

The Concise
Oxford
English Dictionary

**牛津简明
英语词典**

[英语版]

新版

**New
Edition**

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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Oxford
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Revised tenth edition

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Edited by
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牛津简明英语词典[英语版]

Judy Pearsall 编

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出版前言

《牛津简明英语词典》(*Concise Oxford English Dictionary*)是一部世界公认的权威英语工具书,也是牛津词典系列中最具代表性的一部,其发行量一直位居牛津词典之首。1999年牛津大学出版社推出了这部词典的第10版。这一版是《牛津简明英语词典》自1911年出版第1版以来十分重要的一版。它在继承和保持以往各版的特色和优点的基础上作了较大幅度的改进,其中最显著的特点就是收词量大,覆盖面广。

本词典第10版全面描述了英语语言,收录的词汇、短语和释义多达24万余条。除了一般词汇外,还收录了大量的科技、历史、文学等专业及百科词汇,其中包括不少近些年涌现出的新词语。例如:AIDS(艾滋病),BSE(疯牛病),CJD(人类疯牛病),docutainment(娱乐性纪录片),e-cash(电子钞票),egg roll(蛋卷),feng shui(风水),PDA(个人数字助理),SOHO(小型家居办公室),Viagra(万艾可,俗称伟哥),WTO(世界贸易组织),Wu(中国江浙沪一带的吴方言)等等。

随着新生事物越来越多的涌现,反映它们的新词也在不断地诞生。广大英语学习者一定会对新词诞生的方式充满了好奇心。《牛津简明英语词典》第10版特别增加了构词栏目(word-formation panel),对构词成分进行了细致处理。例如在-phobia构词栏目,我们可以学习到以phobia为后缀构成的一系列新词汇,其中既有大家常见的acrophobia(恐高症),也有比较少见的brontophobia(恐雷电症),hippophobia(恐马症)等。

本词典第10版收词量之大、覆盖面之广是以往任何一版都无法企及的,这主要得益于充分利用了语料库资源,包括拥有1亿词汇的“英国国家语料库”(British National Corpus)和拥有4800万词汇并以每年500万词汇递增的“牛津世界阅读课题”(Oxford World Reading Programme)。

现在,牛津大学出版社又推出了第10版的修订版(revised edition),在原版的基础上加收了自1999年第10版出版以来出现的新词语。另外特别值得一提的是,它的附录增添了“网络用语”栏目,透出鲜活的时代特色,如CU(see you),GR8(great),ILUVU(I love you)等等。

经牛津大学出版社惠允,外语教学与研究出版社引进出版《牛津简明英语词典》第10版修订版,相信会成为我国广大英语学习者的良师益友。

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Preface to the Tenth Edition

The tenth edition of the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* is a very important one. This is the first edition of the dictionary which has been able to draw on the research and analysis of the language reflected in the ground-breaking *New Oxford Dictionary of English*. As with the very first edition of the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, published in 1911, which made use of the 'materials' and 'methods' by which the editors of the *Oxford English Dictionary* had 'revolutionized lexicography', so the tenth edition makes use of the innovative principles and methodology devised for the *New Oxford Dictionary of English*.

The new *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* takes to heart the new approaches to presentation and understanding of meaning which form such an integral part of the *New Oxford Dictionary of English*, modifying them to the needs of a smaller one-volume dictionary and at the same time preserving the unique traditions of the *Concise*. Each entry is built around the core sense or senses of the word in current English, as based on rigorous analysis of large amounts of real, modern evidence available in computerized form. Subsenses are shown in their relation to the core senses by the use of a special 'arrow' design feature (►). Definitions are sharp and crisp, and the new open layout makes finding individual senses, sections, and entries easier than ever before. In all respects the new *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* benefits from the extensive research carried out for the *New Oxford Dictionary of English*, producing the most accurate, up to date, and objective description of the language.

The dictionary definitions retain the hallmark of conciseness, although this is balanced by an emphasis on clarity and accessibility, using ordinary modern English to explain technical and complex terms, with no abbreviations. The tenth edition adopts much of the innovatory style from the *New Oxford Dictionary of English* in presentation of technical vocabulary, with, for example, genus information for plants and animals being placed in a separate and easily recognizable format.

The tenth edition of the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* is firmly based on the evidence, which informs everything we are able to say about the language and the words within it, whether it is in giving information about spelling, in ensuring accurate and precise definitions, or in establishing currency or level of formality. The editors have made use of huge amounts of corpus material and other computerized evidence, including the 100-million word British National Corpus, and the citation database of the Oxford World Reading Programme, currently standing at around 48 million words and growing at a rate of around 5 million words per year.

Special attention has been given to enhancing the overall vocabulary coverage of the dictionary, so that the number of words entered as headwords has been increased without increasing the overall size. This has been done by looking closely at what is likely to be most useful to users. Entries for very common words such as 'be' or 'go' have been included in brief form, typically occupying around half the space allocated to them in previous editions. In addition, some compounds which are easily analysable into their component parts, such as 'beach ball' or 'hen house', have been omitted. This combination of condensing some entries and choosing to omit others allows the inclusion of many more

words and meanings in current use which are less familiar, especially those belonging to specialist and scientific fields. The result is the inclusion of all those words, phrases, and meanings that form the central vocabulary of English in the modern world.

The richness and variety of the English language is of interest not only to lexicographers but also to many other native speakers of English. In the tenth edition specially created 'word-formation' panels have been included to illustrate the many ways in which new (and old) words are formed from other linguistic elements. Word-formation elements such as '-phobia', '-saurus', and '-graphy' are given expanded treatment, highlighting and explaining the formation of words as diverse as 'hagiography', 'anatomy', 'apatosaurus', and 'Europhobia'.

The editors are grateful to many people for their help in the preparation of this dictionary. Those not forming part of the editorial team who deserve mention include: Frank Abate and Elizabeth Jewell for various comments and suggestions, especially on North American English, and Tony Deverson, Bruce Moore, and Penny Silva, for their additional contributions on (respectively) New Zealand, Australian, and South African English. In addition, we are indebted to Michael Proffitt and the continuing work of the New Words team of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, for their help in identifying and drafting new words as they come into the language.

PREFACE TO THE REVISED EDITION

This revised edition contains many extra entries for words which have entered the language since the Tenth Edition was published in 1999, together with a section of appendices. Besides useful tables of factual information, the appendix includes a glossary of abbreviations used in electronic text messaging (SMS), a list of short or unusual words for word games, and a Guide to Good English.

Introduction

The *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* is designed to be as straightforward and self-explanatory as possible and the use of special dictionary symbols and conventions has been kept to a minimum. Those that are used are explained below. In addition, the following notes are designed to enable the reader to understand more fully the principles involved in and the thinking behind the making of this dictionary.

ENTRY STRUCTURE: CORE SENSE AND SUBSENSES

Within each part of speech the first definition given is the core sense. This represents the typical, central, or 'core' meaning of the word in modern standard English. The core meaning is not necessarily the oldest meaning, nor is it always the most frequent meaning, because figurative and extended senses are sometimes the most frequent. It is the meaning accepted by native speakers as the one which is most established as literal and central.

Each word has at least one core sense, which acts as a gateway to other, related subsenses. The relationship between core sense and subsense is indicated in the dictionary entry by the placing of the subsenses immediately after the core sense, introduced by a solid arrow symbol. Many entries have more than one core sense. Each new core sense is introduced by a bold sense number, and each may have its own subsense or subsenses relating to it.

capital' ● **n.** **1** the most important city or town of a country or region, usually its seat of government and administrative centre. ► a place particularly associated with a specified activity: *the fashion capital of the world.* **2** wealth owned by a person or organization or invested, lent, or borrowed. ► the excess of a company's assets over its liabilities. **3** a capital letter. ● **adj.** **1** (of an offence or charge) liable to the death penalty. **2** (of a letter of the alphabet) large in size and of the form used to begin sentences and names. **3** informal, dated excellent.

– PHRASES **make capital out of** use to one's own advantage. **with a capital** — used for emphasis: *she was ugly with a capital U.*

– DERIVATIVES **capitally** adv.

– ORIGIN ME (as adj. in the sense 'relating to the head or top'): via OFr. from L. *capitalis*, from *caput* 'head'.

cap ● **n.** **1** a soft, flat hat without a brim and usually with a peak. ► a soft, close-fitting head covering worn for a particular purpose: *a shower cap.* ► an academic mortar board. **2** a protective lid or cover for a bottle, pen, etc. ► Dentistry an artificial protective covering for a tooth. **3** an upper limit imposed on spending or borrowing. **4** chiefly Brit. a cap awarded to members of a sports team, especially a national team. **5** (also **Dutch cap**) Brit. informal a contraceptive diaphragm. **6** the broad upper part of the fruiting body of a mushroom or toadstool. **7** short for

PERCUSSION CAP. ● **v.** (**capped**, **capping**) **1** put or form a lid or cover on. ► put a cap on (a tooth). **2** provide a fitting climax or conclusion to. ► follow or reply to (a story or remark) with a still better one. **3** place a limit on (prices, expenditure, etc.). **4** (**be capped**) chiefly Brit. be chosen as a member of a sports team, especially a national one. **5** Scottish & NZ confer a university degree on.

– PHRASES **cap in hand** humbly asking for a favour. **set one's cap at** (or **US for**) dated (of a woman) try to attract (a particular man) as a suitor. **to cap it all** as the final unfortunate incident in a long series.

– DERIVATIVES **capful** n. (pl. **-fuls**). **capper** n.

– ORIGIN OE *cæppe* 'hood', from late L. *cappa*, perh. from L. *caput* 'head'.

The organization of core senses and subsenses is designed to show direct, logical relationships between the uses of a word. The aim is to help the user, not only to navigate the entries more easily and to find the relevant sense more readily, but also to build up an understanding in general of the way in which different meanings of a word relate to each other.

LABELS

Unless otherwise stated, the words and senses recorded in this dictionary are all part of standard English. Some words, however, are appropriate only to certain situations or are found only in certain contexts, and where this is the case a label (or combination of labels) is used.

Register labels

Register labels refer to the particular level of use in the language—indicating whether a term is formal or informal, historical or archaic, and so on:

formal: normally used only in writing, in contexts such as official documents.

informal: normally used only in spoken contexts or informal written contexts.

dated: no longer used by the majority of English speakers, but still encountered, especially among the older generation.

archaic: old-fashioned language, not in ordinary use today, though sometimes used to give a deliberately old-fashioned effect and also encountered in the literature of the past.

historical: still used today, but only in reference to some practice or artefact that is no longer part of the modern world, e.g. **banneret** or **umbo**.

poetic/literary: found only or mainly in poetry, or in literature written in a consciously 'literary' style.

technical: normally used only in technical and specialist language, though not necessarily restricted to any specific subject field.

rare: not in normal use.

humorous: used with the intention of sounding funny or playful.

euphemistic: used in place of a more direct or vulgar term.

dialect: not used in the standard language, but still widely used in certain local regions of the English-speaking world.

offensive: likely to cause offence, especially racial offence, whether the speaker intends it or not.

derogatory: intended to convey a low opinion or cause personal offence.

vulgar slang: very informal language, especially that relating to sexual activity or other bodily functions, which is widely regarded as taboo and may cause offence.

Geographical labels

The main regional standards for the language of English are British, US and Canadian, Australian and New Zealand, South African, Indian, and West Indian. The vast majority of words and senses listed in the dictionary are common to all the major regional standard varieties of English, but where important local differences exist these are recorded.

The geographical label 'Brit.' implies that the use is found typically in standard British English but is not found in standard American English, though it may be found in other varieties such as Australian or South African English. The label 'US', on the other hand, implies that the use is typically US and is not standard in British English, though it may be found elsewhere.

Subject labels

Subject labels are used to indicate that a word or sense is associated with a particular subject field or specialist activity, such as Medicine, Aeronautics, or Baseball.

GRAMMAR

The dictionary is based on a rigorous analysis of the grammar and syntactical structures of the language. This information is used to structure and organize the dictionary entry but, for the most part, it remains implicit in the text itself. Grammar is made explicit where it causes difficulty or is the source of controversy, or is likely to be of particular interest to the user.

1. Strong or obligatory syntactical patterns are presented directly, in bold text preceding the definition, e.g.

close ... 3 ... (close in) (of days) get successively shorter with the approach of the winter solstice.

sound ... 3 (sound off) express one's opinions loudly or forcefully.

bristle ... 3 (bristle with) be covered with or abundant in.

Where the structure is a verb structure including a direct object, this is also indicated in bold text (notice that the direct object is included unbracketed in the definition text in these cases):

cash ... 2 (cash something in) convert an insurance policy, savings account, etc. into money.

pad ... 3 (pad something out) lengthen a speech or piece of writing with unnecessary material.

egg ... (egg someone on) urge or encourage someone to do something foolish or risky.

A similar presentation is used to show an obligatory plural form:

work ... 5 (works) ... a place where industrial or manufacturing processes are carried out.

2. Where a verbal noun ending in *-ing* or a verbal adjective ending in *-ed* or *-ing* is an important or the most important component of the verb use, this is indicated:

accommodate ... 2 ... [as adj. **accommodating]** fitting in helpfully with another's wishes or demands.

abash ... [usu. as adj. **abashed]** cause to feel embarrassed, disconcerted, or ashamed.

3. A small number of other explicit grammar labels are used:

[**treated as sing. or pl.**]: used to indicate nouns which may be used with either a singular or a plural verb without any change in meaning, normally collective nouns, e.g.

staff n. 1 [treated as sing. or pl.] the employees of a particular organization.

[**treated as sing.**]: used to indicate nouns which have a plural form but are normally used with a singular verb (many of which are words ending in *-ics* which relate to sports or subjects of study), e.g.

genetics pl. n. 1 [treated as sing.] the study of heredity and the variation of inherited characteristics.

acrobatics pl. n. [usu. treated as sing.] spectacular gymnastic feats.

mumps pl. n. [treated as sing.] a viral disease mainly affecting children, causing swelling of the parotid salivary glands of the face.

[**as modifier**]: used to indicate noun senses in which the noun is normally placed in front of another noun in order to modify its meaning, e.g.

scattergun ... [as modifier] covering a broad range in a random and unsystematic way: *the scattergun approach*.

bayonet ... 2 [as modifier] denoting a type of fitting for a light bulb or other appliance which is pushed into a socket and then twisted into place.

[**postpos.**]: used to indicate an adjective which is used postpositively, i.e. which comes immediately after the noun which it modifies (often an adjective which has been adopted from a language where postpositive use is standard), e.g.

par excellence ... [postpos.] better or more than all others of the same kind: *Nash is the Regency architect par excellence*.

elect ... 2 [postpos.] elected to a position but not yet in office: *the President Elect*.

[**with neg.**]: used to indicate words and senses which are typically used in negative constructions, e.g.

clever ... 2 [with neg.] Brit. informal healthy; well: *I didn't feel too clever*.

fathom ... 1 [usu. with neg.] understand (something) after much thought.

SPELLING AND INFLECTION

The *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* gives advice and information on spelling, in particular for those cases which are irregular or which otherwise cause difficulty for native speakers. The main categories are summarized below.

Variant spellings

The main form of each word given is the standard British spelling or form. Standard variants, e.g. standard US spellings, are indicated at the top of the entry and cross-referred if the alphabetical position is more than four entries distant from the main entry.

anaemia (US **anemia**)

anemia US spelling of **ANAEMIA**.

abulia (also **aboullia**)

aboullia variant spelling of **ABULIA**.

Other variants, such as archaic, old-fashioned, or informal spellings, are cross-referred to the main entry, but are not themselves listed at the parent entry.

Esquimau archaic spelling of **ESKIMO**.

Hyphenation

Although standard spelling in English is fixed, the use of hyphenation is not. In standard English a few general rules are followed, and these are outlined below.

Noun compounds: there are no hard-and-fast rules to determine the use of one-word, two-word, or hyphenated forms (except when used to show grammatical function: see below): whether, for example, to write **airstream**, **air-stream**, or **air stream**. All three forms are found in use in standard texts. However, the evidence of modern English indicates a tendency towards avoiding hyphenation in general, showing a preference for **airstream** rather than **air-stream** and for **air raid** rather than **air-raid**. There is an additional tendency for the form to be one word in US English and two words in British English, e.g. **air fare** tends to be the more common form in British English, while **airfare** tends to be more common in US English.

To save space and avoid confusion, only one of the three possible forms—the standard British one—is entered in the dictionary. This does not, however, imply that other forms are incorrect or not used.

Grammatical function: hyphens are also used to serve certain grammatical functions. When a noun compound made up of two separate words (e.g. **credit card**) is placed before another noun and used to modify it, the general rule is that the noun compound becomes hyphenated, e.g. *I used my credit card* but *credit-card debt*. This sort of regular alternation will be seen in example sentences but is not otherwise explicitly mentioned in the dictionary entries.

A similar alternation is found in compound adjectives such as **well known**. When used predicatively, i.e. after the verb, such adjectives are generally unhyphenated, but when used attributively, i.e. before the noun, they are generally hyphenated: *he is not well known* but *a well-known painter*.

A general rule governing verb compounds means that, where a noun compound is two words (e.g. **beta test**), any verb derived from it is normally hyphenated (**to beta-test**). This alternation is shown explicitly in the dictionary text for relevant entries.

Inflection

English has comparatively few inflections compared to other European languages, and those that exist are remarkably regular. An *-s* is added to most nouns to make a plural; *-ed* is added to most verbs to make a past tense or past participle, and *-ing* is added to make a present participle.

Where difficulties arise, for example, because the inflection is not regular, or because the spelling change even in a regular inflection is not straightforward, full guidance is given. The main areas outlined are covered below.

Verbs: the following forms are regarded as regular and are therefore not shown in the dictionary:

- third person singular present forms adding *-s* to the stem (or *-es* to stems ending in *-s*, *-x*, *-z*, *-sh*, or soft *-ch*), e.g. **find** → **finds** or **change** → **changes**.
- past tenses and past participles dropping a final silent *e* and adding *-ed* to the stem, e.g. **change** → **changed** or **dance** → **danced**.
- present participles dropping a final silent *e* and adding *-ing* to the stem, e.g. **change** → **changing** or **dance** → **dancing**.

Other forms are given in the dictionary, notably for:

- verbs which inflect by doubling a consonant, e.g. **bat** → **batted, batting**
- verbs ending in *-y* which inflect by changing *-y* to *-i*, e.g. **try** → **tries, tried**
- verbs in which past tense and past participle do not follow the regular *-ed* pattern, e.g. **feel** → past and past part. **felt**; **awake** → past **awoke**; past part. **awoken**
- present participles which add *-ing* but retain a final *e* (in order to make clear that the pronunciation of *g* remains soft), e.g. **singe** → **singeing**

Nouns: plurals formed by adding *-s* (or *-es* when they end in *-s*, *-x*, *-z*, *-sh*, or soft *-ch*) are regarded as regular and are not shown.

Other plural forms are given in the dictionary, notably for:

- nouns ending in *-i* or *-o*, e.g. **agouti** → **agoutis**, **albino** → **albinos**
- nouns ending in *-a*, *-um*, or *-us* which are or appear to be Latinate forms, e.g. **areola** → **areolae**, **spectrum** → **spectra**, **alveolus** → **alveoli**
- nouns ending in *-y*, e.g. **fly** → **flies**
- nouns with more than one plural form, e.g. **storey** → **storeys** or **stories**
- nouns with plurals showing a change in the stem, e.g. **foot** → **feet**
- nouns with plurals unchanged from the singular form, e.g. **sheep** → **sheep**

Adjectives: the following forms for comparative and superlative are regarded as regular and are not shown in the dictionary:

- words of one syllable adding *-er* and *-est*, e.g. **great** → **greater, greatest**
- words of one syllable ending in silent *e*, which drop the *-e* and add *-er* and *-est*, e.g. **brave** → **braver, bravest**
- words which form the comparative and superlative by adding 'more' and 'most'

Other forms are given in the dictionary, notably for:

- adjectives which form the comparative and superlative by doubling a final consonant, e.g. **hot** → **hotter, hottest**
- two-syllable adjectives which form the comparative and superlative with *-er* and *-est* (typically adjectives ending in *-y* and their negative forms), e.g. **happy** → **happier, happiest**; **unhappy** → **unhappier, unhappiest**

PRONUNCIATIONS

Pronunciations are not given for ordinary, everyday words such as **bake**, **baby**, **beach**, **bewilder**, **boastful**, or **budget**, since it is assumed that native speakers of English do not, as a rule, have problems with the pronunciation of such words.

In the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, the principle followed is that pronunciations are given only where they are likely to cause problems for the native speaker of English, in particular for foreign words, scientific and other technical terms, rare words, words with unusual stress patterns, and words in which the standard pronunciation is disputed. For example, full pronunciations are given for the following words: **baba ganoush**, **baccalaureate**, **beatific**, **bijouterie**, **bucolic**, and **buddleia**.

The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is used in representing the standard accent of English as spoken in the south of England (sometimes called Received Pronunciation or RP). It is recognized that, although the English of southern England is the pronunciation given, many variations are heard in standard speech in other parts of the English-speaking world.

The symbols used for English words, with their values, are given below.

Consonants

The following have their usual English values: *b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w*, and *z*.

Other symbols are used as follows:

g	get	x	loch	ð	this	j	yes
tʃ	chip	ŋ	ring	ʃ	she		
dʒ	jar	θ	thin	ʒ	decision		

Vowels

SHORT VOWELS	LONG VOWELS (: indicates length)	DIPHTHONGS	TRIPHTHONGS
a cat	ɑ: arm	ʌɪ my	ʌɪə fire
ɛ bed	ɛ: hair	aʊ how	aʊə sour
ə ago	ə: her	eɪ day	
ɪ sit	i: see	əʊ no	
i cosy	ɔ: saw	ɪə near	
ɒ hot	u: too	ɔɪ boy	
ʌ run		ʊə poor	
ʊ put			

(ə) before /l/, /m/, or /n/ indicates that the syllable may be realized with a syllabic **l**, **m**, or **n**, rather than with a vowel and a consonant, e.g. /'bʌt(ə)n/ rather than /'bʌtən/.

(r) indicates an **r** that is sometimes sounded when a vowel follows, as in *draw***r**, *cha-chai***ng**.

Foreign pronunciations

Foreign words and phrases, whether naturalized or not, are always given an anglicized pronunciation. The anglicized pronunciation represents the normal pronunciation used by native speakers of standard English when using the word in an English context. A foreign pronunciation is also given for words taken from other languages (principally French, Dutch, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish) where this is appreciably different from the anglicized form and where the other language is familiar to a reasonable number of English speakers.

Foreign-language transcriptions are based on current national standards. Regional variations have not been given, except in the case of Spanish transcriptions, where both Castilian and American Spanish variants are given. Transcriptions are broad, and many symbols, identical to those used for transcribing English, have similar values to those of RP. In a few cases, where there is no English equivalent to a foreign sound, a symbol has been added to the inventory. The additional symbols used to represent foreign pronunciations are given below.

Consonants

ç		gemütlich
ɲ		Monseigneur
β		bolivar
ɣ		alguacil
R	French 'r'	auberge

Vowels

SHORT VOWELS	LONG VOWELS (: indicates length)	NASALIZED VOWELS (~ indicates nasality)	DIPHTHONGS
ɐ Abitur	a: Autobahn	ã pincette	ai Gleichschaltung
e abbé	e: Wehrmacht	õ cordon bleu	
o cabildo	o: verboten	ũ chanson	
ɔ durchkomponiert		ĕ coup de main	
œ douceur		œ vingt-et-un	
ø vieux jeu	ø: Gasthöfe	õ arrondissement	
u curandero			
y cru	y: gemütlich		
ʲ Dáil			
˘ hauteur			

Guide to the use of the dictionary

Verb inflections

dab¹ ● v. (**dabbed**, **dabbing**) press against (something) lightly several times with a piece of absorbent material.
➤ apply (a substance) with light quick strokes. ● n. **1** a small amount: *she put a dab of perfume behind her ears.*
➤ a brief application of a piece of absorbent material to a surface. **2**: (**dabs**): Brit. informal fingerprints.
- ORIGIN ME: symbolic of a light striking movement; cf. **DABBLE** and **DIB**.

Typical form (in bold)

Example of use (taken from real evidence)

Homonym number (indicates different word with same spelling)

dab² ● n. a small, commercially important flatfish found chiefly in the North Atlantic. [*Limanda limanda* and other species.]
- ORIGIN ME: of unknown origin.

● introduces each new part of speech

➤ introduces each subsense

dabble ● v. **1** move (one's hands or feet) around gently in water. ➤ (of a duck or other water bird) move the bill around in shallow water while feeding. **2** (often **dabble in**) take part in an activity in a casual or superficial way.

Part of speech

Core sense

Typical pattern (in bold)

Label (showing regional distribution)

dab hand ● n. Brit. informal a person who is an expert at a particular activity.
- ORIGIN C19: of unknown origin.

Label (showing level of formality)

Pronunciation (for selected words)

da capo /dɑ: 'kɑ:pəʊ/ ● adv. & adj. Music repeat or repeated from the beginning. Compare with **DAL SEGNO**.
- ORIGIN Ital., lit. 'from the head'.

Subject label

Cross reference (in small capitals)

Information on plural use

dace /deɪs/ ● n. (pl. same) a freshwater fish related to the carp, typically living in running water. [*Leuciscus leuciscus* and other species.]
- ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *dars* (see **DART**).

Technical information for animals and plants (in square brackets)

Label (showing level of formality)

daddy-long-legs ● n. informal **1** Brit. a crane fly. **2** N. Amer. a harvestman.

Label (showing regional distribution)

Variant pronunciations

daikon /ˈdaɪk(ə)n, -kɒn/ ● n. another term for **MOULI**.
 - ORIGIN Japanese, from *dai* 'large' + *kon* 'root'.

Cross-reference entry
 (cross reference in small
 capitals)

daimyo /ˈdaɪmɪəʊ, ˈdaɪmjəʊ/ (also **daimio**) ● n. (pl. **-os**)
 (in feudal Japan) one of the great lords who were vassals
 of the shogun.
 - ORIGIN Japanese, from *dai* 'great' + *myō* 'name'.

Variant spelling

Plural form

daisy ● n. (pl. **-ies**) a small grassland plant with composite
 flowers having a yellow disc and white rays. [*Bellis*
perennis.] ► used in names of other plants of the same
 family, e.g. **Michaelmas daisy**.

Phrases and idioms

- PHRASES **pushing up (the) daisies** informal dead and
 buried.
 - ORIGIN OE *dæges ēage* 'day's eye' (because the flower
 opens in the morning and closes at night).

Word origin

Label

(showing currency)

damp ● adj. slightly wet. ● n. **1** moisture in the air, on a
 surface, or in a solid, typically with detrimental or un-
 pleasant effects. ► (**damps**) archaic damp air or atmos-
 phere. **2** archaic: a check or discouragement. ● v. **1** make
 damp. **2** control or restrain (a feeling or a situation). **3**
 make (a fire) burn less strongly by reducing its air
 supply. **4** reduce or stop the vibration of (the strings of a
 musical instrument). ► Physics: progressively reduce the
 amplitude of (an oscillation or vibration).

Subject label

Derivatives

(in alphabetical order)

- DERIVATIVES **dampish** adj. **damply** adv. **dampness** n.
 - ORIGIN ME (in the sense 'noxious inhalation'): of W. Gmc
 origin.

darts ● pl. n. [usu. treated as sing.] an indoor game in which
 darts are thrown at a dartboard to score points.

Grammatical
 information
 (in square brackets)