

A SUPPLEMENT TO  
THE OXFORD ENGLISH  
DICTIONARY

VOLUME III O-Scz

## PREFACE

IN her *Personal Pleasures* (1935) Rose Macaulay notes that on a blank page at the beginning of her copy of the 1933 *Supplement to the OED* she recorded emendations, corrections, additions, and earlier uses of words.

To amend so great a work gives me pleasure; I feel myself one of its architects; I am Sir James Murray, Dr. Bradley, Sir William Craigie, Dr. Onions . . .

If there is a drawback to this pure pleasure of doing good to a dictionary, I have not yet found it. Except that, naturally, it takes time.

With the publication of this volume we have now reached the three-quarter mark, proportionately about as far as the point reached by Dr Murray on the *OED* itself before he died in 1915. We are now preparing the fourth and last volume, and it should be ready for publication in 1985. It would not be prudent to start congratulating ourselves yet—no major lexicographical project has been brought to its last word without the final agonies of a marathon runner—but the glittering prize of completion now seems to be within sight at last.

The letter S—the longest one in the alphabet—needed to be divided. Calculations of various kinds were made and in the end it was decided to make the division at *Scythism*, though it is a word of no great account, in order to balance the size of the third and fourth volumes. The fourth and final volume will begin with an entry for the ancient and productive word *sea*.

We have continued to follow the main lines of policy described in the first two volumes, but with changes of emphasis or detail here and there in order to take into account the events of the later part of the past decade, the research interests of scholars in various subjects, and the vicissitudes of the OED Department and of my own life.

During the 1970s the markedly linguistic descriptivism of the post-war years was to some extent brought into question. Infelicities of language, whether in the spoken or the written word, were identified and assailed by a great many people who seemed to believe that the English language itself was in a period of decline. Regular columns largely concerned with verbal error appeared (and many of them continue to appear) in *The Times* (Mr Philip Howard), the *New York Times Sunday Magazine* (Mr William Safire), the *New Statesman* ('This English'), *Encounter* ('In the Margin'), the *New Zealand Listener* (Professor I. A. Gordon), and many other newspapers and journals. The House of Lords devoted a session to the subject on 21 November 1979 and another on 28 January 1981, in the course of which eloquent voices were raised against the use of modish words like *ongoing*, *relevant*, and *viable*.<sup>1</sup>

My own views on these great issues were expressed in several publications<sup>2</sup> and in many lectures and broadcasts—broadly that 'the English language is alive and well, in the right hands'.

Expressions like *right on* and *hopefully* bring out the worst and the best in men and women. They stand as emblems of social and political divisions within our society. These and other elements lying strewn in the disputed territory of our language are at any given time not numerous but are charged with a significance that goes far beyond the mere linguistic. If you are tempted to fulminate against them, or to feel uneasy about them, bear in mind that the English language has been in the hands of linguistic conservatives and linguistic radicals for more than a thousand years and that, far from bleeding to death from past crudities and past wounds, it can be used with majesty and power, free of all fault, by our greatest writers.<sup>3</sup>

One small legacy of these great debates is that here and there in the present volume I have found

<sup>1</sup> The text of these debates is recorded in the relevant issues of *Hansard*.

<sup>2</sup> Especially in *The Quality of Spoken English on BBC Radio* (BBC, 1979), *The Spoken Language as an Art Form: an Auto-*

*biographical Approach* (English-Speaking Union, New York, 1981), and *The Spoken Word: a BBC Guide* (BBC, 1981).

<sup>3</sup> *The Spoken Language as an Art Form*, p. 17.

myself adding my own opinions about the acceptability of certain words or meanings in educated use. Users of the dictionary may or may not find these editorial comments diverting: they have been added (adapting a statement by John Ray in 1691) 'as oil to preserve the mucilage from inspissation'.

The volume has been prepared in circumstances of great adversity, though not without many mitigating factors. The editorial staff remained more or less constant in number but very different in constitution as some moved away to other posts and others took charge of other projects within the Department. Also, in 1977, we left our 'shabby Victorian villa', 40 Walton Crescent, and moved to 37a St. Giles', a splendid spacious Georgian mansion in central Oxford, with all the disruption brought about by such a move. We lost our printers, William Clowes & Co. Ltd., Beccles, after they had set the letters O and P for this volume. The closing down of their hot-metal department in 1980 delayed the printing of Volume III by six months before new printers were found and the material was transferred to Plymouth or to Oxford. The Department embarked on many other projects, including new editions of nearly all the Oxford dictionaries below the level of the *OED* itself, and completed a number of new dictionaries including the *Oxford Paperback Dictionary* (1979); three dictionaries closely related to it, including the *Oxford American Dictionary* (1980) and the *St. Michael Oxford Dictionary* (1981); the *Oxford Mini-dictionary* (1981); and several school dictionaries. My governance, at various removes, of these projects inevitably delayed the completion of the third volume of the Supplement. The Oxford University Press found itself locked in internal debates and wrangles about ways and means of surviving in difficult trading conditions. Trading profits turned into trading losses and unpleasantnesses occurred as those responsible for the management of affairs found themselves in inevitable dispute with the unions. The Department could not stand aside and pretend that it existed in an ivory tower of its own choice. The words *picket* and *picketer* are dealt with in this volume: all of us encountered the fact of picketing at intervals while this volume was in preparation. We continued to receive sustained and invaluable assistance from many outside scholars and institutions (see below) but suffered a grievous blow when G. and C. Merriam Co. decided in 1977 that they could no longer help us, as they had in the past, by supplying from their files earlier examples of words than those held in our own files. This volume contains numerous examples of the type '1934 in WEBSTER'<sup>4</sup> because this great American dictionary house felt obliged to cancel an arrangement that I had made with Dr Philip Gove, the Editor of *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*, in 1968.

These adversities have left their mark but the pleasures of historical lexicography remain as a source of endless delight and can be observed in the pages that follow. The burgeoning of the word *O.K.* in its numerous spellings and variations; the engaging curiosities of the letter Q (this with X the letter always dealt with at greatest speed by lexicographers); the words of Yiddish, German, Greek, and Italian origin beginning with *sch-*, a vigorous group if ever there was one; the numerous Chinese loanwords or loan translations—for example, *pipa*, *putonghua*, *Little Red Book*, *running dog*, and *scorched earth*—with the Chinese originals expressed in the revolutionary (and one hopes permanent) Pinyin transliteration system; and the numberless entries with *post-*, *pre-*, *pro-*, and *re-* as their first elements. Those who wish to explore the volume further rather than simply use it as a work of occasional reference may derive pleasure (according to taste) under at any rate some of the following assorted entries: *oung*, v. (of an elephant: to drag logs along a stream); *parp* (invented apparently by Enid Blyton); *person*, sb. 2 f (as in *chairperson*); *Pip*, *Squeak*, and *Wilfred*; *pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovulcanoconiosis* (a factitious word of 45 letters); *Princeton-First Year* (Auden); *puddle-duck* (an earlier use than that in Beatrix Potter's famous work); controversial words like *piccaninny*, *Sambo*, and *Scientology*; *scripophily* (one of numerous invented words for various collecting habits); and *scrolloping* (Virginia Woolf).

<sup>4</sup> See, for example, the entries for *phrasally*, *retrain* (verb), *reuire* (noun), *rubbernecker*, *sales clerk*, and *sales force*.

Some new areas of vocabulary or doctrine that I have explored myself have been dealt with in several papers published elsewhere.<sup>5</sup>

A new feature of this volume is the inclusion of a table showing how we have transliterated foreign scripts—not always, unfortunately, with complete success. I am grateful to Dr J. B. Sykes (in particular), Sir Edward Playfair, Mr T. F. Hoad, and the late Mr. N. A. M. Rankin for very considerable assistance while it was being prepared.

Inevitably and sadly a number of people associated with the Supplement have not survived to see the publication of the third volume. The following contributors or outside consultants have died since Volume II was published in 1976: Professor J. A. W. Bennett (my former tutor), Dr E. J. Bowen, Dr R. S. Cahn, Professor B. Foster, Dr R. A. Hunter, Professor W. S. Mackie, Dr K. P. Oakley, N. A. M. Rankin (from the Dictionary Department itself), the Revd H. E. G. Rope (aged 97), and Nicolaas Van Blerk. Special mention should be made of Dr Douglas Leechman (who died in July 1980) and Professor W. S. Avis (who died in December 1979): there can scarcely be any Canadian item in the Supplement that has not benefited from the work of these two great men. Perhaps the most devastating blow of all came when Mr Gordon Murray, a member of the editorial staff, died in June 1981 at the age of 32.

Major contributors of quotations in the period 1976–80 included the following: †Professor W. S. Avis, G. Charters, G. Chowdhary-Best, C. Collier, Mrs J. Harker, Dom Sylvester Houédard, W. Kings, Miss M. Laski, †Dr D. Leechman, Mrs D. McColl, Mrs J. M. Marson, †E. H. Mart, Mrs M. Y. Offord, Sir Edward Playfair, F. Shapiro, Mrs V. Smith, and Mrs G. M. Spriggs. Of these Miss Laski and Mr Chowdhary-Best contributed approximately 30,000 quotations each, and all the others named supplied between 1,000 and 10,000 quotations each. Indispensable batches of quotations from fiction, including detective fiction, and from works in the whole area of domestic and social life were received from Miss Laski. Our treatment of exotic vocabulary from, for example, the Far East, the Pacific, and the language of politics would have been less thorough without the contributions of Mr Chowdhary-Best, of Asia Minor and the Middle East without those of Sir Edward Playfair, and of American card and board games, and of some other specialized areas, without those of Mr Shapiro.

The outside proof-readers, generously industrious and helpful throughout the preparation of Volume III, were Professor A. R. Duckert, M. W. Grose, T. F. Hoad, Miss Marghanita Laski, Mrs M. Y. Offord, and Professor E. G. Stanley.

The outside consultants to whom we have repeatedly turned while the volume was being prepared were: Dr G. C. Ainsworth, A. J. Augarde, †Professor W. S. Avis, Dr R. P. Beckinsale, Professor A. J. Bliss, Dr S. Bradbury, Dr Jean Branford, †Dr R. S. Cahn, Sir A. K. Cairncross, Professor F. G. Cassidy, Miss Chan Yin-Ling, Miss P. Cooray, Dr J. Cortés, Professor G. N. Ç. Crawford, Professor S. Deas, P. G. Embrey, D. F. Foxon, R. B. Freeman, W. K. V. Gale, P. G. W. Glare, Dr I. Goddard, R. Hall, R. E. Hawkins, Dr M. H. Hey, M. T. Heydeman, Professor Elizabeth (Carr) Holmes, †Dr R. A. Hunter, Dr D. M. Jackson, P. Jarrett, Dr Russell Jones, Dr N. R. Ker, Dr W. J. Kirwin, Professor K. Koike, Professor J. Leech, †Dr D. Leechman, Professor B. Lennox, Dr A. Loveless, Dr D. J. Mäbberly, Professor R. I. McDavid Jr, Dr R. S. McGregor, Professor J. B. McMillan, Dr L. V. Malakhovski, Dr F. H. C. Marriott, R. D. Meikle, D. D. Murison, †Dr K. P. Oakley, I. and P. Opie, Professor C. Rabin, Professor R. H. Robins,

<sup>5</sup> 'Names of Types of Oil Wells: an Aspect of Short-Term Historical Lexicography', in *Feestbundel F. de Tollenaere* (Leiden, 1977); 'Aspects of Short-Term Historical Lexicography', in *Second Round Table on Historical Lexicography* (delivered in Leiden in 1977, published 1980), pp. 271–85; 'Further Aspects of Short-Term Historical Lexicography', in *James B. McMillan: Essays in Linguistics by his Friends and Colleagues* (University of Alabama Press, 1977), pp. 115–31; 'On that Other Great Dictionary', in *Encounter*, May 1977, pp. 47–50; *The Footlers: their Achievements in Lexicography and Grammar* (Presidential Address to the English Association, 1979);

Preface to a facsimile edition of Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language* (London, 1979); 'Dictionaries and Ethnic Sensibilities', in L. Michaels and C. Ricks, *The State of the Language* (University of California Press, 1980), pp. 15–23.

Valuable papers by two of my departmental colleagues were also published in *Exeter Linguistic Studies*, Vol. IV (1979): L. S. Burnett, 'Lexicographical Problems in the Treatment of some Linguistic Terms in a Supplement to the OED'; and S. J. Raphael, 'The Treatment of the Terminology of Natural History in the Oxford English Dictionaries'.

Professor N. G. Sabbagha, R. Scruton, Dr J. B. Sykes, Miss Tao Jie, Professor G. Treitel, G. W. Turner, J. O. Urmson, Professor T. G. Vallance, Dr R. L. Venezky, the Revd Canon Professor M. F. Wiles, and Dr D. R. Woodall. Many others have given us advice and comments on individual entries.

This third volume contains about 18,750 Main Words divided into some 28,000 senses. There are about 8,500 defined Combinations within the articles and some 4,500 undefined Combinations. The illustrative quotations are estimated to number 142,500.

Finally, the Editor would like to record his personal indebtedness to many individual scholars and institutions: Mrs L. S. Burnett and Dr W. R. Trumble, who made signal editorial contributions to the Supplement before they started work on a new edition of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* in 1980; similarly Dr R. E. Allen, who succeeded Dr J. B. Sykes as editor of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* and *Pocket Oxford Dictionary* in 1981; my other Senior Editors, Mr A. M. Hughes (for Science), Miss Sandra Raphael (for Natural History and Library Research), and, in more recent times, Mr E. S. C. Weiner and Mr J. A. Simpson; the library research staff who have managed to overcome the adversities now strewn in the path of anyone constantly using great libraries, and in particular Miss V. M. Salusbury (until she left in 1977), Miss J. L. Harley (retired 1980), and others who worked in London and in America far from the editorial headquarters in Oxford; Mr J. Paterson for his resolution of many difficult bibliographical problems within the inevitable limits of time; my hosts in Chicago and New York in July 1978 when I startled them and many others by suggesting in a lecture to the American Library Association that American and British English were drifting apart and that one day interpreters would be needed;<sup>6</sup> Liverpool University for their munificence in conferring an Honorary D.Litt. on me in 1978; those who welcomed me in China in May 1979, especially Mr Chen Yuan of the Commercial Press, Peking, and my interpreter, Miss Tao Jie, Peking University; and my hosts in seven cities in the United States in October 1980 when I gave a series of lectures on the English language at the invitation of the English-Speaking Union. Above all, I have continued to build up my indebtedness to those whom I see daily and who have given me superlative support and succour over the last six years, my colleagues and assistants on the Dictionary staff itself.

Oxford  
October 1981

R.W.B.

<sup>6</sup> The lecture was printed with the title 'The Point of Severance: English in 1776 and Beyond', in *Encounter*, October 1978, pp. 129-33.

# EDITORIAL STAFF

The dates given after the names indicate when each person joined the editorial staff of this dictionary. The letter <sup>P</sup> precedes the names of those who worked as part-timers.

Senior Editors (General):	R. E. ALLEN	1974-80
	LESLEY S. BURNETT	1974-80
	J. A. SIMPSON	1976-
	E. S. C. WEINER	1977-
Senior Editor (Science):	A. M. HUGHES	1968-
Senior Editor (Natural History and Library Research):	SANDRA RAPHAEL	1969-
Assistant Editor (Bibliographical Collation):	J. PATERSON	1975-

## Editorial Assistants

E. C. DANN	1963-	A. HODGSON	1976-
ADRIANA P. ORR	1966-	YVONNE L. WARBURTON	1976-
DEBORAH D. HONORÉ		JULIA C. SWANNELL	1976-
(formerly COWEN)	1970-	D. J. EDMONDS	1977-80
JOYCE L. HARLEY	1970-80	<sup>P</sup> F. D. HAYES	1977-
ROSEMARY J. SANSOME	1975-80	†G. MURRAY	1977-81
N. S. WEDD	1975-81	P. R. HARDIE	1977-80
D. R. HOWLETT	1975-9	ELIZABETH M. KNOWLES	1977-
W. R. TRUMBLE	1975-80	C. F. KEMP	1978-81
EDITH BONNER		ROSAMUND E. MOON	1979-81
(formerly ROGERSON)	1976-	AMANDA J. BURRELL	1979-

Members of the editorial staff received valuable part-time assistance from the following outside helpers: Grace M. Briggs (1959- ), Rita G. Keckeissen (1968- ), Daphne Gilbert-Carter (1975- ), and Sally Hinkle (1977- ), the first-named in Oxford and the others in New York, Washington, and Boston respectively.

Mr Kemp and Mrs Burrell (both based in London), Mrs Orr (in Washington), and Miss Harley, Miss Warburton, and Miss Knowles (all in Oxford) were mainly concerned with research (especially for 'first uses') and with the verification of quotations. Mr Wedd, Dr Trumble, and Mr Murray dealt with scientific terms, and Mrs Honoré with terms in the Social Sciences. Mr Edmonds assisted with the reading of proofs. All other Editorial Assistants named above undertook general editorial work.

Among those who assisted for relatively short periods with the editorial work of Volume III as part of the regular staff were the following: Veronica M. Salusbury (1966-77), J. Claire Nicholls (1974-7), <sup>P</sup>Marguerite Y. Offord (1974-9), P. J. Broadhead (1977-8), J. S. Wood (1978-80), and Wendy H. Archer (1980-1).

New members of the editorial staff who (from 1980) assisted with the final stages of Volume III were Dr D. B. W. Birk, M. A. Mabe, and Della J. Thompson. Mrs Honoré worked part-time from mid-1980.

Secretarial and clerical assistants: Beta Cotmore (1974-9), Anne Whear (1975- ), Katherine A. Shock (1978-9), D. Ann Baker (1978-81), Afra E. Singer (1979-81), and Karin C. E. Vines (1981- ).

# KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION

THE pronunciations given are those in use in the educated speech of southern England (the so-called 'Received Standard'), and the keywords given are to be understood as pronounced in such speech.

## I. Consonants and Semi-Consonants

b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, t, v, z have their usual English values

g as in *go* (gōv).  
h ... *hol* (hōv).  
r ... *run* (rɔn), *terrier* (tɛˈriːr).  
l ... *her* (hɛr), *farther* (fɑːˈðɜː).  
s ... *see* (si), *success* (səkˈsɛs).  
w ... *wear* (wɛr).  
hw ... *when* (hwen).  
y ... *yes* (yes).

p as in *thin* (pɪn), *bathe* (bæp).  
θ ... *then* (ðen), *bathe* (bæθ).  
ʃ ... *shop* (ʃɒp), *dish* (dɪʃ).  
tʃ ... *chop* (tʃɒp), *ditch* (dɪtʃ).  
ʒ ... *vision* (viˈʒən), *déjeuner* (deʒəˈneɪ).  
dʒ ... *judge* (dʒɒdʒ),  
ŋ ... *singing* (sɪˈŋɪŋ), *think* (pɪŋk).  
ŋɡ ... *finger* (fɪˈŋɡɜː).

(FOREIGN AND NON-SOUTHERN)

ɲ as in French *nasal*, *environ* (aɪvɪˈrɔn).  
ɪv ... It. *serraglio* (sɛrˈaɡliɔ).  
nʏ ... It. *signore* (sɪnˈɔːrɛ).  
x ... Ger. *ach* (ax), Sc. *loch* (lɒx), Sp. *frijoles* (friˈxɔles).  
χʏ ... Ger. *ich* (ɪxʏ), Sc. *nicht* (nɪxʏt).  
ʏ ... North Ger. *sagen* (zɑːˈʏn).  
ʏʏ ... Ger. *legen*, *regnen* (lɛˈʏrɛn, rɛˈʏrɛn).  
kv ... Afrikaans *baardmannefje* (bɑːrtmɑːnˈkʏfjɛ).

The reversed r (ɹ) and small 'superior' letters (pe-rēmˈtari) are used to denote elements that may be omitted either by individual speakers or in particular phonetic contexts.

## II. Vowels

The symbol ː placed over a vowel-letter denotes length.

The incidence of main stress is shown by a raised point (ˈ) after the vowel-symbol, and a secondary stress by a double point (ː) as in *callithumpian* (kælˈɪpːɪnpiːən).

The stressed vowels a, æ, e, i, o, u become obscured with loss of stress, and the indeterminate sounds thus arising, and approximating to the 'neutral' vowel ə, are normally printed ă, ǣ, ê, î, ô, û.

A break | is used to indicate syllable-division when necessary to avoid ambiguity.

ORDINARY  
a as in Fr. *à la mode* (a la modˈ).  
ai ... *aye* = yes (ai), *Isaiah* (aɪzai-ă).  
æ ... *man* (mæn).  
ɑ ... *pass* (pɑs), *chant* (tʃɑnt).  
au ... *loud* (laʊd), *now* (naʊ).  
ɒ ... *cut* (kʌt), *son* (sɒn).  
e ... *yet* (yet), *ten* (ten).  
|ə ... Fr. *attaché* (ataʃe).  
|ɛ ... Fr. *chef* (ʃɛf).  
ə ... *ever* (eˈvɜ), *nation* (næʃən).  
əi ... *I, eye* (ai), *bind* (baɪnd).  
|ɔ ... Fr. *tour de force* (tʊrˈdɔːsɔː).  
i ... *sit* (sɪt), *mystic* (mɪstɪk).  
i ... *Psyche* (saɪˈki), *react* (rɪˈækt).  
o ... *achor* (ɛˈkoɪ), *morality* (mɔːrəˈlɪti).  
oi ... *oil* (oil), *boy* (boi).  
o ... *hero* (hɪˈro), *zoology* (zɔːlɔːˈdʒɪ).  
Q ... *what* (hwɒt), *watch* (wɒtʃ).  
Q, ɔ\* ... *got* (gɒt), *soft* (sɒft)\*.  
|ɔ ... Ger. *Köln* (kœln).  
|o ... Fr. *peu* (pø).  
u ... *full* (fʊl), *book* (bʊk).  
iu ... *duration* (diʊrˈeɪʃən).  
u ... *unto* (vˈnu), *frugality* (fruˈlɪti).  
iu ... *Matthew* (mæˈpiu), *virtus* (vɜːˈtɪu).  
|ü ... Ger. *Müller* (müˈlɛr).  
|ü ... Fr. *dune* (dün).  
\* (see P, ɛ, ɔ, ɔ\*) see Vol. I of Dict., p. 1, u (see ɛ, ɔ) xxxiv, note 3.  
as in *able* (ɛˈbəl), *eaten* (iˈtɛn) = voice-glide.

LONG  
ă as in *alms* (ămz), *bar* (băr).  
ɔ ... *curl* (kɔɹl), *fur* (fɔɹ).  
ê (ə) ... *there* (ðɛr), *pear*, *pare* (pɛr).  
ê(ɛ) ... *rein*, *rain* (rɛɪn), *they* (ðɛɪ).  
|ɛ ... Fr. *faire* (fɛrˈ).  
ô ... *fir* (fɪr), *fern* (fɛrn), *earth* (əɹθ).  
i (i) ... *bier* (biɪr), *clear* (klɪr).  
i ... *thief* (piɪf), *see* (si).  
o (ɔ) ... *boar*, *bore* (bɔr), *glory* (glɔrɪ).  
ô (ɔu) ... *so*, *sow* (sɔu), *soul* (sɔul).  
ô ... *walk* (wɒk), *wart* (wɒt).  
ô ... *short* (ʃɔɹt), *thorn* (pɔɹn).  
|ô ... Fr. *cœur* (kœr).  
|ô ... Ger. *Goethe* (gœtɛ), Fr. *Jésune* (ʒɛn).  
û (ū) ... *poor* (pū), *moorish* (mūˈrɪʃ).  
iū, iū ... *pure* (piū), *lure* (lū).  
ū ... *two* moons (tū mɔnz).  
iū, iū ... *few* (fiū), *lute* (lūt).  
|ū ... Ger. *grün* (grūn), Fr. *jus* (ʒū).

OBSCURE  
ă as in *amœba* (ămɪ-bă).  
ǣ ... *accept* (ækˈsɛpt), *maniac* (mɛˈniæk).  
ǣ ... *datum* (dæˈtɔm).  
ê ... *moment* (mɔːmɛnt), *several* (sɛˈv-ɛrəl).  
ê ... *separate* (adj.) (sɛˈpɑrɛt).  
ê ... *added* (æˈdɛd), *estate* (ɛstɛɪt).  
i ... *vanity* (væˈnɪti).  
i ... *remain* (rɪˈmɛɪn), *believe* (bɪliˈv).  
ô ... *theory* (piˈɔri).  
ô ... *violet* (vaiˈɔlɛt), *parody* (pæˈrɔdi).  
ô ... *authority* (ɔpɔˈrɪti).  
ô ... *connect* (kɔnˈɛkt), *amazon* (æˈmɑ-zɔn).

\* Words such as *soft*, *cloth*, *cross* are often still pronounced with (ɔ) by Southern speakers in England but the pronunciation with ɔ is now more usual.

|| Only in foreign (or earlier English) words.

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, ETC.

Some abbreviations here listed in *italics> are occasionally, for the sake of clarity, printed in roman type, and vice versa.*

a. (in Etym.) a (as a 1850)	adoption of, adopted from <i>ante</i> , 'before', 'not later than'	Cryst. Da. D.A. D.A.E.	in Crystallography Danish <i>Dictionary of Americanisms</i> <i>Dictionary of American English</i>	id. i.e. IE. init. <i>Immunol.</i> imp. <i>impers.</i> impf. ind. indef. inf. infl. <i>int.</i> <i>intr.</i> Introd. Ir. irreg. It. J. (J.)	<i>idem</i> , 'the same' <i>id est</i> , 'that is' Indo-European imitative in Immunology imperative impersonal imperfect indicative indefinite infinitive influenced interjection intransitive Introduction Irish irregular, -ly Italian Johnson's <i>Dictionary</i> (quoted from)
abbrev. abl. absol. Abstr. acc. ad. (in Etym.) Add. adj. adv. advb. (Adv.), <i>Aeronaut.</i> A.F., A.Fr. Afr. <i>Agric.</i> Alb. <i>Amer.</i> Amer. Ind. <i>Anat.</i> Anglo-Ind. Anglo-Ir. <i>Anthropol.</i> <i>Anthropol.</i> <i>Antiq.</i> aphet. app. Arab. Aram. <i>Arch., Archt.</i> <i>arch.</i> <i>Archaeol.</i> Arm. assoc. <i>Astr.</i> <i>Astrol.</i> attrib. <i>Austral.</i> A.V. bef. <i>Bibliogr.</i> <i>Biochem.</i> <i>Biol.</i> <i>Bot.</i> Bulg. c (as c 1700) c. (as 19th c.) <i>Canad.</i> Cat. <i>catachr.</i> Celt. Cent. Dict. Cl., cf. Ch. Chem. <i>Cinemat.,</i> <i>Cinematogr.</i> cl. L. cogn. w. <i>collect.</i> <i>colloq.</i> comb. <i>Comb.</i> <i>Comm.</i> <i>Communic.</i> comp. compar. compl. <i>Conch.</i> <i>concr.</i> <i>conj.</i> cons. const.	adjective abbreviation (of) ablative absolute, -ly Abstract(s) accusative adaptation of Addenda adjective adverb adverbial, -ly advertisement in Aeronautics Anglo-French Africa, -n in Agriculture Albanian American American Indian in Anatomy Anglo-Indian Anglo-Irish in Anthropology in Antiquities aphetic, aphetized apparently Arabic Aramaic in Architecture archaic in Archaeology Armenian association in Astronomy in Astrology attributive, -ly Australian Authorized Version before in Bibliography in Biochemistry in Biology in Botany Bulgarian <i>circa</i> , 'about' century Canadian Catalan catachrestically Celtic <i>Century Dictionary</i> <i>confer</i> , 'compare' Church in Chemistry in Cinematography classical Latin cognate with collective, -ly colloquial, -ly combined, -ing Combinations in Commercial usage in Communications compound, composition comparative complement in Conchology concrete, -ly conjunction consonant construction, construed with corresponding (to) compound	Dim. D.O.S.T. Du. E. <i>Ecd.</i> <i>Ecol.</i> <i>Econ.</i> ed. E.D.D. <i>Educ.</i> e.g. <i>Electr.</i> <i>ellipt.</i> <i>Embryol.</i> e.midl. Eng. <i>Engin.</i> <i>Ent.</i> erron. <i>esp.</i> et al. etc. <i>Ethnol.</i> etym. <i>euphem.</i> exc. f. (in Etym.) f. (in subordinate entries) F. fem. ( <i>rarely f.</i> ) <i>fig.</i> Finn. fl. Fr. freq. Fris. <i>Funk's Stand.</i> <i>Dict.</i> G. Gael. <i>Gaz.</i> gen. gen. <i>Geogr.</i> <i>Geol.</i> <i>Geom.</i> <i>Geomorphol.</i> Ger. Gmc. Goth. Gr. <i>Gram.</i> Heb. <i>Her.</i> <i>Herb.</i> Hind. <i>Hist.</i> hist. <i>Hort.</i> <i>Ibid.</i> Icel. <i>Ichthyol.</i>	derivative, -ation derogatory dialect, -al <i>Dictionary; spec., the</i> <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> diminutive <i>Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue</i> Dutch East in Ecclesiastical usage in Ecology in Economics edition <i>English Dialect Dictionary</i> in Education <i>exempli gratia</i> , 'for example' in Electricity elliptical, -ly in Embryology east midland (dialect) English in Engineering in Entomology erroneous, -ly especially <i>et alii</i> , 'and others' et cetera in Ethnology etymology euphemistically except formed on form of French feminine figurative, -ly Finnish <i>floruit</i> , 'flourished' French frequent, -ly Frisian <i>Funk and Wagnall's</i> <i>Standard Dictionary</i> German Gaelic Gazette (in names of newspapers) genitive general, -ly in Geography in Geology in Geometry in Geomorphology German Germanic Gothic Greek in Grammar Hebrew in Heraldry among herbalists Hindustani in History historical in Horticulture <i>Ibidem</i> , 'in the same book or passage' Icelandic in Ichthyology	(jam.) Jap. joc. l. L. lang. <i>Let., Lett.</i> LG. lit. <i>Lit.</i> Lith. LXX Mal. <i>Manuf.</i> masc. ( <i>rarely m.</i> ) <i>Math.</i> MDu. ME. <i>Mech.</i> <i>Med.</i> med.L. <i>Metaph.</i> <i>Meteorol.</i> MHG. midl. <i>Mil.</i> <i>Min.</i> MLG. mod. mod.L. (Morris), <i>Mus.</i> <i>Mythol.</i> N. <i>N. Amer.</i> <i>N. &amp; Q.</i> <i>Nat. Hist.</i> <i>Naut.</i> <i>Neurol.</i> <i>neut.</i> ( <i>rarely n.</i> ) NF., NFr. nom. north. Norw. N.T. <i>Nucl.</i> <i>Numism.</i> <i>N.Z.</i> obj. obl. <i>Obs., obs.</i> occas. <i>Oceanogr.</i> OE. OF., OFr. OFris. OHG.	Japanese jocular, -ly line Latin language letter, letters Low German literal, -ly Literary Lithuanian Septuagint Malay, Malaysian in Manufacture, -ing masculine in Mathematics Middle Dutch Middle English in Mechanics in Medicine medieval Latin in Metaphysics in Meteorology Middle High German midland (dialect) in military usage in Mineralogy Middle Low German modern modern Latin E. E. Morris's <i>Austral</i> <i>English</i> (quoted from) in Music in Mythology North North America, -n <i>Notes and Queries</i> in Natural History in Nautical language in Neurology neuter Northern French nominative northern (dialect) Norwegian New Testament Nuclear in Numismatics New Zealand object oblique obsolete occasional, -ly in Oceanography Old English (= Anglo-Saxon) Old French Old Frisian Old High German

OIr.	Old Irish	pred.	predicative	subj.	subject, subjunctive
ON.	Old Norse (Old Icelandic)	pref.	prefix	subord. cl.	subordinate clause
ONF.	Old Northern French	pref., Pref.	preface	subseq.	subsequent, -ly
Ophthalm.	in Ophthalmology	prep.	preposition	subst.	substantively
opp.	opposed (to), the opposite (of)	pres.	present	suff.	suffix
Opt.	in Optics	priv.	privative	superl.	superlative
orig.	origin, -al, -ally	prob.	probably	Suppl.	Supplement
Ornith.	in Ornithology	pron.	pronoun	Surg.	in Surgery
OS.	Old Saxon	pronunc.	pronunciation	s.v.	sub voce, 'under the word'
OSL.	Old (Church) Slavonic	prop.	properly	Sw.	Swedish
O.T.	Old Testament	Pros.	in Prosody	s.w.	south-western (dialect)
p.	page	Prov.	Provençal	syll.	syllable
Palaeogr.	in Palaeography	pr. ppie.	present participle	Syr.	Syrian
Palaeont.	in Palaeontology	Psych., Psychol.	in Psychology	techn.	technical, -ly
pa. ppie.	passive or past participle	Q.	Quarterly (in names of periodicals)	Tel.	Telegraph (in names of newspapers)
(Partridge),	E. Partridge's <i>Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English</i> (quoted from)	quot(s).	quotation(s)	Telegr.	in Telegraphy
pass.	passive, -ly	q.v.	quod vide, 'which see'	Teleph.	in Telephony
pa. t.	past tense	R.	Royal (in names of periodicals, etc.)	(Thl.)	Thornton's <i>American Glossary</i> (quoted from)
Path.	in Pathology	Radiol.	in Radiology	Theatr.	in the Theatre, theatrical
perh.	perhaps	R. C. Ch.	Roman Catholic Church	Theol.	in Theology
Pers.	Persian	redupl.	reduplicating	Tokh.	Tokharian
pers.	person, -al	refash.	refashioned, -ing	tr., transl.	translation (of)
Petrogr.	in Petrography	reflex.	reflexive	trans.	transitive
Petrol.	in Petrology	reg.	regular	transf.	transferred sense
(Pettman),	C. Pettman's <i>Africanisms</i> (quoted from)	rel.	related (to)	Trig.	in Trigonometry
pf.	perfect	repr.	representative, representing	Turk	Turkish
Pg.	Portuguese	Rhet.	in Rhetoric	Typogr., Typogr.	in Typography
Pharm.	in Pharmacology	Rom.	Roman, Romance, Romanic	ult.	ultimate, -ly
Philol.	in Philology	Rum.	Rumanian	unkn.	unknown
Philos.	in Philosophy	Russ.	Russian	U.S.	United States
phonet.	phonetic, -ally	S.	South	usu.	usual, -ly
Photogr.	in Photography	S. Afr.	South Africa, -n	v., vb.	verb
phr.	phrase	sb.	substantive	var(r)l., vars.	variant(s) of
Phys.	in Physics, physical; (rarely) in Physiology	sc.	scilicet, 'understand' or 'supply'	vbl. sb.	verbal substantive
Physiol.	in Physiology	Sc., Scot.	Scotcl., Scottish	Vet., Vet. Sci.	in Veterinary Science
pl.	plural; plate	Sci.	(in) Science, scientific	viz.	videlicet, 'namely'
poet.	poetic, -al	Sc. Nat. Dict.	Scottish National Dictionary	v. str., or w.	verb strong, or weak
Pol.	Polish	Ser.	series	vulg.	vulgar
Pol.	in Politics	sing.	singular	W.	Welsh; West
Pol. Econ.	in Political Economy	Skr.	Sanskrit	wd.	word
pop.	popular, -ly	Slav.	Slavonic	Webster	Webster's ( <i>New International Dictionary</i> )
poss.	possessive	S.N.D.	Scottish National Dictionary	WGmc.	West Germanic
ppl. a., ppl. adj.	participial adjective	Sociol.	in Sociology	w.midl.	west midland (dialect)
pple.	participle	Sp.	Spanish	WS.	West Saxon
Pr.	Provençal	sp.	spelling	(Y.)	Yule & Burnell's <i>Hobson-Jobson</i> (quoted from)
prec.	preceding (word or article)	spec.	specific, -ally	Zoogeogr.	in Zoogeography
		(Stanf.),	<i>Stanford Dictionary of Anglicised Words and Phrases</i> (quoted from)	Zool.	in Zoology

## Signs and Other Conventions

## Before a word or sense

- † = obsolete  
 ‡ = not naturalized, alien  
 ¶ = catachrestic and erroneous uses (see Dict., Vol. 1, p. xxi)

## In the listing of Forms

- 1 = before 1100  
 2 = 12th c. (1100 to 1200)  
 3 = 13th c. (1200 to 1300), etc.  
 5-7 = 15th to 17th century. (See General Explanations, Dict., Vol. 1, p. xxx)

## In the etymologies

- \* indicates a word or form not actually found, but of which the existence is inferred  
 :- = normal development of

The printing of a word in SMALL CAPITALS indicates that further information will be found under the word so referred to.

In cross-references \* indicates that the word or sense referred to is in the Supplement.

After the number of a sense \* and \*\* (etc.) indicate new senses which are not directly related to the senses so numbered in the main body of the Dictionary, but which have to be inserted within the existing numerical sequence because of the custom in the Dictionary of placing the Combinations at the conclusion of each article.

.. indicates an omitted part of a quotation.

## PROPRIETARY NAMES

THIS Supplement includes some words which are or are asserted to be proprietary names or trade marks. Their inclusion does not imply that they have acquired for legal purposes a non-proprietary or general significance nor any other judgement concerning their legal status. In cases where the Editorial staff have established in the records of the Patent Offices of the United Kingdom and of the United States that a word is registered as a proprietary name or trade mark this is indicated, but no judgement concerning the legal status of such words is made or implied thereby.

## TRANSLITERATION OF FOREIGN SCRIPTS

The lists below show the schemes of transliteration used in this Supplement for the most commonly occurring languages that have not adopted the Roman alphabet.

Arabic: (omitted), ب b, ت t, ث t, ج h, ح h, خ k, د d, ذ d, ر r, ز z, س s, ش š, ص s, ض d, ط t, ظ z, ع ' ,  
غ g, ف f, ق k, ك k, ل l, م m, ن n, ه h, ة (omitted), و w, ی y; '': vowels a, i, u, ā, ī, ū.

*Chinese:* Wade-Giles system without tone-numbers; in Volumes III and IV Pinyin.

*Hebrew:* א', ב b, ג g, ד d, ה h, ו w, ז z, ח h, ט t, י y, כ k, ל l, מ m, נ n, ס s, ע', פ p, צ z, ק q or k, ר r, ש s, שׁ sh or š, ת t;

spirant consonants underlined or with added h; doubled consonant for *daghesh forte*;

vowels a, e, i, o, u; long vowels with macron or circumflex according as written defective or *plene*; shva and reduced vowels superscript or omitted.

*Japanese*: 'Modified Hepburn' system, British Standard 4812: 1972.

*Russian:* А а а, Б б б, В в в, Г г г, Д д д, Е е е, Ж ж ж, З з з, И и и, Й й й, К к к, Л л л, М м м, Н н н, О о о, П п п, Р р р, С с с, Т т т, У у у, Ф ф ф, Х х х, Ц ц ц, Ч ч ч, Ш ш ш, Щ щ щ, Ъ ъ ъ, Ы ы ы, Ь ь ь, Э э э, Ю ю ю, Я я я.

*Sanskrit:* अ a, आ ā, इ i, ई ī, उ u, ऊ ū, ऋ ṛ, ॠ ṝ, ए e, ऐ ai, ओ o, औ au, ः ḥ, क k, ख kh, ग g, घ gh, ङ ṅ, च c, छ ch, ज j, झ jh, ञ ñ, ट ṭ, ठ ṭh, ड ḍ, ढ ḍh, ण ṇ, त t, थ th, द d, ध dh, न n, प p, फ ph, ब b, भ bh, म m, य y, र r, ल l, व v, श ṣ, ष ṣ, स s, ह h; post-consonantal vowels -ī -ā, -ī -ī, -u, -ū, -e, -ai, -o, -au.

## NOTES

*Arabic:* ° (sukūn) omitted  
 ˀ (šadda) doubled consonant

Assimilate 1 of definite article.

Hyphenate article to noun.

Diphthongs aw, ay; nunation an, in, un.

Extra letters in Persian p, ch, zh, g; s, t, z, sh, z, z replace s, t, z, t, d, d; vowels include e, o.

Extra letters in Urdu *t*, *d*, *r*.

This is for classical Arabic; colloquial forms may include further letters, e.g. *ā* at \*FELLAGHA.

*Hebrew*: also for Aramaic and Yiddish.

*Japanese*: n is assimilated before b, m, p (*kombu*, not *konbu*).

*Russian*: stress generally marked by acute accent on vowel; stressed  $\bar{y}$  written  $\bar{y}$ .

**Sanskrit:** bare stem used (dictionary form); -a is not written in devanagari.

Also for Hindi.

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**O.** Add: 4\*. [orig. denoting absence: cf. *O. sb. 1*] In *Hæmatology*, designating absence of the A and B agglutinogens of the ABO blood group system; hence (and now usu.) used to designate the blood group of individuals lacking these two agglutinogens; also, more widely, used to designate the allele involved in determining this blood group.

1926 LANDSTEINER & WITT in *Jrnl. Immunol.* XI, 242 It has been pointed out by one of the writers, - that the isoagglutinin reactions of human blood can be possibly explained by the simple assumption of only two different agglutinogens and agglutinins. Designating the by a and b, the following symbols are obtained for the blood groups: I—A, B; A, III; B, IV; A, B—; if we include the factors A' and a' in the scheme, and if O and o signify the absence of agglutinogens or agglutinins, then the signs are: I—A, B; A, III; B, IV; A, B—; A', a'; a, o; A', a'; a, o. [A II. 7]. 1929 L. H. SNEYDER *Blood Grouping*: 1, 3 [3] to obviate the confusion still existing from a reversal of groups I and IV in the two systems, a new system of nomenclature, based on the agglutinyphilic character of the erythrocytes, was suggested. In this system, Jansky's group IV is known as A, having the two agglutinogens A and B, group III, containing agglutinin B, is known as group B, group II as group A, and group I, containing neither agglutinogen, as group O. 1948 The agglutinins in the serum of a patient with paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria are characterized in the erythrocytes may be present singly or together, or they can be absent. If the absence of these isogglutinable substances is designated as O, then there are four possibilities: namely, groups O, A, B, and AB. 1958 The ABO gene system, O gene, has been found to be carried by both chromosomes, determines phenotype O. 1966 Listerine 6 Oct. 443/1 Mr and Mrs H's blood was found to belong to group I, while Clive's blood was found to belong to group A. 1968 PASSOSHOVSKY et al. 1968 The blood group of which carries A has a pair of chromosomes each of which carries the A, B or O gene. 1969 J. H. GREEN *Basic Clin. Physiol.* vi, 34/1 The remainder of the population (46 per cent.) have neither A nor B on their red cells,

5. b. O.A.P., old age pensioner; (also formerly old age pension); O.E. (examples); also, Old Etonian; OF. (examples); OHG. (examples); ON. (examples).

**1708** J. KENNEY *Duct. Anglo-Brianumque* Pref., O.E. forms.  
**1916** KERSEBAW *Hæky R. Morris Early Eng. Allit.* Poes p. xxvii. The preposition from never occurs in the following poems; it is replaced by *fro* (Northumbrian frā, O.N. fra).  
**1868** ———— Old Eng. Homilies I. p. 12. Some words are certain-ly old English forms which have been changed, others which are certainly older than the OE. forms word, etc. Ibid. 312 Cp. the O.N. liat, used. 1884 O.E.W. A.S.E.P. i. 1884 O.H.G., O.N. [used S. v. Adv.] 1887 W. V. Sweet Princ. Eng. Etymol. list. Part. x. s. 72. mōd (adv.) mod (adv.).  
**1912** ———— Old Engl. & Irish. 1887 W. V. Sweet Princ. Eng. Etymol. list. Part. x. s. 72. mōd (adv.) mod (adv.).  
**1913** ———— Old Engl. & Irish. 1887 W. V. Sweet Princ. Eng. Etymol. list. Part. x. s. 72. mōd (adv.) mod (adv.).  
**1914** C. LAT. u. = sometimes long, as in Lat. millium, and sometimes short, as in Lat. milium; and was developed accordingly. Hence O.F. mil (nyl) and moult (mult).  
**1901** G. FRANKAU Elton Edith's 43rd Op pass to hear them  
**1912** R. W. CHAMBERS Widsith 191 Kluge has pointed out that this form of the name corresponds to the O.N. Alii, as against the M.H.G. Eitel, O.H.G. Enilo.  
**1914** C. MACKENZIE Swinburne II. iii. 1. 526 Come and have coffee with me; you won't mind? 1912 Engle Studies no Nov. 81. Hfr occurs in Norwegian Fraver names.  
**1934** M. K. POPE From Lat. in Mod. Fr. ii. xi. 172 In appeared Parisian speech the denasalisation of O.F. d appears to have begun in  
**1936** ———— Skept vi. 112 He wore white lin breeches, a smartly cut flannel coat, and an O.E. tie.  
**1940** W. O. ROSS M. E. Sermons p. xxix, S appears very rarely for OE age. 1924 PARTRIDGE Dialect Rev. 70/1 O.A.P. Old Age Pronunciation. 1959 F. BURTON Having to witness Waiting for Godot, but also having to pay twelve pennies for the privilege. 1959 M. SCHLACHEN Eng. Lang. in Mod. Times I. 20 The [pronoun] forms which sprang from the OE and ON datives later assumed the function of accusatives.  
**1913** N. Y. STRAND New native formations are calques on OE prepositions. 1972 M. L. SAMUELS Linguistic Stud. ii. 25 One of the best known of irreversible consonant-changes is that of voiceless plosives to fricatives or affricates, as in OHG [p, t, k] → [f, ts, x].  
**1973** DONOHUE Eng. Test of the Language 1973 O.N. & O.E. What about the Rexalls? Apart from being O.A.P.s, I know nothing. 1973 Listener (Fr June 777) Tony sports an OE Tie. 1976 Evening Post (Nottingham) 15 Dec. 1971 (Adv.), Gainston Knivels (Evelyn), and some puppies  
**1971** ———— Prek. Prodles.

c. O.B.E., (Officer of) the Order of the British Empire; O.D.C., Order of Discaled Carmelites; O.M., Order of Merit; also by metonymy, a member of this Order; O.M.I. (see quot. 1907); O.P., Order of Preachers; O.S.A., Order of Saint Augustine; O.S.B. (examples); O.S.F.(C.), Order of Saint Francis (C. Capuchin)

1798 J. MILNES *Life Chalmers* 32 That zealous orthodox prelate, whose loss we at the present moment deplore, the

Right Reverend Bishop Walrusey, O.S.B., I.H.M., Another person for whom he had deservedly the greatest respect and regard was the Rev. Patricius Baker, O.S.F. 1839 Dublin Rev. May 56 English sermons were delivered by the Rev. Dr. Wiseman, F. Hughes, O.S.F., and the Rev. Messrs. McGill and Ryan. 1860 Cath. Directory p. ixii. 1870 Times 6 Feb. 217 Very Rev. Dr. Keane, O.P. 1893 Who's Who 760 Kerpel, Hon. Sir Harry, G.C.B.; c. 1897; O.M. 1907 Cath. Encycl. i. 281; O.M.I., Oblati Mariae Immaculate—Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate, Ibid., O.P., O.S.B., O.S.A., O.S.F., O.S.M., O.S.N., O.S.R., O.S.T. (Eremitism) Sancti Augustini—Augustinians. 1917 O.B.E. [see M.B.E. s.v. \*M.5]. 1922 Joyce Ulysses 312 Amongst the clergy present were. the rev. P. J. Cleary, O.S.F.; the rev. L. J. Hickey, O.P.; the very rev. Fr. J. Richards, O.S.B.; the rev. Canon E. B. Cornhill, O.S.A.; the rev. Brangan, O.S.A.; the rev. B. R. Slattery, O.M.I.; [etc.]. 1923 Cornw. Mag. June 26 A Captain and an O.B.E. 1937 B. JARRETT Eng. Dominicans (rev. ed.) 186 Consecrated Bishop of Tiberopolis by Pope Benedict XIII, O.P. 1955 Times 1 Aug. 47 The persons of the highest rank who were welcomed with distinction at the ceremony and received the O.B.E. 1955 Estates in Crd. V. 430 O'd's 'life, need an O.M. swear to the truth of an epigram! 1955 'D. KNOWLES' Relig. Orders in Eng. II. 390† Ashbourne, Thomas, OSA. 1957 Oxfr. Dict. of Crd. 235† In England and Wales, the Order of the Capuchins (Cappuccini) ("Ordinis Sancti Francis Capucinum"). 1963 I. WILKES Brit. Inv. & Abbrev. 82† DDC, Order of Discalced Carmelites, 41, Kensington Church Street, London, W.8. 1966 I. & P. RICHARDS's Games p. xvii, O.B.E. 1970 Times 2 Father John Joseph McQuinn, 1972 Book seller, 100 St. Faith's Lane, Sister Mary Joyce, O.S.B.

d. O. and M., organization and methods; OAO *Forces' slang*, one and only; OAO, orbiting astronomical observatory; O.A.S., on active service; O.A.S., Organisation de l'Armée Secrète, an organization opposed to Algerian independence from France; O.A.U., Organization of American States; O.A.U., Organization of African Unity; OB, obstetrics, obstetric, or obstetrician (*U.S.*); OB, order of battle; O.B., outside broadcast; O.B.U., One Big Union; O.C., officer commanding; OCR, optical character recognition; O.C.T.U., officer cadet(s) training unit; also *Octu* (*p.k.tu*); O.D. (*U.S.*) officer of the day, *olive drab*; O.D., ordinary seaman; O.D., Ordnance datum; OD, organization development; O.D., o.d., outside diameter; O.D. *slang* (orig. *U.S.*), overdose; so as *v. intr.*, to take an overdose; O.D.'s, overdosed, dead of an overdose; O.D.V. *jo.*, eau-de-vie; O.E.C.D., Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; O.E.D., Oxford English Dictionary; O.E.E.C., Organization for European Economic Co-operation; O.E.O. (*U.S.*), Office of Economic Opportunity; OGO, orbiting geophysical observatory; O.H.C., ohc., overhead camshaft; O.H.M.S., on His (or Her) Majesty's Service; O.H.V., o.h.v., overhead valve; O.K., see *\*O.K.*, *a.*, *sb.*, and *v.* (as main entry); O level, Ordinary level [of the General Certificate of Education examination]; hence *O level*er; O.N.C., Ordinary National Certificate; o.n.o., or near(est) offer; O.O.W., Officer of the Watch; O.P. (*b*) (earlier and later examples); (*d*) (examples); (*e*) observation post (also *O. Ptp*); OPEC (*ôp-pek*), Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries; O.P.M., other people's money (*U.S. slang*); O.P.M., output per man; O.R., OR, operational research; O.R., other ranks; O.R.T.F., Office de Radiodiffusion-Télévision Française, formerly the state television and radio service of France; O.S., ordinary seaman; O.S., Ordnance Survey; O.S., outsize; OSHA, Occupational Safety and Health Act (or Administration) (*U.S.*); OSO, orbiting solar observatory; OSO, Ordnance Survey Office; O.S.S. (*U.S.*), Office of Strategic Services; OTB, off-track betting (*U.S.*); O.T.C., Officers' Training Corps; O.T.C., Organization for Trade Co-operation; OTC, over the counter; O.T.U., Operational Training Unit; O.U., Open University; O.U.D.S., Oxford University Dramatic Society; cf. also *\*Ovuds*; O.V.R.A. [see quot. 1961], the secret police of Fascist Italy.

1958 *Daily Mail* 3 July 4/3 Modern business techniques using 'work study' and the 'O. and M.' treatment (Organisation and Methods), can prove 'a considerable help to us in the hospitals'. 1968 *New Statesman* 7 May 207/2 An

D and W survey should swiftly be initiated to decide what dead wood needs to be cut out. 1970. GORDON, J. B. de Ferranti *Living with Computers*. 60 Groups concerned with efficiency in the office are sometimes called organization and methods (O & M) groups. 1936 *Nat. Geogr. Mag.* June 1978/1 or there may be the OAO—the One and Only. 1971. The OAO was first used by the British during the war, a new vocabulary is created. Today, in Vietnam, Australians are again catching up on American Army slang... All would refer to a special girlfriend as their OAO—One and Only. Probably, the OAO was met on short skirts, 1960. 1970. The OAO is also known as the O.I., 110 An OAO is seen in Fig. 4. 1971. McGraw-Hill Yearbk. Sci. & Technol., 300 Although the first OAO malfunctioned, the second one (launched on Dec. 7, 1968) has produced a wealth of important new astronomical information. 1970. The OAO is a satellite carrying many supercomputers, O.A.S. and B.E.F.. 1968. Listener 4 Jan. 10/2 An O.A.S. bomb. 1963 Time 14 Mar. 16/2 Algeria at the period when O.A.S. terrorism is at its height. 1972. Ecotourism. Sreny, 200 The killing of a woman in an Arabian colosseum says the French police had long been satisfied that he had never been connected with the OAS. 1969 *Ams. Organization Amer. States I*, No. 1, (title-page), Charter of the OAS. 1972 *Bureau of Am. Hist.* Feb. 7/6 The juridical commission of the OAS was set up in 1963, after it had condemned the sending of British troops to Honduras. 1974 Greenville (S. Carolina) News 22 Apr. 3/5 Kissinger was asked why he had not mentioned Cuba in a speech meeting in Atlanta. 1973. The O.A.S. is the Organisation of African Unity (O.A.U.). Established at Conference of African Heads of State at Addis Ababa, 22-26 May 1963. 1971 Sunday Nation (Nairobi) 21 Apr. 7/1 The announcement that Little to do with any assumed present trouble. 1968. The O.A.S. is a group of states, LAMAND & MILLER Med. Diet. (ed. 20) 1005/1 O.B., abbreviation for obstetrics. 1967 Boston Globe 26 May 9/3 Sitting in an office for an OB check. 1946. 9/4 A two hour wait in the OB's office. 1972 Daily Cosmos, Victoria, B.C. 29 Oct. 1972. The OB is a member of the OB team. 1972 fibroid tumor. 1966 CHANDLER & ROSS *Front-line Intelligence* xii. 137 O/B (Order of Battle) is a military science whose mission is to determine: (1) How strong the enemy is [etc.], 1956 *Tactics & Techniques* info. 1971. The OB is a member of the OB team. 1971 Combat Intelligence (U.S. Dept. Army, Field Manual 30-5) vii. 7. Order of battle (OB) is the identification, strength, command structure, and disposition of the personnel, units, and equipment of any military force. 1972 It is the job of the OB team to see if there was anything in the latest Order of Battle book. 1927 B.B.C. Handbk. 1928 143/1 Outside Broadcast Features.... Every O.B. of the simplest nature necessitates the provision of two communications links between the OB unit and the station. 1972 *Punch* 17 Feb. 25/1f Oh, I agree, it's [television is] splendid for sport and O.B.s. 1971 R. Busby Deadlock xiii. 200 You'd think it was the bloody big brassiest of brassiest of O.B. technicians. 1971 R. Busby Vanguards 120 May/3 At Medicine Hat the Federated Railway Trades have unanimously endorsed the O.B.U. 1931 D. STRIP Milk & Honey Route 210 O.B.U., One Big Union. The idea of the so-called union. 1977 Guardian Weekly 11 Sept. ...The industrial workers' union. 1971 The Canada's its counterpart was called the OBU, One Big Union, an attempt to prevent divisions in the labour movement by creating a single trade union. 1904 N.Y. World Mar. May 6/5 'O.C.' is the officer in charge. 1917 *The New York Times* Feb. 19/2. The O.C. is the officer to write: "O.C. Canadianos would state a fatigue party of 1 NCOC & 10 men at 4:30 a.m." 1928 T. E. LAWRENCE Lt. 2 May (1938) 60 (Also you will inherit) my copyrights which now no longer include *Result in the end* of the war. 1972 *London Review of Books* 19 Feb. FIENNES I tried to run a Railway xiii. 25 He had been a gunner himself and had warned the O.C. of the 15 inch crew. 1966 Computer Jnl. LX. 224/2 We decided to experiment to see what limitations, if any, O.C.R. would place on the user. The alphabet itself does not have any practical OCR use at all. 1962 E. WAUGH Put out More Flags ii. 121 "O.C.T.U. candidates," said the company sergeant-major. 1972 D. McCLACHLAN No Case for Crown iv. 55 He reminded me sometimes of a man who had been a railwayman. 1971 *New York Times* Mich. Acad. Sci. Arts & Lett. X. 311 O.D., 1, the officer of the day; II, olive drab. 1966 Sunday Times (Colour Suppl.) 4 Dec. 7/2 Cf Jargon OD, officer of the day, or olive drab (both the colour and the uniforms themselves. 1971 *Time* 17 Nov. 1972. Two O.D. shirts you next slip in. A pair of shoes goes in between. 1975 Tr. Melchior's Sleeper Agents (1976) iii. 173 He was clad only in his OD shorts and undershirt. 1916 TAPPART Pouchard, 1916. D.C. come to your mrs. 1965 GRANVILLE Dict. Nautal. OS 83/1 O.D., Naval colloquialism for ordinary seaman. OS or O.S. is the official abbreviation. 1926 J. MACCOLM Agric. Survaying v. 125 The gait was denoted by the letters O.D. what was considered in 1854 to be mean sea level at Liverpool.... The new datum is mean sea level at Newlyn. 1956 Railway Mag. Mar. 185/1 The top of the wall at the Burnmouth end is 35 ft. above Ordnance datum. 1972 L. ALCOCK By South Cadwary ii. 25 Roughly one quarter of the hill-top lying above four hundred and ninety feet O.D., forms a broad summit cauldron. 1972 Times 3 June 22/2 O.D. frequently causing confusion amongst the O.D. managers. 1972 M. C. MORTON (1462) Diary of an OD man

1930 WALKER & CROCKER *Physics Handbook*, iv, 293. In sizes 14 in. and upward pipe is designated by its outside diameter (O.D.) and the wall thickness is specified. 1963 H. R. CLAUSER *Engrg. Materials* 1201: Non-ferrous castings are produced commercially in o.d.s. ranging from about 1 in. to 6 ft. 1967 *Electronics* 6 Mar. 152 (Adv.). The screen has an O.D. of only 1/8 in. and a mated length of only one inch. 1960 R. G. REISNER *Jazz Titans* 162 O.D., an overdose of narcotics. 1971 *Black World* Apr. 381: A truly brilliant Black filmmaker goes into his grave at 24. An O.D. takes him, he loses a battle of several years' stuff with 1970 *Teddy* (Burr. base) 17 Oct. 7016 A film of only 10 minutes (O.D. (successful) overdose). 1970 S. O'CALLAGHAN *Drug Addiction in Britain* 111. 151 Diana has O.D.'d and she's dead. 1969 R. De SOLA *Abbr. Dict. (rev. ed.)* 1961 O.D., overdose (dope addict). 1972 *Black World* Apr. 351: The garbage collection found Little Pre in the alley near Six-stre. O.D.'d away, layin' there cool and stiff. 1939 *Picayune* (New Orleans) in *Spirit of Times* (N.Y.) 5 Oct. 3833 Why, that in French, is nothing but O.D.V. 1886 H. BAUMANN *Lindismissus* 121/1 O.D.V., Brantwin, Spiritus. 1968 *Acronyms* 6 Initialisms *Dict.* (Gale Research Co.) 530 O.D.V., taken from pronunciation of French *de-vie* and used to refer to brandy. 1960 *Times* 25 Nov. 1077 The 20 members of O.E.C.D. are the 18 full members of O.E.C., together with the United States and Canada. 1971 *Pioneer Farming* Mar. 251: Europe stands up, issued by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (O.E.C.D.) and the European Committee of Association of Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery (C.E.M.A.). 1968 *Morris Austral English* p. xviii. The practice of the 'O.E.D.' has been followed with respect. 1962 *New Yorker* 10 Mar. 1212 The composer, who began setting type for the O.E.D. in 1884 and was still at it when the last volume came off the presses in 1928. 1973 *Daily Tel.* 20 Oct. 1115 The word *hoax*, at present connotes more of the mischief than of the humour mentioned in the *Oxford Dictionary* 1966 *Times* 12 Apr. 1318 'Fanciful', in the strict OED sense of the word, is surely appropriate to describe those serious ranks. 1968 *Nuus Chron.* 13 Sept. 112 The job they were doing had been given them by O.E.C. 1964 *Litiner* 13 Mar. 221/2. I was not aware of what was called the O.E.C. 1965 *Economist* 17 Apr. 2671: The testimony of the head of the Office of Economic Opportunity, revived the emotions of last year, when Congress established the OEO. 1974 *Black Panther* 16 Mar. 413 Congressmen, the O.E.C. is a tax reform measure that will work to the same end and has fought to save the programs that were funded through the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). 1961 *Sat. Rev.* (U.S.) 6 May 713 (Adv.). Each spacecraft in the OGO series will be capable of carrying up to 100 experiments. 1960 *Times* 4 June 51/1 The satellite being prepared for launch tomorrow is the sixth and last of Orbiting Geophysical Observatories (OGO). 1974 *McGraw-Hill Yearbk. Sci. & Technol.* 612 Figure 2 shows an altitude-density profile through the plasmasphere measured by the OGO 5 satellite. 1932 O.H.C. (see O.H.V. below). 1954 P. H. SMITH *Design & Tuning of Competition Engines* iv, 57 The merits of the double o.h.c. arrangement lie mainly in the substitution of rotary for reciprocating motion right up to the relative. 1977 *Drive Sept.* 131 O.H.C., overhead camshaft. 1895 *Brewer's Dict. Phil. & Bible* (new ed.) 9042 O.H.M.S., On His (or Her) Majesty's Service. 1907 *Yesterday's Shopping* (1909) 338/2 In accordance with the provisions of the Post Office Protection Acts, Envelopes with 'O.H.M.S.' or 'On His Majesty's Service' will only be supplied to those persons who have authority to use them. 1952 L. DURRELL *Spirit of Place* (1950) 115, I think one of two whitelined notebooks, official Foreign Office Stationery or labelled OHMS. 1973 P. CLIFFS *Sick & Dead* 1.1.17 Nearly all the flying has been O.H.C. 1970 *Times* 11 Jan. 1011 I don't think I go on civil operations. 1932 F. J. CANN *Motor Car Upkeep* i, 15 (caption) Three common types of Valve Gear: Side-by-side, overhead valve (O.H.V.), operated by rocker, and overhead valve (O.H.C.), operated by camshaft. 1968 *Engineering* 28 Feb. 265/1 It is a four-door steel saloon of unit construction with a flat front air-cooled o.h.v. 600 c.c. four-stroke engine. 1968 *BURBURY & ELLIS Motor Vehicle Mechanic's Course* 11. v. 102 The filling of the cylinder is much improved by this design, particularly where the O.H.V. is placed towards the other side of the chamber. 1949 *John Maric. Board Exam. for G.C.E.* 1951 6 If a language is to be specially approved, at the Olevel. 1959 *Times* 3 June 81/1 O level in any subject was 'very O'. 1974 *Times* 6 July 213 (Adv.), Expense account—plus £25 for an 'O' level in 17-22. 1962 *Litiner* 20 Oct. 651/2 The £6-00 offered (per 17-22) by banks and post offices, etc., to sixteen-year-old 'O' leavers. 1940 *Edw. in 1948*, 44 (caption) in *Parl. Papers* 1948-9 (Cmd. 7244) XIV, 345 O.N.C. 1962 in H. O. Bechene *Introd. Business Stud.* p. iii, Mr. Bechene has written a commercial world. It is intended particularly for the O.N.C. and HNC student. 1977 P. CARTER *Under Goliath* xv, 79 'Our Billy got the G.C.E.' I said. 'And the O.N.C. He is going in for the Higher National now.' 1958 *Litiner* 6 Nov. 731/1 'O.O.' means 'one over one' or 'one over one' or 'near off'. 1973 *Country Gentleman's Mag.* Mar. 183/1 Coffee set, thirteen pieces, £5 0.00 plus postage. 1977 *Drive Sept.* 131 O.N.O. or nearest offer. 1923 *Man. Seaman'ship* (Admiralty) II, ii, 42 Any man discovering a fire, is to send a message to the O.N.O. immediately. 1958 *Spectator* 16 Apr. 169/1 I hear that the archaic and old-fashioned Office of the Watch (briefly, OOW) is to be changed to Period Progress and Procedure Organiser and Overseer. 1970 T. WILKINSON *Mem.* II, 226 So, on their parting with mutual affection, rage, and anger at O.P. and P.S. 1919 WOODHOUSE *My Man Jones* 45 Lady Malvern was a hearty, female, measuring about six feet from the O.P. to the Prompt Side. 1933 O.P. (see O.P. below). 1890 G. SIMON *Let. 19* Nov. 611 *Blind Let.* 611 (11. 200 He says 'go to the O.P.'). 1961 *Clerical Scenes* 5 O.P. 1921 A. BENNETT *Let.* 4 Sept. (1966) 1. 290 It seems to me that 'The Old Wives' Tale ought not to be op. 1916 F. M. FORD *Let.* 23 Aug. (1965) 69 George V. really was in some danger. At least he was in an O.P. that was being

shelled fairly heavily. 1971 L. LAMM *Picture Frame* i, 20 Jerry's no fool, but we don't think our o.p. has been nubbled. 1960 *Times* 12 Sept. 1114 The conference adopted the (Iraq) proposal to establish an 'Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries'. The five participating states are founder-members of O.P.E.C. 1975 *Petroleum Economist* Aug. 281/1 For eighteen months the problem of OPEC's surplus oil revenues has occupied the minds of western statesmen, bankers and economists. 1916 *War Illustr.* 7 Oct. 1851 A French 'O-Pip' in the Hills. 1919 J. MASSEFIELD *Battle of Somme* 88 Some of them were quite good troops, and we had an O.Pip in one of them (artillery observation post). 1943 HUNT & PRINGLE *Service Slang* 49 O.Pip, an Observation Post of the Field Artillery. 'Pip' stood for 'P' in the services' phonetic alphabet. 1907 J. FLVNT *World of Graft* iv, 160 It cost me nothing to play the game, because I played it with O.P.M. (other people's money). 1960 *Time* 15 Aug. 60 No institution manages more 'O.P.M.' or Other People's Money, than Manhattan's 116-year-old United States Trust Co. 1948 J. JEWERS in *Manch. Sch. Econ. & Social Stud.* XIV, 4 Of two industries that with the higher O.P.M. is not necessarily the more efficient. *Ibid.* 5 O.P.M. may always be increased by installing new machinery but it may be the quickest way to the bankruptcy court. 1969 *New Scientist* 5 June 143 The UK with much higher R & D spending, has only a third of Japan's in output (O.P.M.) employed. 1953 *Operational Research* O, IV, 72 The evolution of O.R. is reflected by the number of publications. 1960 *Time* 17 Mar. 2/1 We shall require evidence of experience in either O.R. or cybernetics. 1964 W. H. RAY *Impact of Science on Society* 168 A good number of O.R. problems can be solved by using nothing more powerful than a desk calculator. 1969 J. ARGENTI *Managem. Techniques* 109 Courses on O.R. designed for managers. 1942 PARTISAN *Dict. Abbr.* 721 O.R., other ranks, i.e. other than officers. 1947 *Secret Shadow* of War VII, ii, 217 The heavy work in the camp was done by N.C.O.s and O.R.s., known as 'camp-employed'. 1967 J. PORTER *Chicks in Curtains* xv, 147, I tried to invoke the officer/O.R. relationship. 1964 *Economist* 30 May 1962 The new French coastguard service, called ORTF, *Office de Radiodiffusion Télévision Française*. 1969 *Litiner* 27 Mar. 420/2 The ORTF is never happier than with the state visit to Paris of the President of some French-speaking African statelet. 1977 *Rep. Comm. Future of Broadcasting* 115 In France, the ORTF, leading between government and broadcasters led in 1974 to the dissolution of the ORTF. 1984 *Gloss. Terms Evidence R. Comm. Labour* 601 in *Parl. Papers* 1893-4 (C. 2063) XXXVIII, 411, an abbreviation for 'ordinary seaman'. 1968 *Arms & Navy* 62 Nov. 1066/1 A marine, a seaman, and an O.S. caged like rats in a trap. 1914 C. F. TWENNY *Dict. Naval & Mil. Terms* 164 O.S., Ordinary Seaman; one who has undergone training as a ship's boy, but who is not fully qualified as a seaman. 1962 O.S. (see O.D. above). 1961 *Punch* 10 Oct. 1341/2 A submarine target, marked on the OS map. 1971 A. HUNTER *Gently at Gallop* 10. 20 At the summit of the rise stood an O.S. triangulation pedestal. 1907 *Yesterday's Shopping* (1909) 168/1 O.S. Night Dresses. O.S. Chemists. 1927 *Noad Express* 33, 2 From inches to the hips worn by O.S. woman with 60 inches at the hips would be O.O.S., or extra outside. 1973 *Country Gentleman's Mag.* Mar. 184/1 For sale owing to loss of weight, full length O.S. evening dress, deep mauve velvet will accept 15. 1971 *Acronyms & Initialisms* (Gale Research Co.) 461 O.S.H.A., Occupational Safety and Health Act (1970). OSHA, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Department of Labor). 1975 V. BUSH (title) Safety in the construction industry: OSHA. 1976 G. & H. MATTHEWS (title) A sailor's tale: O.S.H.A. 1938 *Arms & Navy* 62 Nov. 1066/1 It would launch the O.S.O. on a new programme. 1962 *Daily Tel.* 8 Mar. 1016 Yesterday the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration launched... the first of a new series of satellites, the orbiting solar observatory. The first was launched on 1973 *McGraw-Hill Yearbk. Sci. & Technol.* 301 Each OSS contains instruments that monitor the UV and x-ray radiation emitted by the entire solar disk. 1943 *Newsweek* 25 Jan. 261/1 OSS is the planning agency in psychological warfare for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. 1973 N. BAYTON *Spy in Chancery* 83 We were together in Italy at the end of the war. I was in the OSS and he'd switched over to MI 6. 1964 *Horsemens' Jnl.* Jan. 69/2 The political sponsors of the bill have figures and plans on how to 'cut-up' the tax dollar taken through O.T.B. 1972 *New Yorker* 31 July 65 Seems that the O.T.B. companies that are linked with those at the race track developed a colic or something, and wagers at the fourteen shops around town had to be recorded manually. 1975 *Ibid.* 16 June 101/2 The O.T.B. shops around town took in \$2,442,589, of which \$1,640,391 was bet on the Belmont. 1909 *Captain XXI*, p. xivii Senior Divisions of the O.T.C. 1974 M. INKES *Mysterious Commission* xiv, 124 He had also done rather well in what, during his public-school days, had still been called the O.T.C. 1955 *Times* 12 Aug. 816/1 President Eisenhower's proposal for entry into the O.T.C., and it cannot now be dealt with until next year. 1965 *Acronyms & Initialisms* *Dict.* (Gale Research Co.) 543 O.T.C., over-the-counter (Pharmacy). 1974 M. C. GERALD *Pharmacol.* i, 20 Nonprescription (over-the-counter) (O.T.C.) drugs. 1975 *National Observer* (U.S.) 4 Sept. 1/3 Fourteen prescription remedies—mostly antihistamines—were sold as nonprescription, over-the-counter (O.T.C.) drugs. 1942 R.A.F. *Jnl.* 3 Oct. 31 At last O.T.U. and the introduction to real aircraft. 1966 *Arms & Navy* 62 Nov. 1066/1 O.T.U., 1631 O.T.U. Operational Training Unit. 1969 *Guardian* 23 July 93/1 Milton Keynes, seat of the OU from September. 1975 *Times* 28 Aug. 12/5 The OU campus seems to have a strangely insular attitude... Town and gown seldom mix. 1886 *Office of the Mayor* No one will be surprised to hear that the O.U.D.S. does not intend to put another play on the stage this term. 1950 *Inf.* 101. 642. 9 Mar. 740/2 An O.U.D.S. producer might be a clear bet for the B.B.C., a bridge and chess expert for data-processing. 1976 J. COOPER *Harriet* i, 18 *Harriet* him in the O.U.D.S. production of *Cal on a Hot Tin Roof*. 1930 *Times* 4 Dec. 153 All these arrests are said to have

been made by the 'O.V.R.A.', a special section of the police, dependent directly on the Ministry of the Interior. These letters are supposed in some quarters to stand for 'Organizzazione di Vigilanza Riservata sulle Associazioni', whereas other persons explain the last two initials as standing for 'Repressione di Anti-Fascismo'. 1941 W. GRAHAM *Light Journey* viii, 98 Supposing the Gestapo cut their agreement with Bonini and communicate with the O.V.R.A. 1958 *Litiner* 21 Aug. 278/3 The O.V.R.A. (or Italian secret police) was by no means incompetent. 1964 C. F. DELZILI *Mussolini's Enemies* i, 41 The first of these sections was the O.V.R.A., established later in 1927 as a 'special inspection' with headquarters in Milan, but soon extended throughout the country. The precise meaning of the initials is still uncertain, according to the knowledgeable Guido Lotti, who headed the dread agency from 1938 until 1943. [Note] Three interpretations have been suggested: 'Organizzazione di Vigilanza e Repressione dell'Antifascismo' (Organization for Vigilance and Repression of Anti-Fascism); 'Organo di Vigilanza dei Reati Antifascisti' ('Organ of Vigilance for Anti-Fascist Crimes'); and 'Opera Volontaria di Repressione Antifascista' (Voluntary Agency for Anti-Fascist Repression).

e. In Chem. o. (usu. italic) signifies ortho- (ORTHO-2 b).

1890 G. M'GOWAN *Text-book Org. Chem.* xvi, 310 The o, o-diamido-benzene is that one which results from the reduction of o-dinitro-benzene. 1926 A. DAVISON *Intermediates for Dyestuffs* v, 100 o-Tolidine, which makes azo dyes of the same types as those derived from benzidine. 1968 R. O. C. NORMAN *Princ. Org. Synthesis* xi, 387 The use of a protective group is illustrated by the synthesis of o-nitraniline. 1971 (see m.s.v. 'M' 5).

6. Used with reference to the shape of the letter, as O-ring, a gasket (usu. in the form of a ring) with a circular cross-section.

1955 J. YARWOOD *High Vacuum Technique* (ed. 3) i, 60 In many ways, the O-ring is the 'king' of seals, made of rubber or, preferably, oil-resisting neoprene cord, of circular cross-section. 1950 H. BARNES *Oceanogr. & Marine Biol.* iv, 182 The sphere 'sc. the Deep Sea Benthograph' has five openings, the largest of which is a 15-in. diameter port door closed by a cast steel plate bolted in place and sealed by neoprene O-rings. 1971 C. M. BLOW *Rubber Technol. & Manuf.* x, 443 The O-ring is very widely used, though some designers prefer the rectangular, D, or delta sections. 1975 G. ANDERSON *Coring* 17 The pycnometer has a breech-locked lid which utilizes an O-ring for pressure sealing.

O, sb. 1. Add: 2. Also Comb.

1927 'H. H. RICHARDSON' *Fortunes R. Mahony* iii, iii. He stood o-mouthed and absent-minded.

3. Name of one of several gauges of track in model railways: specifically 32 mm.; or 30 gauge. Also O.O. 164 mm., O.O.O 100 mm., etc.

1905 W. IVES *Switching for Boys & Rails*, crossings, switches, with automatic lock action. No. O gauge, 18 in. 1923 *Everyday Science* Nov. 441/1 (heading) No. OO gauge model 'table' railways. *Ibid.* 1 am planning to see that a small gauge, i.e., O gauge railway, is to be placed on the market shortly. 1924 H. GREENLY *Model Railways* i, 3 A plan is given of Mr. H. Stevens' No. O gauge railway. *Ibid.* vi, 103 No. OO Gauge 'Table' Railways... This standard gauge has been recently introduced by the writer to provide for those who are limited in space to that of an ordinary dining-room table... The actual gauge is 16 mm. (1 in.). 1932 P. BLOOMFIELD *Imaginary Worlds* ii, 34 Pretending that our O gauge railway found the nursery floor is really the line taken by the living construction. 1967 C. J. FARR *Model Railway Terminal*, 3, O Gauge, 32 mm. Scale; 7 mm. Limited commercial support, but, in a flourishing condition. *Ibid.* O.O. Gauge: 165 mm. Scale: 4 mm. The most popular gauge in Britain. Fully supported commercially with ample selection of models.

-o, suffix<sup>2</sup>. Perh. connected with O int. 3 and reinforced by the final syllable of abbrev. forms such as COMPO, HIPPO, PHOTO, etc. The use of the suffix is widespread in English-speaking countries but nowhere more so than in Australia (e.g. *aflo*, \*ARVO, \*COMMO, etc.).

a. Forming colloq. or slang equivalents added as a final syllable to (a) shortened forms of sbs., as *agilglo* [i. *aggr* (avation or aggression)], \*AMMO, \*BEANO, \*COMBO, \*COMPO, \*METHO, etc.; (b) sbs., as \*BOVO, \*BUCKO, \*KIDDO, etc.; (c) adjs., as *cheapo*, *deado*.

1947 J. BUNKE *Tell Death us Do Partii*, 31 You can buy that cheapo, cos no one takes it. 1966 *IF* 13-25 June 16/1 Hustle the bread from whatever source you can... If all the above sounds like too much aggro don't... go and run your benefit event in conjunction with an existing club. 1960 *Times* 10-23 Oct. 1015 At the moment kids are split up into different subcultural groups which have been driven by the system into a permanent state of aggro with each other. 1969 *Daily Mail* 8 Nov. 83/3 How do we get past him, man? Like he might aggro aggro boys may look collectively and individually starting, pretty or repulsive according to tribal loyalty. 1973 A. HUNTER *French* 11, 29, 1 gets hold of the bastard and tries to pull him up. Then I sees he's bloody dead. 1973 J. C. J. FARR *Model Railway Terminal*, 3, O Gauge, 32 mm. Scale; 7 mm. Limited commercial support, but, in a flourishing condition. *Ibid.* O.O. Gauge: 165 mm. Scale: 4 mm. The most popular gauge in Britain. Fully supported commercially with ample selection of models.

b. Forming personal (chiefly occupational) sbs. from non-personal sbs., as \*BOTTLE-O-H, \*MILKO, \*WINO, etc.



*Kirk* (1842-9) VI. 27 A sheaf of oat straw was sold for fourtill shillings in Edinburgh. 1850 *Rep. Comm. Patents: Agric.* 1849 (U.S. Dept. Agric.) 36 Getting no other food in winter but a scanty supply of oat-straw. 1859 A. CARY *Country Life* 1. 7 [He] lay... with a bundle of oat-straw for his pillow.

**b.** oat burner *N. Amer. colloq.*, a horse; oat cell *Med.*, a small oval cell with little cytoplasm and an oval, densely staining nucleus which is characteristic of a type of carcinoma of the lung (formerly regarded as a sarcoma); freq. attrib. in *oat-cell carcinoma, tumour*, etc.; hence oat-celled *a.*, containing such cells; *oat's opera* = \*OATER\*.

1941 *Sus* (Baltimore) 21 July 13/4 There isn't a galloper in the lot who can say 'I'm the boss', so your milksman's oat burner might do just as well as any of 'em. 1952 *Daily News* (N.Y.) 30 Aug. C 12/4 When the time comes, that even an oat-burner must sport a tax stamp on its stem or stern. 1973 *R. Broadfoot Ten Last Years* v. 50 Them oatburners never broke down. 1993 W. S. L. Barlow *Elem. Path. Anat. & Histol.* 1. ix. 199 (Oat 'cell') Oat cell Sarcoma. 1996 *Jrnl. Path. & Bacteriol.* XXIX. 244 In obvious carcinomata of the lung 'oat cells' have been found in addition to the more readily recognisable carcinoma cells. 1956 MAVER & MAIER *Pulmonary Carcinoma* iv. 96 Among anaplastic tumours along the 'oat cell' carcinomas, called 'reserve cell' by some. 1957 A. I. STRAUSS *Cycl. of Effusions* vi. 24 One of the most characteristic types of malignant cell is the oat-cell, so named after its appearance in histological sections. 1966 WRIGHT & SYMMES *Systemic Path.* 1. x. 418/1 The finding of tubules in 'oat-cell' tumours should not be taken as a histological diagnosis. 1972 *Brit. Jnl. Dis. Chest* LXVI. 164 Oat cell carcinomas have a more sinister prognosis. 1926 *Jrnl. Path. & Bacteriol.* XXIX. 244 The so-called 'oat-celled' Sarcoma of the posterior mediastinum is a mediastinal carcinoma of the bronchus. 1948 R. A. WILLIS *Path. Tumours* xix. 366 'Oat-celled' or spindle-celled structure... is common in bronchial carcinoma. 1942 BERKEY & VAN DEN BARK *Amer. Tiss. Slang* 568/9 Western picture... oats opera. 1947 *Richmond* (Virginia) *Times-Dispatch* 2 May 10/1 Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and other oat opera stars.

**oat, v.** (Earlier and later examples.)

1732 B. LYNDSE *Diary* 9 May (1880) 26 Next morning... dined at Hampton;... thence to Greenland, where oats, and for a horse and drink. 21. 1741 *Ibid.* 27 Oct. 121 Breakfasted and dined at Hampton. 1742 *Ibid.* 27 Oct. 121 BARNUM *Life* 70 Old 'Bob' was duly oats and watered.

**oater**\* (50-12). Chiefly U.S. = \*horse opera.

1951 GREEN & LAURIE *Shoe Biz* 570/1 *Oater*, Western film. 1961 A. BREKMAN *Singer* *Gold Show Business* 64 *Oater*, Western film. 1960 M. FELT *Words in Sheep's Clothing* (1970) li. 22 'Western'... along with its synonyms, 'horse opera', 'oater'. 1975 *Radio Times* 10 Jan. 10/1 Borden (*Red River*) Chase wrote this expansive oater [sc. *Lone Star*] for Clark Gable.

**oath, sb.** Add: 1. *under oath*, on or upon oath.

1712 See UNDER prep. 14 b). 1851 R. GLISAN *Jrnl. Army Life* (1874) viii. 63 He was then under oath not to drink for six months.

**c.** *my (colonial, etc.) oath*, a mild expletive or exclamation: yes! of course! upon my word! *Austral.* and *N.Z. slang*.

1850 H. KINGSLEY *Recoll. G. Hamlyn* vi. vi. 94 'You're not fit company for any man except the hangman,' said Tom. 'Oh my!' (colonial) said the other. 'I was my friend' — cabbage tree. 1895 J. KIRBY *Old Times* in *Bush* x. 143 The snake... made a hoop of himself, and then, my oath, he did go. 1896 H. LAWSON *White Billy* 203 (title) His colonial oath. *Ibid.* 'My oath' he replied... 'My blooming oath' 1899 *Illustrated Sydney* 15 Feb. (1899) (Parey) I don't know my oath, said the bloke. 'My colonial oath' consists of exhortation and 'Yer' or 'My — oath'. 1916 J. B. COOPER *Co-o-o-o-e* 1. 11 Ain't that like a woman with a man? My oath it is! I know 'em. 1925 H. H. COOK *Far Flung* 12 'Perhaps ye'll square up?'... 'My oath' cried the doctor. 1928 BRENTON *Bye Bye* *Up Country* xv. 255 'My — Colonial oath!' echoed Erroll. 1941 *Coast to Coast* 1941 45 'Who said I was going to give you a quid anyway?' 'You did.' 'My oath I did.' 1946 E. G. WEBBER *Johnny Nerd* 15 *Italy* 36 'All this ur der merry laugh gives, no?' I said. 'My oath' said the bloke. 'My colonial oath' 1952 M. TRIPP *Faith* in *Windsock* 7 'Pay twenties and twenty-ones.' 'My oath!' Bergen threw his cards (a king and a six) face down on the table. 1966 *Mitbourn* *Truth* 12 July 3/4 Whittion, with his ear close to the receiver, listened to the reply. It was 'My bloody oath I will'. 1971 M. MARSH *Black at the Painted* li. 73 'And that's when your headache really sets in, is it, Fred?' 'My oath! Well, take a look at it'. 1977 J. L. WAINWRIGHT *Do Notkin* xi. 185 My oath—those couple of hours were some session.

**5.** *oath-breaker* (later example), -keeper, -laking (later examples); *oath-bound* adj. (later example); *oath-helper* = COMPURGATOR 1 b); hence *oath-helping* vbl. sb.

1930 W. B. YEATS *Last Poems* 8 That all are oath-bound men. a 1973 J. R. R. TOLKIEN *Silmarillion* (1977) ix. 83 For so two, good or evil, an oath may not be broken, and it shall pursue oathkeeper and oathbreaker to the world's end. 1892 *Oath-helper* (used s.v. COMPURGATOR 1 b). 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXVIII. 331/1 One of the two litigants must prove his case, by his body in battle, or by an oath with oath-helpers. 1943 F. M. STENTON *Anglo-Saxon Eng.* ix. 312 It is probable that in the earliest time a man's 'oath-helpers' had been chosen exclusively from among his kin. 1812 *Jrnl. of Wessex* his status, must include at least one man of high rank among his oath-helpers. 1970 FOOTE & WILSON *Viking*

*Archaeol.* xi. 375 After the man accused had made his statement on oath, then each of his oath-helpers swore that they believed his oath to be honest. 1973 A. HARRING *Law Courts Med. Eng.* 25 The Normans let the parties fight an actual physical battle, but the Anglo-Saxons preferred to let the case be decided by oath-helpers. 1973 *Cath. keeper* [see *oath-breaker* above]. 1960 *New Chron.* 9 July 1/3 The Mau Mau oath-taking ceremonies. 1961 *Guardian* 20 May 2/1 Recent reports of Mau-Mau oath-taking in Kenya.

**oathing, vbl. sb.** (Later examples.)

1961 *Guardian* 12 May 5/5, I don't attribute the oath-taking to the party. *Ibid.* 7 June 11/4 The oath-taking ceremonies at Meru last month when more than a thousand people took an undisclosed oath. 1969 *Daily Tel.* 9 Sept. 20/6 To a Christian, secret oath-taking is repugnant and unacceptable. *Ibid.*, Secret oath-taking ceremonies.

**oatmeal.** Add: 2'. A greyish-fawn colour resembling that of oatmeal. Also attrib. or as adj.

1927 *Daily Express* 2 May 7 Colours: Beige, Oatmeal, [etc.]. 1935 A. CHRISTIE *Three Act Tragedy* iii. ix. 188 The room... had walls of a rather drab oatmeal colour. 1939-40 *Army & Navy Stores Catal.* 1939/40 All wool fannish. 1941 *Illustrated Sydney* 15 Feb. 1/3 *her own Funeral* i. 10 The dark panelling made a good background to her oatmeal suit. 1951 *Catal.* of *Exhibits, South Bank Exhib.* *Festival of Britain* 58/3 Woman's oatmeal glove gloves. 1960 *House & Garden* May 61/2 Settee... covered in oatmeal tweed. 1961 *Guardian* 1 Feb. 7/5 Colours were pale green, oatmeal, navy. 1962 *Times* 27 Feb. 12/5 Contrasting cravats of silk or organza set off soft oatmeal or sand tones, pale filled greens, navy, black, off-white. 1970 [see KINGFISHER 3]. 1973 R. MACLEOD *Burial in Portugal* iii. 69 An oatmeal sports coat.

**3.** *oatmeal bread, stout, oatmeal mush* U.S., porridge made with oatmeal; *oatmeal soap*, soap containing oatmeal as a mild abrasive.

1941 A. SIMON *Conc. Encycl. Gastron.* IV. 83/1 Oatmeal bread. 1974 R. B. PARKER *God save Child* (1975) xii. 86 He put a plate of sliced turkey... and a loaf of oatmeal bread on the table. 1883 H. P. SPOFFORD in *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 465/1 You've been the means of starving me... on oatmeal mush. 1903 J. C. LARSEN *New Dict. Amer.* 201 Oatmeal-mush. 1890 T. T. Eaton & Co. *Catal.* Fall & Winter 42 Colgate's soaps—oatmeal, [etc.]. 1897 *Sears, Roebuck Catal.* 19/1 (heading) 'Oat Meal' Toilet Soap. 1938 *Fortnum & Mason Price List* 54/1 Soaps... Violet Oatmeal. 1947 *New York* 10/2 *Friction* clearly... that effective on blackheads. You can use Boots No. 7 very mild oatmeal and lavender soap. 1926-7 *Army & Navy Stores Catal.* 64/1 Oatmeal Soap (recommended for its tonic properties) 2c. 9/1. 1976 J. B. HILTON *Gamekeeper's Gallies* li. 26 If he wins, he always takes it [sc. a rabbit] a bottle of oatmeal stout home.

**Oaxacan** (p. 263-264), a. [f. *Oaxaca* (see below) + -AN]. Of or pertaining to the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca.

1934 A. HUXLEY *Beyond Mexico Bay* 263 Our Oaxacan friend, Don Manuel, invited us one evening to join this endless procession. 1977 *Dallas* *Summer* 88 This Oaxacan Oaxacan dress is distinctly more sophisticated than the Olmec aristocracy of the neighboring Mexican Gulf Coast country.

**ob.**, abbrev. of *L. obit*, died: add examples.

1890 BARRERE & LELAND *Dict. Slang* ii. 93/1 *Ob* man's *Folly* iii. 141 The high conditioned countenance of the Reverend Nathaniel Blunt, S.T.P., ob. 1782. 1978 C. JONES *et al. Study of Liturgy* ii. v. 17 *The Apostolic Tradition*, ascribed by many scholars to Hippolytus, the schismatic bishop of Rome (ob. A.D. 236, 237/1).

**ob (pb).** A representation of a pronunciation of the word *OF prep.*, supposed to occur esp. in the speech of American Blacks.

1839 *Bentley's Misc.* VI. 263 He said to Queen ob Sheba was a dark lady, may be very dark. 1846 *Negro Singer's Own Bk.* 5, I am glad ob it, for my part. *Ibid.* 23 One day just at de set ob sun... When de work was ad an done. *Ibid.* 29, I tell you ob a scrape I had wid a gal. 1848 S. C. FOSTER *Old Uncle Ned* (song) 3 He had no wool on de top ob de head. 1851 — *Ring de Banjo* (song) 4 Den come again, Susanna, By de gas-light ob de moon; We'll tum de old piano When de banjo's out ob tune. 1882 *Judge* (N.Y.) 30 Dec. 10/3 Money am de root ob all evil. 1892 C. TOWSE *Negro Minstrels* 22 He... drank a gallon ob tangle foot. 1893 M. A. OWEN *Voodoo Tales* 168 Ht am er powdch mek outen de same hel' ob snails an' lizards. 1893 K. MACKAY *Ob Back* (ed. 2) iii. viii. 288 Any tella longa tribe ob my sister, Queen Victoria, friend long man, replied the black fellow. 1895 BANKS & SMILEY in A. Dundas *Mother Wit* (1973) 256/2 Three bottles sittin' in de road, one ob dem full. 1950 R. AMES in *Ibid.* 402/2 In de fork ob de branch. 1974 R. B. PARKER *Godwin's Manuscript* vii. 55 Ah is a member ob de press, baby.

**obba** (p. 264). *W. Afr.* Also *obba*. [Yoruba.] The title of the ruler of the ancient West African kingdom of Benin, now part of Nigeria, whose power used to be absolute. Now revived as the title of a local chief.

1903 H. L. KOTR *Great Benin* xi. 118 The Obba kindly promised to send a messenger round with orders. 1906 R. E. DENNETT *At Black Man's Mind* xvii. 175 The Obba's throne or chair was placed on a platform of mud three steps above the ordinary floor of the ground. 1956 P. A. TALBOT *People's Nigeria* i. iv. 155 The land of Southern Nigeria, including the kingdom of Benin, was discovered by Ruy de Sequeira. The Portuguese were presented by the Obba with carved wooden platters.

1936 J. U. EGHARRA *Short Hist. Benin* i. 8 The oracle declared... the senior wife of the Obba, to be the cause. 1957 W. M. HALEY *Afr. Survey* (rev. ed.) ii. 35 The Yoruba kingdoms in Nigeria were... highly centralized... The rulers, generally known as Obas, were traditionally sacred persons. 1967 W. SOVITSKY *Kow's Harvest* 4 When an Obba stops the procession And squats on the wayside, It's on an urgent matter. 1972 R. N. HENDERSON *King in Every Man* i. ii. 43 The first king or obba, Eweka I, whose regalia came from the Yoruba city of Ife. 1975 *Times* 16 July 7/5 A massive Benin bronze head of an obba. 1976 *Nigerian Herald* 20 July 4/5 The Deji suggested that a law should be made by the federal military government to leave the selection and appointment of obas and chiefs to those who were versed in the custom, culture of the community concerned as a means to curb chieftaincy wranglings in the country. 1976 *Sunday Times* (Lagos) 1 Aug. 24/3 It is the turn of this ruling house to provide an Obba for the town.

**Obanian** (obā-niān), a. *Archaeol.* [f. the name of the Scottish burgh of Oban, Strathclyde (formerly Argyllshire).] Applied to a culture of the mesolithic period for which most evidence is found in the neighbourhood of Oban. Also as sb., the Obanian culture or a person living in this culture.

1943 H. L. MOVIES *Irish Stone Age* ii. iii. 186 With the changing environment certain new tools were evolved to meet the new needs, but the lack of flint or other easily worked rocks hampered cultural progress. It is proposed to call this culture the Obanian, after the type site in Argyllshire. *Ibid.*, The Obanian was discovered in 1879 by Styrington Grieve (1883) at Caisleán-na-Gilleann, a large siltchen-midden 150 feet in diameter on the island of Oronsay, Argyllshire. *Ibid.*, At Caisleán-na-Gilleann a large series of stone, bone and antler implements was found, typical of the Obanian culture. 1957 V. G. CHURCH *Dawn European Civilisation* (ed. 6) i. 4 On the south-west coast of Scotland... the industry, is distinctive enough to be regarded as a new culture, 'the Obanian', not certainly descended from the French Allium. 1968 *Proc. Soc. Antiquaries Scot.* LXXXIX. 91 (reading) Notes on the Obanian with special reference to antler and bone-work. 1969 *Chambers's Encycl.* v. 450/1 The contents of the middens show that the Obanians hunted red and roe deer [etc.]. 1965 *Field Archaeol.* (Ordnance Survey) (ed. 4) 24 The Obanians are found on the west coast and in the islands. 1963 E. S. WOOD *Colins Field Guide* *Archaeol.* 35 The Obanian description of Obanians is based on hunting, and on fish and molluscs, as a movement of the mesolithic people called Azilian, from south-west Europe, no longer holds. 1970 BRAY & TRUMP *Dict. Archaeol.* 165/1 *Obanian culture*... The sites are rock-shelters, and also shell middens on post-glacial raised beaches. The way of life was adapted to coastal conditions. Flintwork is scarce, but diagnostic tools include barbed spears and stone limpet-picks.

**obba, var. \*OBA.**

**obligato, a.** Add: (Example of transv. use.) 1867 *Great Eliot* 13. Apr. (1954) 111. 405 Don't think about reading *Silas Warner*, just because it is come out. I hate obligato reading and obligato talk about my books.

**B. sb.** Also *transf.*

1888 *Kipling Departmental Duties* (ed. 3) 28 A Warner obligato, scherzo, double-hand staccato. Played, by the clacking tonga-bar. 1921 G. HOPKINS *City in Foreground* i. 15 He took the easiest way, which was to supply a gentle obligato to the inspired melody of his companion's speech. 1955 *Times* 21 May 6/5 Lady Megan... was wearing a white negligee with a green and white obligato. 1972 A. ROUDAVSKY *Sybaritic Bed* (1974) ix. 82 Her complaints... formed a sort of obligato to their drive.

**obbo** (p. 265). *slang.* Also *obbo*. [Abbrev. of OBSERVATION: cf. \*O-]. Observation, esp. in police work. In military use *ellipt.* for *observation balloon*.

1925 FRASER & GIBBONS *Soldier & Sailor Words* 213 *Obbo*, observation balloon. 1923 C. E. LEACH *On Top of Underworld* 5, I am still on the trail, like you, and my thoughts hark back to the long weary days and nights of 'obbo' (observation) and shadowing. 1940 *PARTRIDGE* *Slang* 102 An observation balloon is an obbo or a sausage. 1968 BRAY & HOLTMAN *Main Line Kull* vi. 68 Now I got a fix on the place I got to do some obbo first. Get the lie of the land. 1972 'B. GRAEME' *Tomorrow's Yesterday* xi. 117 We're keeping a man, suspected of robbery... under obbo. 1973 D. LESS *Rapt of Quaid Town* iv. 68, I went to keep obbo for a bit.

**obclude, var. OCCLUDE v.**

1894 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 434 Only about half the iris is visible, and even some part of the lens is occluded.

**obduct, v.** Restrict † *Obs.* to sense in Dict. and add: 2. *Geol.* To cause to undergo obduction. Hence *obducted* *ppl. a.*

1972 R. G. COLEMAN in *Jrnl. Geophysical Res.* LXXVI. 1216/2 Parts of the oceanic crust have been obducted onto the continental edges. 1974 *Nature* 1 Mar. 38/2 The ophiolites of west Newfoundland and the Burlington Peninsula represent obducted oceanic lithosphere. *Ibid.* 20 Sept. 259/1 With the development of actual collision between continental blocks a period of tectonism and orogenesis (uplift) results in F<sub>2</sub> flexuring of the subducted lithosphere, slivers of which are consequently overthrust (obducted) on to the 'active' continental block.

**obduction.** Restrict † *Obs.* to sense in Dict. and add: 2. *Geol.* The movement of a litho-

spheric plate sideways and upwards over the margin of an adjacent plate.

1971 R. G. CONWAY in *Jrnl. Geophysical Res.* LXXVI, 1245a According to Davis, the ophiolites represent a slab of oceanic crust and mantle 'emplaced in Cretaceous or Eocene time by overthrusting (obduction) oceanic crust onto the continental crust. 1972 *Rep. 24th Internat. Geol. Congr.* iii. 109 The obduction zone is... an upthrust of the oceanic crust and mantle, mostly of a marginal sea (small ocean basin). 1972 *Nature* 34 Mar. 22/2 The Alpine orogeny culminated with the collision between the continental plates of Eurasia and Africa and was probably preceded by subduction or obduction of the Tethyan plate along the European continental margin. 1973 *Obd.* 20 Feb. 65/2 Ophiolite emplacement is integrally associated with plate subduction, either by the accretion of oceanic crust to the wall of the upper plate (in oceanic trenches) or by the bodily thrusting (obduction) of the oceanic crust on to a continental margin.

**obeah**. Add to etym.: 'Also the base of Two-bayifo, witch, wizard, sorcerer (more literally sorcery-man, "obeah-man", since -fo means person)'. (Cassidy & Le Page Dict. Jamaican Eng. 1967).

2. Delete 'and formerly' and read 'a form of which survives in the West Indies and neighbouring countries'. (Earlier and later examples.)

1960 *Jrnl. Assembly Jamaica* 16 Dec. (1959) V. 245/1 The engorged bill to remedy the evils arising from irregular assemblies of slaves... and for preventing the practice of obeah. 1930 J. J. WILLIAMS *Hebrews* W. Afr. 17 The word Obiah really really the Ashanti Obiah, a witch or rather more properly... a wizard, being derived from bayi, sorcery. 1934 J. RHYNS *Voy. in Dark* iii. 192 Anne Chetwett used to say that it's haunted and obeah—she had been in gaol for obeah. 1934 *Times* Lst. Suppl. 19 July 302/4 On the subject of obeah (which a Jamaican negro will never mention) they are quite unreserved. 1954 *Caribbean Q.* III. 1. 5 Obeah has been prohibited by law, and is always spoken of with a laugh; but the laughter is... never sneering. 1957 *Times* Lst. Suppl. 2 May 237/3 You have also to reckon with obeah in the shape of a money-peddler with the other candidate Preacher, who wickedly distorts the slogan 'Vote Harbans or Die'. 1963 G. J. McCALL in A. Dundes *Mother Wit* (1973) 420/1 'Hoodoo', corresponding to *odun* ('voodoo') and *obeah* in Haiti.

3. (Later examples.)

1917 *Chambers's Jrnl.* Apr. 248/1 No treasure was found, and the Obeahman disappeared just when he was most wanted to counsel and guide. 1924 *J. RHYNS* *Voy. in Dark* iii. 192 Obeah-women who dig up dead people. 1970 J. BROWN *Un-Melting Pot* vii. 99 Though St Lucia is 92 per cent Catholic... obeah beliefs and practices still pervade its whole fabric of life. 1973 *Sunday Express* (Trinidad & Tobago) 1 Apr. (Suppl.) 12/2 Sometimes they would visit Rattan, the famed obeah man... and ask him to cast a good spell on them. 1974 *Practitioner* Dec. 848 An Obeahman or Obeahwoman may also be consulted about social matters, including a child's education.

**obeah v.** (later example); **obeahism** (later examples).

1902 *Chambers's Jrnl.* Feb. 82/1 The vitality of obeahism is surprising. 1949 *Caribbean Q.* I. ii. 43 Mr. Waugh manages to feature an immigrant London crooner... and an obeah French colonial official, in his treatment of... St. Lucia, Dominica, and Martinique. 1972 *Guardian* 6 Dec. 13/1 Obeahism is the Jamaican form of voodooism... that originated in Haiti.

**obeech** (obē'fī). [Bini name in Nigeria.] A large West African tree, *Triplachton scleroxylon*, of the family Sterculiaceae, found in lowland forests; also its light-coloured timber.

**Also attrib.**  
1908 H. N. THOMPSON in *Kew Bull.* 195 'Satinwood', 'Obeech'. At the Liverpool Market... it was classified as Satinwood... It is a very common tree. 1934 *Jrnl. R. Aeronautics* C. XXXVIII. 56 One of the most remarkable instances of clear fracture is in the West African Obeech... This wood is relatively new to commerce, and to being used... for motor-body work. 1966 *Handb. Hardwoods* (Forest Prod. Res. Lab.) 171 Obeech grows to a height of 150 ft... Obeech is nearly white to pale straw in colour with no clear distinction between sapwood and heartwood. 1968 *Archit.* Rev. CXXIV. 41/1 The wall is of a natural obeech timber. High class. Golden walnut. Obeech. Ironwood. 1971 *Countryside* 1 Apr. 731/2 My obeech wood decays have been admired a great deal in the five or six years since I made them. 1972 *Timber Trades* *Jrnl.* 13 May 47/1 Among the species displayed by Latham's were two hardwoods—güerea and obeech—which were comparatively unknown at the time [c. 1925].

**obedience**. Add: 5. obedience class, test, trial, a competition designed to test a dog's obedience; obedience training, the process of teaching a dog to obey orders; hence (as a back-formation) obedience-train v.

1930 E. C. ASH *Practical Dog Bk.* ii. 22 Obedience classes are held at Cruft's Show, and are always an occasion of considerable interest. 1936 J. Z. RAY *Dog Owner's Manual* xii. 195 We see these blue ribbon dogs carrying off prizes also in obedience tests. 1961 J. HOLMES (illus.) *Obedience training for dogs*. 1971 'L. EGAN' *Malicious Mischief* (1972) i. 13 'If your dog had been obedience-trained he would not have been stolen so easily... An obedience-trained dog is impossible to steal or poison.' 'Obedience training? What does that mean?' 1945 C. L. B. HUBBARD *Observer's Bk.* Dogs 105 The breed [sc. the Monkey Terrier] is surprisingly intelligent and... should do well in Obedience Trials. 1971

'L. EGAN' *Malicious Mischief* (1972) iii. 40 Most of the big beach shows have obedience trials.

**obedient**, a. (sb.) Add: 5. obedient plant = *Physostegia*.

1948 F. PERRY *Herbaceous Border* v. 103 *Physostegia virginiana*, sometimes known as the Obedient Plant because the individual sage-like blossoms on the flower spikes may be moved from side to side and remain so placed. 1971 J. RAYEN *Eden's Garden* xl. 201 A curious plant, of better value perhaps for the entertainment it affords children than for beauty, called the obedient plant or *Physostegia virginiana*.

**obesiantly**, adv. (Later example.)

1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 July 5/3, 1. came in turn Of him myself obesiantly to learn.

**obelia** (obē'liā). [mod.L. (Peron & Lesueur 1809, in *Ann. du Muséum d'Hist. Nat.* XIV. 355), f. Gr. *ὀβελός* + -ια.] A marine colonial-forming coelenterate of the genus so called, belonging to the class Hydrozoa.

1868 T. HINCKS *Hud. Burd. Hydroid Zoophytes* i. 148 Some of his (sc. Edward Forbes's) species are only various stages of one and the same Obelia. 1897 PARRY & HAWELL *Test-bd. Zool.* i. iv. 128 Obelia is a common zoophyte occurring in the form of a delicate, whitish or light brown, almost fur-like growth on the wooden piles of piers and wharfs. 1927 HALDANE & HUXLEY *Animal Bk.* ix. 179 If an ordinary hydroid polyp like Obelia be kept in the laboratory, the hydranths, or separate organized individuals of the colony, will (unless the water is well aerated artificially) show a curious series of changes. 1974 A. SILVERSTEIN *Biol. Sciences* 178/2 Obelia, a typical colonial coelenterate, has a number of specialized feeding organs and reproductive polyps, growing in a branchlike arrangement.

**obelion**. Substitute for etym.: [ad. F. *obélion* (P. Broca 1875, in *Bull. de la Soc. d'Anthrop. de Paris* X. 356), f. Gr. *ὀβελισσάγγελος* (given in Broca's paper as *ὀβελισσας*): see *-ION*.] Hence also *obelial* a.

1906 H. ALLEN *Clin. Study* 52 The parietal foramina lie on the sides and serve as guides to this obelical portion.

**obeliskoid** (obē'li-skoid), a. [f. OBELISK + -oid.] Resembling an obelisk in form; obelisk-shaped; obeliscal.

1877 W. R. COOPER *Short Hist. Egypt.* Obelisks v. 25 An obeliskoid monolith originally erected by Osirtesen. 1902 A. J. EVANS in *Jrnl. Hellenic Stud.* XXI. 173 The obeliskoid pillar of the Cretan ring.

**obelisk**, sb. (a.) B. as *adj.* For † *Obs.* read 'rare', and add later example.

1922 *Joyce* *Ulysses* 431 Their pushed-back chairs, my obelisk valve, around a board of abandoned platters.

**oboeophone** (obē'bio-fōn). [first element uncertain + \*PHONE.] A type of orchestra (ORCHESTRA) (see quot. 1927). (*Disused*.)

1927 H. E. WORTHAM *O. Browning* xiii. 234 For the performance of chamber music he possessed a number of *oboeiphones*, of various sizes, familiarly known as 'oboeiphones', which represented the wood-wind, or even supplemented the strings. 1940 V. WOOLFE *Roger Fry* ii. 49 The host himself pedalled away at the oboephone.

**oberek** (obē'rek). [Polish.] A lively Polish dance in triple time, related to the mazurka.

1938 *Oxf. Compan. Mus.* 624/2 Oberek, a type of Polish dance. 1952 H. WOLSKA *Dances of Poland* 33 Oberek. Region—Masovia. Character—Gay and vigorous. Formation—Couple Dance. 1955 [see 'KRAKOWIAK']. 1976 *Times* 23 July 11/3 The Mazowsze Song and Dance Company from Poland... whirl through oberek and mazurka, polka and Krakowiak.

**obertas** (obē'r-itās). Also *obertass*. [Polish.] = *OBEREK*.

1869 GROVE *Dict. Mus.* IV. 733/1 Obertas, this is described in the 'Encyklopedyja Powszechna', as the most popular of Polish national dances. 1895 L. GROVE et al. *Dancing* vii. 234 The Obertas, one of the most popular of national dances, is a variation of the Mazur. 1938 *Oxf. Compan. Mus.* 170/1 It (sc. a drabant) began with a solemn march and then changed to an Obertas. 1944 W. AREL *Harvard Dict. Mus.* 500/1 Chopin's Mazurka op. 56, no. 2 is in the character of an obertas. 1954 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* (ed. 5) V. 641/2 The Obertas or Oberek.

**obey**, v. Add: 1. f. Naut. phr. *obey orders*, if (though) *you break owners*, obey orders, even when they are wrong.

1869 R. H. DANA *Ten Yrs. before Mast* xvii. 92 It almost broke our poor dorky's heart when he heard that Bess (a pet pig) was to be taken ashore... 'Obey orders, if you break owners' said he... and lent a hand to get her over the side. 1849 H. MALVILLE *Radburn* i. vi. 57 The motto is, 'Obey orders, though you break owners'. 1915 motto is, 'Obey orders, though you break owners'. 1925 There was the unwritten shipboard law: 'Obey orders, even if you break owners'. 1924 R. CLEMENTS *Gipsy of Horn* iii. 50 What could be sadder than 'Obey orders, if you break owners'—meaning, do as you're told, even if you know it's wrong.

**obeyance**. Delete † *Obs.* and add later examples.

1921 C. E. MULDREW *Har-20 Threes* x. 118 The obeyance of the order might possibly be accepted by the crowd as grounds for justification. 1930 *Joyce* *Finnegans Wake* iii. 540 Obeyance from the townsmen spills (elixity) by the town. 1950 *Tablet* 9 Dec. 504/1 Erecting pointed arches in blind obedience of mechanical efficiency.

**obi** (ō-bi). W. Afr. [Igbo.] In Nigeria, a native hut.

1937 *Discovery* May 154/1 The more important natives have what is called an obi house, which is practically a shrine to the family gods and ancestors. 1937 C. K. MEKE *Law & Authority in Nigerian Tribes* iii. 62 It (sc. a wooden pillar) is fixed inside the householder's obi (entrance hut) facing outwards. 1958 C. ACHEBE *Things fall apart* ix. 60 'Where do you sleep with your wife, in your obi or in her own hut?' asked the medicine-man. 1962 — in F. ADEMOLA *Reflections* 24 Their grand-father... was waiting in his Obi when his grand-children arrived.

**obi** (ō-bi). W. Afr. Also *Obi*. [Ibo: see quot. 1958.] A king of the Onitsha people of Nigeria.

1937 C. K. MEKE *Law & Authority in Nigerian Tribes* x. 219 Onitsha it was a capital offence for any one to have sexual relations with a wife of the Obi. 1968 J. S. COLMAN *Nigeria* i. 28 The Obi (in the term—of likely Yoruba origin—for king or chief) was appointed by the Obi of the Obi. 1973 *Times* Lst. Suppl. 9 Mar. 258/3 It is these sons today are trying to rediscover... their ancient customs and, in particular, those relating to the office of King (Obi) of Onitsha.

**Obie** (ō-bi). U.S. *Theatr.* [repr. pronunc. of OB, colloq. abbrev. 'OFF-BROADWAY' a. and sb.] One of a number of annual awards for off-Broadway experimental theatre productions. Also *attrib.*

1967 *National Observer* 10 Apr. 20/1 Last year several 'Obies', the prize theater awards normally reserved for the stalwarts of Off-Broadway, were given to OOB [sc. off-off-Broadway] veterans, among them actor Kevin O'Connor and playwright Sam Shepard. 1970 *Time* 12 Jan. 37 Meanwhile he was acting (six Broadway shows, 25 off-Broadway), collecting two Obies for off-Broadway performances, etc. 1972 *Village Voice* (N.Y.) 1 June 54/2 Sharon Tate's play with its Open Theatre performers, including Sharon Gans (Obie winner for her performance as November). 1973 *Black World* Apr. 20/2 The next Proscenium production of Black significance was Derek Walcott's Obie Award-winning *Dream On Monkey Mountain*.

**obit**, sb. 1. b. Delete *arch.* and add: (Later examples.) In mod. colloq. (esp. *journalists'*) use usu. regarded as an abbrev. of *OBITUARY* sb.

1874 *Athenaeum* 12 Sept. 353 The sub-editor of a New York daily newspaper wrote me begging me to send him the proper materials for the construction of an obit. He said it was the custom of his journal to keep obits ready. 1899 C. PLUMMER *My Son Sam* Chron. Parallel II. p. xiv. Then comes a period, 893-958, during which E and F are almost barren, containing only a few obits, etc. 1901 FARMER & HENLEY *Slang* (1902) V. 83/1 *Obit*. [journalists'] an obituary notice. 1935 *Atlantic Monthly* Jan. 43 (side) Obit for E. Harris. 1953 N.Y. *Times* 9 Aug. 8/3 This is not the obit page. 1957 D. BETHURUM *Homilies of Wulfstan* 64 Wulfstan's obit is marked in MS Hutton 123, in an Ely calendar, and in the E and F Chronicle, 1023. 1964 W. R. NASH *How Newspapers Work* iv. 74 The obits... are revised at regular intervals. 1972 *Daily Tel.* (Colour Suppl.) 11 Aug. 5/1 The obituaries polish their obits. 1975 B. MELOS *Maiter of Paradise* (1976) iv. iv. 96 Doc had been given a very nice obit coverage on page 42.

**obiter**, *adj.* and *sb.* Add: (Later examples.)

As *sb.* = *obiter dictum*. 1927 *Daily Tel.* 10 July 9/2 Lord Justice Scrutton recalled a recent obiter by Mr. Justice Eve to the effect that [etc.]. 1957 G. SCHWARZENBERGER *Internat. Law* (ed. 3) i. xxiv. 437 The Commission's observations... were strictly *obiter dicta*. As, however, the reformulation of Article 16 followed by the Commission, though obiter, deserves not to pass unnoticed. 1959 'W. HAGGARD' *Vernian Blind* ii. 24 Mr Justice Downdrey refused an injunction. He did more. He made it very clear that his remarks were *obiter*, but he was exquisitely acidulous.

**obitual**, a. and *sb.* Add: A *adj.* (Further U.S. example.)

1963 *Nation* (N.Y.) 30 Nov. 406/3 Obitual days constitute an important, distinctive, and ever recurrent feature in the proceedings of our national Legislature.

**obituarian** (obit'ui-ri-ān). U.S. [f. OBITUARY + -IAN.] = *OBITUARIST*.

1900 *Am. Cent. Dict.* Suppl. II. 882/3 There is one characteristic story to be told about Robert Louis Stevenson which his obituarist... missed, probably because they knew nothing about... 1971 *Sat. Rev.* (U.S.) 6 Nov. 44/3 Alden Whitman is the obituarist for The New York Times.

**obituarist**. Add: (Later examples.)

1905 M. BEERHOORN *Around Theatre* (1903) 399 The obituarist seems hardly to do justice to the intensely interesting personality of Irving in private life. 1930 A. HUXLEY *Brief Candles* 4 'Metaphysically and artistically a creature.' 'The obituarist doesn't seem to be of your opinion.' 1961 P. FLEMING *Bayonets to Lhasa* 293 'The

