXFORD  
ENGLISH-RUSSIAN  
DICTIONARY

*Edited by*  
P. S. FALLA



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## PREFACE

*The Oxford English-Russian Dictionary* is complementary in aims and scope to *The Oxford Russian-English Dictionary*, edited by Professor Marcus Wheeler and first published by the Oxford University Press in 1972. Like that work it is intended mainly, though not exclusively, for English-speaking users at university or similar level.

The dictionary contains over 90,000 English words, vocabulary items and illustrative phrases. Technical and archaic or old-fashioned terms are included sparingly, but attention has been given to the correct translation of colloquial and idiomatic language, to syntactical information and to the provision of glosses enabling the user to select appropriate Russian equivalents of English words. The more important or familiar Americanisms are included.

The English vocabulary is based primarily on the latest editions of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* and the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. The Russian equivalents and translations have been prepared with the aid of native speakers and up-to-date Russian lexicographical sources, notably the *New English-Russian Dictionary* edited by Professor I. R. Galperin (Moscow, 1982) and its 1980 *Supplement*. By the courtesy of Mr V. I. Nazarov, director of the Russky Yazyk publishing house, Moscow, the galleys were read by its Department of Germanic Languages under Mr E. A. Muzzhevlev, and a number of detailed comments and suggestions have been embodied. Special thanks are tendered for this assistance.

On the English side the Dictionary has had the benefit of general guidance from the late Max Hayward of St Antony's College, Oxford, and more detailed assistance from Professor Marcus Wheeler, who kindly read the proofs. Mr C. R. K. Perkins gave valuable help with the preparation of the English vocabulary, the supervision of 'style' points etc. The work of fair-copying the original manuscript into a form suitable for the printer was ably performed by Mrs Catherine Baldry and Ms Karen George.

My Russian collaborators have been, in chronological order: the late Dr Nina Szamuely, Mrs Kira Finkelstein, Mr Aziz Ulugov, Miss M. Slonim, and Miss T. Litvinov, to all of whom I express my thanks.

The principles of arrangement, provision of grammatical information etc., are given in the Introduction which follows. For the many (perhaps) who do not read such introductions in full, some of the more salient rules are grouped in paragraphs 9-13.

Apart from the books mentioned above, the most useful of those consulted have been:

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# ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE DICTIONARY

a.	accusative	dim.	diminutive
abbr.	abbreviat ion, -ed	dipl.	diploma cy, -tic
abs.	absolute		
abstr.	abstract	eccl.	ecclesiastical
acad.	academic	econ.	economics
acc.	according	educ.	education, -al
act.	active	elec.	electric al, -ity
adj., adjs.	adjectiv e, -al; -es	ellipt.	elliptical
admin.	administration	emph.	empha sizing, -tic
adv., advs.	adverb, -ial; -s	eng.	engineering
agric.	agriculture	Eng.	English
alg.	algebra	entom.	entomology
Am.	American	esp.	especially
anat.	anatomy	ethnol.	ethnology
anc.	ancient	euph.	euphemis m, -tic
anthrop.	anthropology	exc.	except
approx.	approximate ly)	excl.	exclamation
arch.	archaic	expr.	express ing, -ed
archaeol.	archaeology		
archit.	architecture	f.	feminine
astrol.	astrology	fem.	female
astron.	astronomy	fig.	figurative
attr.	attributive	fin.	financ e, -ial
Aust.	Austral(as)ian	Fr.	French
aux.	auxiliary	freq.	frequentative
av.	aviation		
		g.	genitive
bibl.	biblical	geod.	geodesy
biol.	biology	geog.	geography
bot.	botany	geol.	geology
Br.	British	geom.	geometry
		ger.	gerund
c.g.	common gender	Ger.	German
chem.	chemistry	Gk.	Greek
cin.	cinema(tography)	g.pl.	genitive plural
coll.	colloquial	gram.	grammar
collect.	collective	g.sg.	genitive singular
comb.	combination		
comm.	commerc e, -ial	her.	heraldry
comp.	comparative	hist.	histor y, -ical
concr.	concrete	hort.	horticulture
conj.	conjunction		
cpd.	compound	i.	instrumental; intransitive in 'v.i.'
cul.	culinary	imper.	imperative
		impers.	impersonal
d.	dative	impf.	imperfective
decl.	decl ined, -ension	ind.	indirect
def. art.	definite article	indecl.	indeclinable
det.	determinate	indef.	indefinite
dial.	dialect(al)		



indet.	indeterminate	p. part.	past participle
inf.	infinitive	pr.	pronounce(d), pronunciation
int.	interjection	pred.	predicative
interrog.	interrogative	pref.	prefix
intrans.	intransitive	prep.	preposition
iron.	ironical	pres.	present
Ital.	Italian	pret.	preterite
		philol.	philology
joc.	jocular	phon.	phonetic(s)
journ.	journalism	phot.	photography
		phr.	phrase
Lat.	Latin	phrr.	phrases
leg.	legal	phys.	physic[s], -al
ling.	linguistics	physiol.	physiology
lit.	literal	pl.	plural
liter.	literary	poet.	poetical
log.	logic	pol.	political
		pron.	pronoun
m.	masculine	pros.	prosody
math.	mathematics	prov.	proverb
mech.	mechanics	psych.	psychology
med.	medicine, -al		
metall.	metallurgy	radiol.	radiology
meteor.	meteorology	rail.	railway
mil.	military	refl.	reflexive
min.	mineralogy	rel.	relative
mod.	modern	relig.	religion
mus.	music(al)	rhet.	rhetorical
myth.	mythology	Rom.	Roman
		Ru.	Russian
n.	noun		
naut.	nautical	Sc.	Scottish
nav.	naval	sg.	singular
neg.	negative	sl.	slang
nn.	nouns	s.o.	someone
nom.	nominative	soc.	social
nt.	neuter	stat.	statistics
num.	numer[al], -ical	sth.	something
		subj.	subject
obj.	object	suff.	suffix
obs.	obsolete	superl.	superlative
oft.	often	surv.	surveying
opp.	opposite (to); as opposed to		
opt.	optics	t.	transitive in 'v.t.'
o.s.	oneself	tech.	technical
		teleg.	telegraphy
p.	prepositional ( <i>Ru. gram.</i> ); past in 'p. part.'	teleph.	telephony
parl.	parliamentary	text.	textiles
part.	participle	theatr.	theatr[e], -ical
pass.	passive	theol.	theology
path.	pathology	thg.	thing
pej.	pejorative	trans.	transitive
pers.	person; personal	trig.	trigonometry
pert.	pertaining	TV	television
pf.	perfective	typ.	typography
phil.	philosophy		
		univ.	university
		usu.	usually

v.	verb	voc.	vocative
var.	various	v.t.	transitive verb
v. aux.	auxiliary verb	vulg.	vulgar(ism)
vbl.	verbal	vv.	verbs
vet.	veterinary		
v.i.	intransitive verb	zool.	zoology

# INTRODUCTION

## *Selection of vocabulary*

1. As explained in the Preface, the Dictionary is intended primarily to reflect the general and colloquial vocabulary of present-day English (including the better-known Americanisms). This, and the provision of copious examples, has involved the exclusion of some terms belonging more specifically to scientific or technical fields for which specialized English-Russian dictionaries exist.

2. Personal and geographical names, and the most common abbreviations, are listed in the main alphabet. 'Personal names' includes forenames of historical characters etc.

3. Following *The Oxford Russian-English Dictionary*, 'four-letter words' (designated as *vulg.*) have been included with their Russian equivalents. English speakers should be warned, however, that such words are in general much more 'taboo' in literary or polite Russian than they are in English.

4. Terms denoting specifically British institutions etc., for which there is no exact Russian equivalent, are rendered either with an approximate Russian equivalent in ordinary type or with an explanation (as opposed to a translation) in italics; cf. paragraph 38 below.

## *Orthography*

5. The English spelling follows British usage; less usual American variations are noted, but not, e.g., such spellings as 'honor', or (as a rule) variants in which 'e' replaces 'ae' or 'oe'. (See also paragraph 14 below.) The Russian spelling conforms to current Soviet standards except that, following practice in the Western world, the Russian word for 'God' and some other religious terms are spelt with initial capitals.

6. Russian cardinal numbers, given without 'tags' denoting inflection, are to be read in the nominative form. (This does not apply to year-dates).

7. Secondary stress is not indicated in Russian words unless they are hyphenated (or unless the syllable in question contains the letter *ě*). If stress is optional as between two vowels, an accent is placed on both. When prepositions attract the accent from a noun, or *he* from a verb, the fact is shown by a stress-mark; otherwise monosyllables are not generally shown as stressed. A form such as *бразил|ец* (*fem.* -ьянка) means that the feminine noun is stressed on the penultimate only (cf. paragraph 40(iii)).

8. When a hyphen-division in a Russian word coincides with the end of a line, the hyphen is repeated at the beginning of the next line so that the word is not taken as being written 'solid'.

*Arrangement and presentation of entries: principal rules*

9. These matters are explained in detail in paragraphs 14-43 below. Attention is drawn to the 'nesting' principle (paragraph 25) and to the fact that compounds, whether hyphenated or written as one word, are listed under the first element and not the second: e.g. 'pen-knife' under 'pen', not 'knife'. As regards the placing of idioms see paragraph 26; and for the placing of labels such as 'coll.' and 'sl.', see paragraph 29. Paragraphs 39-43 deal with the presentation of Russian grammatical information, including verb aspects.

10. Attention is also drawn to paragraphs 28-9 on the subject of usage labels and their position; and to the fact that the oblique stroke or solidus signifies an alternative affecting *one* word on either side of it (paragraphs 34-6).

11. For the use of the vertical stroke and tilde see paragraphs 20-21; for the 'approximate' sign, paragraph 29.

12. The gender of nouns in ь is only marked when they are *masculine* (paragraph 39(a)).

13. Many Russian nouns have an adjectival form (e.g. город — городской) corresponding to the attributive use of their English equivalent. Such adjectives are frequently given under the English noun-entry, preceded by the abbreviation 'attr.'

*Presentation: detailed rules*

14. Headwords are printed in bold roman type except for non-naturalized foreign words and expressions, for which bold italic is used. Alternative spellings (including some of the less classifiable American variants) are presented alongside the preferred spelling in full or abbreviated form, or shown in brackets: these variants appear again in alphabetical sequence (unless adjacent to the main entry), as cross-references. Thus:

cosy (Am. cozy)	cozy see COSY
hiccup, -ough	
curts(e)y	

15. Similar treatment is applied to words in which an alternative termination can be used without affecting the sense. Thus:

cumb|ersome, -rous; submer|gence, -sion

Here as elsewhere (paragraphs 20-21) a vertical stroke (divider) is placed after those letters which are common to both forms and which, in the alternative form as shown, are replaced by a hyphen.

16. Also presented as headwords are a few two-word expressions of which the first element does not qualify for an individual entry, e.g. **Boxing Day**; **Parkinson's disease**.

17. Separate headword entries with superscript numbers are made for words which, though identical in spelling, differ in basic meaning and origin (**fine** as noun and verb; **fine** as adjective and adverb), or in pronunciation and/or stress (**house** and **supplement** as nouns and as verbs), or both (**tear** meaning 'teardrop' and **tear** meaning 'rip').

18. Separate entries for adverbs in '-ly' are made only when they have meanings or usage (idiom, compounds etc.) which cannot conveniently be treated under the corresponding adjective. Examples are **hardly**, **really**, and **surely**. When there is no separate entry, and no instance of the adverb in the adjectival entry, it can be assumed that the corresponding Russian adverb is also formed regularly from the adjective. Thus **clumsy** неуклюжий, неловкий implies that the Russian for 'clumsily' is неуклюже or неловко; **critical** критический implies that 'critically' can be translated критически, and so on.

19. Gerundive and participial forms of English verbs, used as nouns or adjectives, are frequently accommodated within the verb entry (transitive or intransitive as appropriate). Thus:

revolving doors is found under **revolve** *v.i.*  
a retarded child is found under **retard** *v.t.*

but in certain cases, for the sake of clarity, such forms have been treated as independent headwords, e.g.

**packing** *n.*; **flying** *n.* and *adj.*; **barbed** *adj.*

20. Some headwords are divided by a vertical stroke in order that the unchanging letters preceding the stroke may subsequently be replaced, in inflected forms, by a tilde (~). Where there is no divider, the tilde represents the headword *in toto*, e.g.

**house** ... keep ~ ... ~ **hold** ... a ~ hold word ... ~ **painter**

21. The vertical divider is also used in both English and Russian to separate the main part of a word from its termination when it is necessary to show modifications or alternative forms of the latter: e.g. paragraphs 14, 39(c) and 40.

22. Within the headword entry each grammatical function has its own paragraph, introduced by a part-of-speech indicator (in this order): *n.*, *pron.*, *adj.*, *adv.*, *v.t.*, *v.i.*, *prep.*, *conj.*, *int.* A combined heading, e.g. **adagio** *n., adj. & adv.*, may sometimes be used for convenience; the most common instance is *v.t. & i.* when the two moods are not clearly distinguishable, or when the Russian intransitive is expressed by means of the suffix -ся.

23. Verb-adverb combinations forming 'phrasal verbs' normally appear in a separate paragraph headed '*with advs.*', immediately following simple verb usage; they are given in alphabetical order of the adverb, transitive and intransitive usage within each phrasal verb being separated. Only when the possible combinations are very few and uncomplicated are they contained within the *v.t.* or *v.i.* paragraph.

24. There are also a few verbs (e.g. **go**) where idiomatic usage with prepositions is extensive and complex enough to call for a separate paragraph headed '*with preps.*'



**25.** Hyphenated or single-word compounds in which the headword forms the first element are brought together or 'nested' under the headword in a final paragraph headed '*cpds.*'. Here the headword is represented by a tilde, and the second element, in bold type, determines the alphabetical sequence. An exception is made to the 'nesting' principle in some cases where compounds are particularly numerous, e.g. those beginning with such elements as 'back', 'by', 'out', 'over' etc. Forms like 'bull's eye' and 'Englishman' (despite the reduced 'a') are treated as compounds. Phrases such as 'labour exchange' will generally be found in the main paragraph of the entry for the first noun, in some cases preceded by '*attr.*' (for 'attributive').

**26.** Adjective-noun expressions generally appear under the adjective unless this has little relative weight, as in 'good riddance'; but some may also be repeated under the noun, e.g. 'French bean', 'French horn' and 'French leave'. Idioms of a more complex nature, and proverbs, are generally entered under the first noun, but here too the rule is not inflexible and some duplication may be found.

**27.** Within each entry differences of meaning or application are defined by synonym, context or other means. Major differences may be distinguished by numerals in bold type. Thus:

**gag** *n.* **1.** (to prevent speech etc.) ... (*surg.*) ... (*parl.*) ... (*fig.*) ... **2.** (*interpolation*) ... **3.** (*joke*) ...

**28.** A second type of label indicates status or level of usage: e.g. *arch(aic)*, *liter(ary)*, *coll(oquial)*, *sl(ang)*, *vulg(ar)*. It may apply to the headword as a whole, to one of its functions or meanings, or to a single phrase or sentence, and is placed accordingly. Thus:

**pep** (*coll.*) *n.* ... *v.t.* (*usu.* ~ **up**)

**tart** *n.* **1.** (*flat pie*) ... **2.** (*sl., prostitute*) ... *v.t.* ~ **up** (*coll., embellish*) ...

**bell** *n.* ... that rings a ~ (*fig., coll.*)

**29.** In cases where Russian has an expression corresponding closely in level of usage to a given colloquialism, vulgarism, or slang term in English, the status label (*coll.*), (*sl.*) etc. is placed *after* the Russian, and should be understood to apply equally to the preceding English equivalent. In other cases a 'literary' (non-colloquial) Russian translation is given, and the status label is placed immediately after the English. When both literary and colloquial Russian translations are given for the same English expression, the label appears *before* the second, colloquial, one. Russian expressions, especially idioms or proverbs, which parallel rather than translate English ones are preceded by the symbol  $\simeq$ .

**30.** The use of the comma or the semicolon to separate Russian words offered as translations of the same English word reflects a greater or lesser degree of equivalence: in the latter case an auxiliary English gloss is often used to express the nuance of difference. Thus:

**inexhaustible** *adj.* (*unfailing*) неистощимый, неисчерпаемый; ... (*untiring*) неутомимый

31. When shades of meaning of an adjective or verb have been defined in this way, and similar distinctions exist between derivative abstract nouns, the glosses are usually not repeated. Thus:

**bookish** *adj.* (*literary, studious*) книжный; (*pedantic*) педантичный  
**bookishness** *n.* книжность; педантичность

32. To avoid ambiguity the semicolon is always used when the alternatives are complete phrases or sentences, and also in most cases between synonymous verbs. Thus:

what is he getting at? что он хочет сказать?; куда он гнёт?  
**allow** *v.t.* позв|олять, -олять; разреш|ать, -ять

### *Idiom and illustration*

33. The examples of characteristic and idiomatic usage in both languages, which illustrate and supplement the standard Russian equivalents, may consist of phrases or finite sentences. In the former case, where a verb is concerned, both aspects are generally given in Russian; in the latter, one or other aspect is chosen according to context. For the method of giving aspectual information see paragraphs 40-43 below.

34. In both English and Russian there are many instances when one word in a phrase or sentence may be replaced by a synonymous alternative. This is shown by means of a comma in English, and a solidus (oblique stroke) in Russian. Thus:

have, get one's hair cut стр|чься, по-  
 my better half моя дражайшая/лучшая половина  
 lose one's hair (*lit.*) лыс|еть, об-/по- (either prefix may be used to form the perfective)

35. Non-synonymous alternatives are linked by a solidus in *both* languages. Thus:

high/low tension выс|окое/низ|кое напряжение

36. In all cases the solidus expresses an alternative of only *one* word on either side of it. Other alternatives are shown in the form '(or ...)'. Thus:

the estate came (*or* was brought) under the hammer  
 I could do with a drink я ох|отно (*or* с удовольствием) выпил бы

37. Optional extensions of words, phrases, or sentences, which may be included at discretion, e.g. for greater clarity, are shown within brackets, and in ordinary roman or Cyrillic type.

38. Italics within brackets are used for such matters as labels of meaning and usage (paragraphs 28-9) and in connection with Russian grammatical information (paragraph 39). Russian italics (without accent-marks) are used for brief definitions or explanations of English terms which have no counterpart in Russian: see e.g. at **commuter**; also to specify noun-objects of certain verbs in order to limit their application to that implicit in the English, e.g.

**wall up** *v.t.* задел|ывать, -ать (*дверь/окно*)

## GRAMMATICAL INFORMATION

39. Aids to English pronunciation and grammar would be superfluous for the English-speaking user and have therefore been omitted. On the Russian side the following grammatical information is given in respect of words offered as translations of headwords:

(a) the gender of *masculine* nouns ending in -ь, except when this is made clear by an accompanying adjective (e.g. polar bear *белый медведь*) or by the existence of a corresponding 'female' form (see (e) below).

(b) the gender of nouns (e.g. neuters in -мя, masculines in -а and -я, foreign borrowings in -и and -у) whose final letter does not serve as an indicator of gender. Nouns of common gender are designated (c.g.). Indeclinable nouns are designated (*indecl.*), preceded by a gender indicator if required. The many adjectives used as nouns (e.g. *портной*) are not specially marked.

(c) the gender (or, for *pluralia tantum*, the genitive plural termination) and number (*pl.*) of all plural nouns which translate a headword or compound. Thus:

*timpani* *n.* *литавры* (*f. pl.*).

*pliers* *n.* *щипцы* (*pl., g. -ов*); *клещи* (*pl., g. -ей*).

This information, however, is not given if the singular form has already appeared in the same entry, nor in the case of neuter plurals with an accompanying adjective, where the number and gender are self-evident from the terminations. Plurals of adjectives used substantively are shown as (*pl.*).

(d) the nominative plural termination (-а or -я) of certain masculine nouns when this form denotes a meaning different from that of the plural in -ы or -и, e.g.

*icon* . . . *образ* (*nom. pl. -а*).

(e) the forms of nouns used where Russian differs from English in making a verbal distinction between male and female. Thus:

*teacher* *учитель* (*fem. -ница*)

(f) aspectual information: see paragraphs 40–3 below.

(g) case usage with prepositions, e.g. **before** *до +g.*

(h) the case, with or without preposition, required to provide an equivalent to an English transitive verb. Thus:

**attack** *v.t.* *нападать, -ать на +a.*

If no case is thus indicated, it is to be taken that the Russian verb is transitive.

(i) When English and Russian terms are equivalent as they stand, but both may be regularly extended e.g. by a prepositional phrase, the Russian idiom may be made explicit as in (h), but in brackets. Thus:

**conduce** *v.i.* *способствовать* (*impf.*) (+*d.*)

(j) Use is also made of oblique cases of the Russian pronouns *кто* and *что* (in brackets and italics) to indicate case/preposition usage after a verb. Thus:

**suit** (*adapt*) *v.t.* *приспосабливать, -обить (что к чему); согласовывать, -ать (что с чем)*

## ASPECTS

**40.** Aspectual information is given on all verbs (except *быть*, *impf.*) offered as renderings in infinitive form (except when they are subordinate to the finite verb in a sentence). If the verb is mono-aspectual, or used in a phrase to which only one aspect applies, it is designated either imperfective (*impf.*) or perfective (*pf.*) as the case may be. With verbs of motion a distinction is made between determinate (*det.*) and indeterminate (*indet.*) forms, the imperfective aspect being assumed unless otherwise stated. Bi-aspectual infinitives are shown as (*impf.*, *pf.*). In all other cases both aspects are indicated (the imperfective always preceding the perfective) as in the following examples:

- (i) получ|ать, -ить; возра|жать, -зить; сн|осить, -есті.
- (ii) позв|олять, -олять; встр|ечать, -етить.
- (iii) показ|ывать, -ать (i.e. *pf.* показ|ать); очаров|ывать, -ать.
- (iv) гон|ять, гнать; брать, взять; вынужд|ать, вынудить.
- (v) смотр|еть, по-; гр|еть, по- (i.e. *pf.* погр|еть); мост|ить, вы- (i.e. *pf.* вымост|ить); лыс|еть, об-/по-.
- (vi) и|мпровизировать, сы-.

**41.** It will be seen from the above that

- (i) when the first two or more letters of both aspects are identical, a vertical divider in the imperfective separates these letters from those which undergo change in the perfective. The perfective is then represented by the changed letters, preceded by a hyphen.
- (ii) a 'change' includes change of stress only if the stress shifts *back* in the perfective to the previous vowel: the divider then precedes this vowel in the imperfective.
- (iii) if it shifts forward, only the stressed syllable of the perfective is shown.
- (iv) when the two aspects have only their first letter in common, or are in fact different verbs, or both begin with *вы-* (which is always accented in the perfective), both are given in full.
- (v) perfectives of the type 'prefix + imperfective' are shown by giving the prefix only, followed by a hyphen. Prefixes are unstressed except for *вы-*. Alternative prefixes are separated by an oblique stroke.

**42.** Where a verb has two possible imperfective or perfective forms, the alternative form is shown inside a bracket, thus

разв|орачивать (or -ёртывать), -ерн|уть.  
возвра|щаться, -т|иться (or верн|уться).  
пал|ить (or опа|ливать), о-.

**43.** When two or three verbs separated by a solidus are followed by the indication (*pf.*) or (*impf.*), this applies to both or all of them.