

**THE CONCISE  
OXFORD DICTIONARY  
OF CURRENT ENGLISH**

Edited by  
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based on  
**The Oxford Dictionary**

**FIFTH EDITION**

Revised by  
**E. McINTOSH**  
Etymologies revised by  
**G. W. S. FRIEDRICHSEN**

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## PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION

**I**N this edition the etymologies have been thoroughly revised, and for the most part rewritten, by G. W. S. Friedrichsen, to whom I express my sincere thanks for undertaking a laborious task.

Numerous correspondents have sent in useful suggestions for improving the dictionary, all of which are gratefully acknowledged and many of which have been adopted in part or in full. Particular mention must be made of the contributions of P. B. M. Allan, R. W. Burchfield (who read through the proofs), the late Dr R. W. Chapman, L. F. Schooling, and G. C. Vanneck.

With regard to hyphening, some doubt is often felt when the hyphen in a word coincides with the end of a line. To clarify the matter a true hyphen is repeated at the beginning of the following line.

E. McL., 1963

## PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

**I**N this completely revised and reset edition numerous corrections and additions have been made to bring the book up to date. Thanks are due to the many correspondents who have pointed out errors or suggested improvements. Especially must I express my gratitude to Dr Scholes, Dr Honeyman, and Mr J. M. Wyllie for the valuable assistance given for musical terms, chemical terms, and many technical terms. The officials of the Clarendon Press too, past and present, have throughout been most helpful.

In this edition the system of pronunciation devised for the *Pocket Oxford Dictionary* has been adopted, the senses have been usually numbered, the general abbreviations have been collected into an appendix, and the swung dash has been freely employed.

Swung dash (~).

To save space the 'swung dash' or 'tilde' is very frequently used in the body of the article or the list of derivatives. It represents either the complete word at the beginning of the article or the uninflected part of that word often marked by a vertical line. As, for example, in the article **repeat**, ~ stands for *repeat* (or repeat), ~ed for *repeated*, ~edLY<sup>2</sup> for *repeatedLY*<sup>2</sup>, ~ing for *repeating*, ~ER<sup>1</sup> for *repeater*<sup>1</sup>; and in the article **reverber|ate** we have ~ating, ~ate, ~atory, ~ation, ~ative, ~ant representing *reverberating*, *reverberate*, *reverberatory*, *reverberation*, *reverberative*, *reverberant*.

E. McL., 1950

*From the*  
PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

THE publication of the Supplement to the *Oxford English Dictionary* in November 1933 makes important additions to the material which it is the aim of this book, as a dictionary of the living language, to present. Mr H. W. Fowler entrusted me with the preparation of this edition in February 1933, and until his death on the 26th December of that year I had the privilege of his guidance.

H. G. LE MESURIER, 1934

*From the*  
PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

WHEN we began, more than twenty years ago, the work that took shape as *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*, we were plunging into the sea of lexicography without having been first taught to swim. But lexicography for us was fortunately of the minor or dependent kind; and, fortunately also, the time was one at which the major or firsthand kind was reaching greater excellence than ever before, and the *Oxford English Dictionary*, four-fifths completed, already provided popularizers with unlimited material.

The object we set before us, hinted at by the word *current* on our title-page, was to present as vivid a picture as the small dictionary could be made to give of the English that was being spoken and written at the time. The vividness was to be secured by allotting space to words more nearly in proportion to the frequency and variety of their use, and consequently to their practical value, than had been the custom; and further by an unprecedented abundance of illustrative quotation; define, and your reader gets a silhouette; illustrate, and he has it 'in the round'. That at least was our belief; and we hailed as confirmation of it one or two letters from persons unknown congratulating us on having 'produced a live dictionary', or 'treating English at last as a living language'.

A living language, however, does not remain unchanged through twenty years and a great war; our picture has needed, and received, a good deal of retouching before being again exhibited in public.

H. W. F., 1929

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A DICTIONARY-MAKER, unless he is a monster of omniscience, must deal with a great many matters of which he has no firsthand knowledge. That he has been guilty of errors and omissions in some of these he will learn soon after publication, sometimes with gratitude to his enlightener, sometimes otherwise. The first letter we received after C.O.D. appeared was a demand for repayment of the book's cost, on the ground that it failed to give *gal(l)iot*, to settle the spelling of which it had been bought. Even for that announcement of an omission I am now grateful, as affording a good illustration of the less friendly form of correction, and reminding me to assure the public that to one revising for a new edition no correction is (ultimately) unwelcome; all is grist that comes to his mill. At the other end of the scale is the friend, known to me only by correspondence, who for years sent me fortnightly packets of foolscap devoted to perfecting a still contingent second edition—all this for love of the language not as a philological playground, but as the medium of exchange and bond of union among the English-speakers of the world. *Castigavit et emendavit Byron F. Caws* might have stood with justice at the foot of our title-page.

Other helpers have been many, some with systematic lists, others with a few isolated but valuable points; to all those in the list below I would fain offer—what some of them are no longer living to receive—my heartiest thanks:

Leslie J. Berlin Esq.; Major B. F. Caws; Dr R. W. Chapman; Mr S. K. N. Chaudhuri; \*Sir Arthur Church K.C.V.O.; Rev. G. P. Ford; H. Gilbert-Carter Esq.; \*Prof. Marcus Hartog; the Very Reverend Dr J. H. Hertz; Rev. J. Clare Hudson; Rev. F. E. Hutchinson; Lindsay Johnson M.D., F.R.S.; Rev. D. Evans Jones; Major C. V. N. Lyne; D. C. Macgregor Esq.; F. Morland Esq.; C. O. Ovington Esq.; George Pernet M.D.; Prof. Sir Flinders Petrie F.R.S.; Rev. S. de Saram; Kenneth Sisam Esq.; W. H. Thompson Esq.; B. H. Tower Esq.; F. F. Urquhart Esq.; \*Rev. M. N. Walde; E. B. F. Wareing Esq.; \*Dr F. H. P. van Wely; J. Beach Whitmore Esq.; Ernest W. Wignall Esq.; C. F. Williams F.G.S.; \*Sir Dawson Williams C.B.E.

H. W. F.

\* Those whose names are thus marked are known to me to be no longer living; and I fear the same may be true of some others, whom I have failed to reach by postal inquiries.

*From the*  
PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

THE steady advance towards completion of the great *Oxford English Dictionary* has made it possible for the Delegates of the Clarendon Press to authorize the preparation and issue of this book, which in its own province and on its own scale uses the materials and follows the methods by which the Oxford editors have revolutionized lexicography. The book is designed as a dictionary, and not as an encyclopaedia; that is, the uses of words and phrases as such are its subject matter, and it is concerned with giving information about the things for which those words and phrases stand only so far as correct use of the words depends upon knowledge of the things. The degree of this dependence varies greatly with the kind of word treated, the difference between cyclopaedic and dictionary treatment varies with it, and the line of distinction is accordingly a fluctuating and dubious one. It is to the endeavour to discern and keep to this line that we attribute whatever peculiarities we are conscious of in this dictionary as compared with others of the same size. One of these peculiarities is the large amount of space given to the common words that no one goes through the day without using scores or hundreds of times, often disposed of in a line or two on the ground that they are plain and simple and that everyone knows all about them by the light of nature, but in fact entangled with other words in so many alliances and antipathies during their perpetual knocking about the world that the idiomatic use of them is far from easy; chief among such words are the prepositions, the conjunctions, the pronouns, and such 'simple' nouns and verbs as *hand* and *way*, *go* and *put*. Another peculiarity is the use, copious for so small a dictionary, of illustrative sentences as a necessary supplement to definition when a word has different senses between which the distinction is fine, or when a definition is obscure and unconvincing until exemplified; these sentences often are, but still more often are not, quotations from standard authors; they are meant to establish the sense of the definition by appeal not to external authority, but to the reader's own consciousness, and therefore their source, even when authoritative, is not named. A third and a fourth peculiarity are the direct results of the preceding ones; if common words are to be treated at length, and their uses to be copiously illustrated, space must be saved both by the curtest possible treatment of all that are either uncommon or fitter for the encyclopaedia than the dictionary, and by the severest economy of expression—amounting to the adoption of telegraphese—that readers can be expected to put up with.

In attaching this great importance to illustration, by the need of which the relative length of articles, and our manner of expressing ourselves on every page, are governed, we are merely acting, with the exaggeration imposed on us by our limited space, upon the principles of the O.E.D. That may be said to be the first dictionary for which the ideal procedure has been possible, that is, the approaching of each article with an open mind and a collection of examples large enough to be exhaustive, and the extraction from these of classified senses—the first dictionary, to put it another way, in which quotations have served not merely to adorn or

convince, but as the indispensable raw material. This procedure—first the collection of sentences from all possible sources as raw material, and then the independent classification—we have often followed even in that part of our book (A–R) in which the O.E.D., with senses already classified and definitions provided, was before us, treating its articles rather as quarries to be drawn upon than as structures to be reproduced in little; and in the later part (S–Z), where we had no longer the O.E.D. to depend upon, it has been our practice still more often; for many of the more difficult (i.e. especially the common and ‘simple’) words, we have collected the quotations given in the best modern dictionaries (the *Imperial*, the *Century*, the *Standard*, Cassell’s *Encyclopaedic*, Webster, etc.), added to these what we could get either from other external sources or from our own heads, and then framed our articles, often without reference to the arrangement that we found in any of our authorities. Proceeding in this manner, it was almost inevitable that we should be very much alive to the inadequacy of mere definition and the need of constant illustration. That our examples have some general tendency to the colloquial, and include many usages for which room has not been found in dictionaries many times as large as this, is in harmony with our design of on the one hand restricting ourselves for the most part to current English, and on the other hand omitting nothing to which that description may fairly be applied.

## VOCABULARY

The words, or senses of words, given are meant to be such only as are current; ‘current’, however, is an elastic term; we might, but we do not, stretch it to include all words and senses used by Shakspeare or in the Bible, on the ground that the whole of Shakspeare and the whole of the Bible are still commonly read; thus the archaic senses of *addition* (title), *buxom* (pliant), *owe* (own), *sad* (serious), *sort* (suit), and the archaic words *shend* (scold), *wood* (mad), familiar as they are to readers of Elizabethan literature, are not given. We do stretch it to include many words and senses that are fossilized, having in themselves no life or capacity for further development, but kept extant by being enshrined in perhaps a single proverb or phrase that is still in use; of this sort are *coil* (confusion), preserved by ‘shuffled off this mortal coil’, and *scotch* (wound), preserved by ‘we have scotched the snake, not killed it’.

Again, of the many thousands of old or new scientific and technical terms that have a limited currency some are carried by accident into the main stream of the language and become known temporarily or permanently, vaguely or precisely, to all ordinarily well-informed members of the modern newspaper-reading public. For the purposes of a dictionary that is not to be bulky and yet is to give a fuller treatment than is usual in dictionaries of its size to the undoubtedly current words forming the staple of the language, selection among these intruders is a difficult but very necessary task. The most that can be hoped for is that every one conversant with any special vocabulary may consider us, though sadly deficient on his subject, fairly copious on others; the meaning of many learned words that have been omitted as having no pretence to general currency may easily be gathered by reference first to the stem, which is often the subject of an article, or to another word of which the stem is clearly the same, and secondly to the suffix.

In another class of words and senses the test of currency has led us to diverge in the opposite direction from the practice usual in dictionaries of this size; if we give fewer scientific and technical terms, we admit colloquial, facetious, slang, and vulgar expressions with freedom, merely attaching a cautionary label; when a well-established usage of this kind is omitted, it is not because we consider it beneath the dignity of lexicography to record it, but because, not being recorded in the dictionaries from which our word-list is necessarily compiled, it has escaped our notice; we have not, however, consulted slang dictionaries nor made any attempt at completeness in this respect.

## SPELLING

The spelling adopted is for the most part, but not invariably, that of the O.E.D. Such generally established spellings as *judgment*, *rhyme*, *axe*, have not been excluded in favour of the *judgement*, *rime*, *ax*, preferred by the O.E.D., but are retained at least as alternatives having the right to exist. In dealing with verbs such as *level*, *rivet*, *bias*, whose parts and derivatives are variously spelt, the final consonant being often doubled with no phonetic or other significance, we have as far as possible fallen in with the present tendency, which is to drop the useless letter, but stopped short of recognizing forms that at present strike every reader as Americanisms; thus we write *riveted*, *riveter*, but not *traveling*, *traveler*. On another point of varying usage—the insertion of a mute e in derivatives in *-able*, *-age*, *-ish*, etc., to indicate the ‘long’ sound of the stem vowel (*likable* or *likeable*, *milage* or *mileage*, *latish* or *lateish*)—we have thought ourselves justified in taking a bolder line, and have consistently omitted the *-e*; it is against all analogy (or why not *smileing*, *Romeish*, *doteage*, *tideat*, *indescribleable*, *desireable*, *exciteable*?), it is used chiefly in words not familiar or important enough to have their form respected as established, it obscures the different and more valuable use by which a soft g or c is indicated as in *manageable* and *serviceable*, and it tempts bad spellers to such monstrosities as *unpalateable*, *loveable*, and *moveable*. In words of the type *ardour*, *colour*, *favour*, where the O.E.D. recognizes both *-our* and *-or*, we have excluded the latter as being (except in particular words like *horror* and *torpor*, in which it is usually the only form) entirely non-British. Words in which *-y-* has intruded itself without completely dispossessing a more correct *-i-*, as *sylvan*, *tyro*, *tyre*, we have given with the *-i-* form either alone or placed first.

## ORDER OF SENSES

From the order in which the senses of a word are here given no inference must be drawn as to their historical or other relations, the arrangement being freely varied according to the requirements or possibilities of the particular word. Sense-development cannot always be convincingly presented without abundant quotation from authorities, and the historical order is further precluded by the uniform omission of obsolete senses. Occasionally, when a rare but still current sense throws light on the commoner senses that follow or forms the connecting link with the etymology, it has been placed at the beginning; but more commonly the order adopted has been that of logical connexion or of comparative familiarity or importance.



## DERIVATIVES

*Hence* introduces one or more of the direct derivatives of the word treated; *whence* introduces such derivatives under a particular sense to which they are restricted; *so* introduces words derived from another language; *hence or cogn.*, *whence or cogn.*, introduce groups of partly English and partly foreign derivation. The suffixes of such derivatives are commonly printed in small capitals, and are thus referred to the suffix article in its alphabetical place. The numbers enclosed in brackets indicate subdivisions of the suffix article, and are often used to distinguish among the possible senses of the derivative word those in which it is chiefly current.

## REFERENCE BY SMALL CAPITALS

The use of small capitals for etymological purposes is explained above. In the same way reference is made:

(1) from the word treated to another word for the purpose of contrast, distinction, correlation, or the like. Of this kind are the references from *slander* to *libel* and *scandal*, from *creationism* to *evolution* and vice versa, and from *tenon* to *mortise* and vice versa;

(2) from any member of a group to the word under which the group is collected or further explained. *Ruby* (print.) is in this way referred to *type*; *order* (nat. hist.) to *class*<sup>1</sup>; and the *iron*<sup>1</sup>, *golden*, and *silver ages* to *brazen*<sup>1</sup>;

(3) from one or more words of a proverb or the like to that under which alone the proverb is explained. *Play*<sup>1</sup> and *drake*<sup>2</sup> contain such references to *duck*<sup>1</sup>, *flesh* to *fish*<sup>1</sup>;

(4) from a compound of the word treated to its other component for explanation. The sign (=) prefixed to such a reference indicates that the simple word treated is itself used in the sense of the compound. Thus, under *pie*<sup>1</sup>, *sea-pie* is merely referred (SEA-~) to *sea*, but *magpie*, besides being referred to the article *magpie*, is recorded (= MAGPIE) as one of the senses of *pie*.

June, 1911

## ETYMOLOGY

The etymology is given in square brackets at the end of each article when it is certainly known or regarded as probable. When, however, a proposed etymology rests on conjecture or hypothesis, it is ignored and the word is described as 'of unkn. orig.' or 'orig. unkn.'. References to other articles are in small capitals.

Words of Germanic (Gmc) origin that have come down from Old or Middle English are illustrated so far as possible by some or all of the forms recorded in the older stages of the cognate dialects, in the order Old Saxon (OS), Old High German (OHG), Old Norse (ON), and Gothic (Goth.). In Germanic inferred forms *th* and *dh* are used to denote the unvoiced and voiced dental spirants. In OE and ON words, as in OS and Gothic, the 'thorn' (þ) and the 'barred d' (ð) are represented by *th*, as hitherto. Thus OE *paeth* PATH, *þrāwan* THROW, ON *theit* THWAITE, *garthr* GARTH. In OS words the plain *b* and *d* are used irrespective of their phonetic value in that dialect. The letters with superimposed macrons (ā, æ, etc.) in forms quoted from OE or other Gmc languages are long. For ON words the customary diacritic of length has been retained, as *á*, *é*, etc.

'ME' includes the fifteenth century, no distinction being made between early and late ME. The use of this term will serve to distinguish words that were in use before 1500 from those whose documentation belongs to the sixteenth or later centuries.

Words of Romanic provenance are referred to their proximate origin, for the most part Old French, the earlier history of which, when known, is briefly indicated.

When OF or the like at the beginning of the etymology is not followed by the OF form, it is because the latter is identical in spelling with the English or differs from it only in some detail specified in brackets. Identity of ME and OF forms may be expressed as in 'ME *chartre* f. OF' (CHARTER<sup>1</sup>) or as in 'ME & OF *sidre*' (CIDER).

If the word is adopted from OF, the parent word is described as OF even though it survives in modern French in the same form, thus: 'ME *charge* f. OF'. Where the modern French differs appreciably from its OF form, this may be indicated as in 'ME & OF *prow* (mod. F *preux*)' (PROW<sup>2</sup>).

F, G, etc., must not be taken to imply that the word to which they are prefixed is current, or so spelt, in the modern language; nor does it follow from a word being given as OF that it is obsolete.

French nouns of Latin origin normally represent the Latin accusative case; nevertheless in this dictionary the Latin nominative is cited except when (e.g. in words ending in *-atio*) a change of stress is involved; thus, e.g., ORISON 'ME f. OF, f. L *orationem*'. For English words derived directly from Latin, the nominative case is cited, as in LIBATION 'f. L *libatio*'.

Many English words that have corresponding forms in both French and Latin present a special problem in that one cannot be certain whether the word was adopted from its French or from its Latin analogue. Sometimes, moreover, an earlier adoption from one source has been reinforced by a later adoption from, or conformation to, the other;

or, again, now one, now the other language has been laid under contribution by different individuals or groups of individuals. In such cases alternative origins have been given, which may mean either 'f. French or Latin' or 'f. French and Latin'.

In words derived from Latin, or from Greek through its latinized form, the age and standing of the Latin word are distinguished as Latin (L), late Latin (LL), medieval Latin (med. L), or modern Latin (mod. L). The dates here assumed are, for 'L', down to c. A.D. 200; for 'LL', from c. 200 to c. 600; for 'med. L', from c. 600 to c. 1500; for 'mod. L', from c. 1500.

The Latin form of a Greek word is usually omitted, and is to be inferred according to the rules of transliteration given below. Thus under PLEONASM 'f. L f. Gk *pleonasmos*' is to be read 'f. L *pleonasmus* f. Gk *pleonasmos*'.

A similar omission of a word in any other language implies identity of form.

Greek words are written with the corresponding English letters ( $\phi$ ,  $\chi$ ,  $\psi$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $\rho\rho$ , = ph, kh, ps, rh, rrh, and  $\alpha$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\omega$  =  $\bar{\alpha}$ i,  $\bar{\epsilon}$ i,  $\bar{\omicron}$ i), and not according to the Latin transliteration, the rules for which are as follows: Greek k = Latin c; ai = ae, ou = u; u (except in diphthongs) = y; ei = i or e; oi = oe (but in nom. pl. = i); g (before g or k) = n; also, - $\acute{\omicron}$ s (nom. masc.), - $\acute{\omicron}$ n = -us, -um; - $\acute{\epsilon}$ s, - $\acute{\epsilon}$  (1st decl. nom.) = -a; - $\acute{\omicron}$ n (nom.) = -o; - $\acute{\omicron}$ s (genit.) = -is; -a (accus. sing. masc. or fem.) = -em.

The first element of a compound word is often referred to a prefix article, and the remainder treated separately within brackets; meanings given within the bracket belong to the simple word, those of the compound being added if necessary outside it. Thus CONVENIRE is '[f. F *convenir* f. L CON(*venire vent-* come) assemble, agree, fit]'. The stem *vent-* and the sense 'agree, fit' are here added for the elucidation of CONVENTION and CONVENIENCE, which are referred to CONVENIRE.

The first element of a Greek compound similarly treated is sometimes written according to the current (Latin) transliteration, to facilitate reference to the prefix article; Greek *kakoepeia*, under CACOEPIY, accordingly appears as CACO(*epeia*). Certain similar devices for saving needless repetition will, it is believed, explain themselves.

The etymological sections of all words, as also the prefix and the suffix articles, have been revised or redrafted for the present (fifth) edition. They are based in the first instance on the corresponding articles in the O.E.D., but we have also been privileged to make use of the proofs of the *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*, now nearing completion, by Dr. C. T. Onions, C.B.E. The great help and the many improvements afforded by this work are thankfully acknowledged.

G. W. S. F.

November, 1963

## PRONUNCIATION

Phonetic respelling is placed in round brackets immediately after such words as require it, and the symbols in the PHONETIC SCHEME are primarily intended for this purpose. But respelling is often saved by employing the same symbols in the black type of the actual word; *bānish*, for instance, has no respelling, and *dispōse* has only (-z).

Vowel symbols given in the Scheme with —, ∪, —, or ∩, are also used without these marks to denote a vague indeterminate sound, which is almost identical for all vowels and (except in studied elocution) has no clear relation to the corresponding vowel marked — etc. (e.g., the *a* in *about* is like the *o* in *reason*, *proceed*, and is not like *ā* or *ă*). When so used in brackets, the indeterminates are printed in italics, thus: *ago* (*agō*), *proceed* (*prosēd*), *particular* (*partikūlar*). Used in the actual word, they are recognized by the absence of the marks —, ∪, etc.; thus in *sācrament*, *cōmmon*, *bēggarily*, all the unmarked vowels (*a*; *e*; *o*; *ar*) are indeterminate. This does not apply to the last six symbols in the Scheme, which never have marks over them and are always distinct.

Indeterminate endings in -n, -m, -l or -le, when they require respelling, are also represented thus: *poison* (-zn), *fūsion* (-zhn), *tēnsion* (-shn), *ōcean* (-shn), *listen* (-sn), *bosom* (bōōzm), *hūstle* (-sl), *official* (-shl), *weasel* (-zl), the vowel sound being that similarly indicated by the actual spelling of *spasm*, *prism*, etc.

## PHONETIC SCHEME

Consonants: *b*; *ch* (*chín*); *d*; *dh* (*dhe* = *the*); *g* (*go*); *h*; *j*; *k*; *l*; *m*; *n*; *ng* (*sing*); *ngg* (*finger*); *p*; *r*; *s* (*síp*); *sh* (*ship*); *t*; *th* (*thin*); *v*; *w*; *y*; *z*; *zh* (*vizhn* = *vision*).

Vowels: *ā ē ī ō ū* *ōō* (*mate mete mite mote mute moot*)

*ă ô ĩ ö ũ* *ōō* (*rack reck rick rock ruck rook*)

*ār ēr ĩr ōr ūr* (*mare mere mire more mure*)

*ār ēr ōr* (*part pert port*)

*ah aw oi oor ow owr* (*bah bawl boil boor brow bower*)

Vowels marked *∩* may be pronounced either way, e.g. *pātriot* (*pā-* or *pă-*). In all vowel symbols with *r* (*ār*, *ēr*, etc.), the *r*, besides influencing the vowel sound, has its consonantal value when followed by a vowel in the next syllable of the sentence as explained in the dictionary article -*er*<sup>2</sup>. In the thousands of compounds given under their first elements among the alphabetically arranged combinations, accent is thus shown: if there is no hyphen separating the parts, the accent is always given (*back'bone*, *backslide'*); if there is a hyphen, the regular usage is for the first of the compounded words to be stressed, and the

## ACCENT

The main accent is shown by the mark ' , usually placed at the end of the stressed syllable; but, division into syllables being arbitrary in English, positions for the accent that would disguise the pronunciation are avoided; thus *stārr'y* but *cārr'y*, *wōll'en* but *cōol'y*, *lō'al* but *vēlō'city*, *ōv'er* but *co'ver* (*kū-*), *mūdd'y* but *mūd'dle*. The placing of two accents on a word means either (a) that the two marked syllables are equally stressed, as in *ding-dong'*, or (b) that among good speakers the one accentuation has as many adherents as the other, or (c) that the stress varies according to position in the sentence as explained in the dictionary article -*er*<sup>2</sup>. In the thousands of compounds given under their first elements among the alphabetically arranged combinations, accent is thus shown: if there is no hyphen separating the parts, the accent is always given (*back'bone*, *backslide'*); if there is a hyphen, the regular usage is for the first of the compounded words to be stressed, and the

accent is then usually omitted (so oak-apple); if the stress falls, contrary to this rule, on the second component, it is marked (head-on' adv.); if the stress is variable, each part has an accent (high-strung').

## PRONUNCIATION WITHOUT RESPELLING

All the further information necessary for the pronunciation of any word or part of a word that is not respelt is contained in the following six paragraphs; the assumptions made in these hold unless the contrary is shown in brackets.

1. Any letter or combination in the Phonetic Scheme has the value there shown; e.g., *aw* as in *awl*, not as in *awake* (*awāk'*); and *ginger*, *finger*, would be required to rhyme with *singer* unless *ginger* were followed by (-j-), and *linger* by (-ngg-).

2. The following additional symbols are used in the black type:

ĕ = I (*nāk'éd, rély', cōll'ège, priv'èt*)

ſt, ſr, = ər (*bſtth, bſrn*)

ȳ, ȳ, = I, I (*ĩmplȳ', sũnn'ȳ*).

3. Final e unmarked is not indeterminate, but mute (*sāne, ĩndŭc'tive; cf. rĕcipĕ, dĭlĕttān'tĕ*).

4. A doubled consonant is pronounced as single (*sill'ȳ, mǎnn'ish, bŭtt'er*), not as in *cōl'ly* (-l-lī) or *plān'nĕss* (-n-n-).

5. The following combinations and letters have the values shown:

### Vowels.

ae = ē (*aegis*)

ai = ā (*pain*)

air = ār (*fair*)

au = aw (*maul*)

ay = ā (*say*)

ea, ee, = ē (*mean, meet*)

ear, eer, = ər (*fear, beer*)

eu, ew, = ū (*feud, few*)

ie = ē (*thief*)

ier = ər (*pier*)

oa = ō (*boat*)

ou = ow (*bound*)

oy = oi (*coy*)

### Consonants.

c is 'hard' and = k (*cob, cry, talc*), but

c before e, i, y, is 'soft' and = s (*ice, icy, city*)

dg = j (*judgement*)

g before e, i, y, is 'soft' and = j (*age, gin, orgy*)

kn = n at beginning of word or element of compound (*knot, unknott*)

n before k, 'hard' c, q, x, = ng (*zinc, uncle, tank, banquet, minx*)

ph = f (*photo*)

qu = kw (*quit*)

tch = ch (*batch*)

wr = r at beginning of word or element of compound (*wry, awry*)

x = ks (*fox*)

χ is the sound in Scots and German *loch*.

6. The following terminations have the values shown:

-age = -ij (*garbage*)

-ate = -it or -at (*mandate*)

-ey = -i (*donkey*)

-ous = -us (*furious*)

-sm = -zm (*atheism, spasm*)

-tion = -shon (*salvation*)

-ture = -cher as well as -tūr, esp. in common words.

## INFLEXION

The rules assumed, exceptions to which are noted in a bracket placed after a word's grammatical description, are given below. The term 'sibilants' stands for words ending in -s, -x, -z, -sh or soft -ch, 'o wds' for all that end in -o, 'e wds' for all that end in mute -e, and 'y wds' for all that end in -y not preceded by a vowel (e.g. *deny, puppy*, but not *bray, donkey*).

1. Plural of nouns. Sibilants add -es (*boxes, porches*); -y wds change -y into -ies (*puppies*); the plural of -o wds is usually stated thus, *photo* n. (pl. ~s), *potato* n. (pl. ~es); other nouns add -s (*books*).

2. Possessive of nouns. Singular nouns take apostrophe, *s* (*man's, James's*); plurals, if they do not end in *s*, form the possessive by the same rule (*men's, geese's*), but, if they end in *s*, take an apostrophe only (*boys'*).

3. Comparative and superlative of adjectives and adverbs. In monosyllables and some disyllables (e.g. those in *-y*) add *-er* and *-est* (*bolder*), *-e* wds dropping the *-e* (*bravest*), and disyllables in *-y* having *-ier* and *-iest* (*happier, luckiest*); in other cases prefix *more* and *most* (*more beautiful, most splendid*). Monosyllables double a final single consonant (except *x* and *w*) if preceded by a single vowel (*grimmer*). This may be stated in the dictionary.

4. Third person singular present of verbs. Sibilants and *-o* wds add *-es* (*pushes, goes*); *-y* wds change *-y* into *-ies* (*cries*); other verbs add *-s* (*sings*).

5. Past and p.p. of verbs. *-e* wds add *-d* (*moved*); *-y* wds change *-y* into *-ied* (*relied*); other verbs add *-ed* (*trusted, vetoed*); if the final consonant is doubled, it is stated in the dictionary, thus: *glut*, v.t. (*-tt-*); *revel*, v.i. & t. (*-ll-*).

6. Participle of verbs. All verbs add *-ing* (*fishing*), *-e* wds dropping the *-e* (*dancing*); monosyllables double a final single consonant (except *x*) if preceded by a single vowel (*grabbing*).

7. Archaic 2nd and 3rd singular of verbs. The forms in *-(e)st* and *-(e)th*, being archaic, need only be mentioned, without rules; *-(e)st* is 2nd sing. present and past, *-(e)th* is 3rd sing. present; examples are *playest, dost, hear'st, madest, wouldst, saith, goeth*.

## ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE DICTIONARY

(For list of general abbreviations see Appendix I)

a., aa., adjective(s)  
abbr./eviation etc.  
abl./ative  
abs./olute(ly)  
acc., according, accusative  
act./ive  
adj./ective etc.  
adjl., adjectives  
adv./erb etc.  
advv., adverbs  
aeron./autics etc.  
aesthet./ics etc.  
AF, Anglo-French  
Afr./ica(n)  
AL, Anglo-Latin  
alch./emy etc.  
alg./ebra etc.  
allus./ive etc.  
alt./eration etc.  
alw./ays  
Amer./ica(n)  
AN, Anglo-Norman  
anal./ogy etc.  
anat./omy etc.  
Anglo-Ind./ian  
anon./ymous etc.  
ant./iquities  
anthrop./ology etc.  
ap./pendix  
app./arently  
Arab./ic  
Aram./ic  
arbitr./ary  
arch./aic  
archaeol./ogy etc.  
archit./ecture etc.  
arith./metic etc.

Ass./yrian  
assim./ilated etc.  
assoc./iated etc.  
astrol./ogy etc.  
astron./omy etc.  
attrib./utive etc.  
augment./ative etc.  
Austral./ia(n)

b./orn  
back form./ation  
be./fore  
bibl./ical etc.  
bibliog./raphy etc.  
bill./iards  
biog./raphy etc.  
biol./ogy etc.  
Boh./emian  
bot./any etc.  
Braz./il(ian)  
Brit./on  
Brit./ish  
Bulg./aria(n)  
Burm./ese  
Byz./antine

c./entury  
c./irca  
cc., centuries  
Celt./ic  
cf., compare  
chem./istry etc.  
Chin./ese  
chronol./ogy etc.  
cinemat./ography etc.  
cl./assical  
cogn./ate

collect./ive(y)  
colloq./ual etc.  
com./mon  
comb./ination etc.  
commere./ial etc.  
comp., compar./ative  
compd., compound  
compl./ement  
compp., compounds  
com./mon -Teut./onic  
con./ics  
conch./ology etc.  
confus./ion  
conj., conjunction,  
conjugation  
conn./ect etc.  
constr./uction etc.  
contempt./uous etc.  
contr./action etc.  
cop./ulative  
Copt./ic  
Corn./ish  
corr./ection etc.  
correl./ative etc.  
corresp./onding etc.  
corrupt./ion  
cp., compare  
crick./et  
cryst./allography  
cu., cub., cubic  
Cym./ric

d./ied  
Da./nish  
dat./ive  
demonstr./ative  
dent./istry

- deriv./ative etc.  
 derog./atory etc.  
 dial./ect etc.  
 dict./ionary  
 diff./erent  
 different./iate etc.  
 dim./inutive etc.  
 dimin., diminutives  
 diplom./acy  
 dir./ect etc.  
 dissim./ilate etc.  
 dist./inct etc.  
 distrib./utive etc.  
 disyl./labic etc.  
 Dor./ic  
 Du./tch  
 dynam./ics etc.  
 E, English  
 ecclesiastical etc.  
 EFr., East Frisian  
 Egyptol./ogy  
 E. Ind., East Indian  
 electr./icity etc.  
 ellipt./ical etc.  
 embryol./ogy  
 engin./eering etc.  
 Engl., England, English  
 entom./ology etc.  
 error./eous (ly)  
 eschat./ology etc.  
 esp./ecial (ly)  
 eth./ics etc.  
 ethnol./ogy etc.  
 etym./ology etc.  
 euphem./ism etc.  
 Eur./ope (an)  
 ex./ample  
 exagg./eration etc.  
 exc./ept  
 exch./ange  
 excl., exclamation etc., exclusive etc.  
 excll., exclamations  
 expl./ain etc.  
 expr./essing etc.  
 exx., examples  
 F, French  
 f./rom  
 facet./ious etc.  
 fam./iliar etc.  
 fem./inine etc.  
 fenc./ing  
 fig./urative etc.  
 Fl./emish  
 foll./owing (word)  
 footb./all  
 form./ation  
 fortif./ication  
 Fr./ench  
 Frank./ish  
 freq./uent (ly)  
 frequent./ative (ly)  
 Fris./ian  
 ft, foot, feet  
 fut./ure  
 G, German  
 Gael./ic  
 gal./lon (s)  
 gen., general etc., genitive  
 geog./raphy etc.  
 geol./ogy etc.  
 geom./etry etc.  
 Gk, Greek  
 Gmc, Germanic  
 Goth./ic  
 gr., gram./mar etc.  
 gymn./astics etc.  
 Heb./rew  
 her./aldry etc.  
 Hind., Hindi, Hindustani  
 hist./orical etc., history  
 hort./iculture etc.  
 Hung./arian, -ary  
 hydrost./atics etc.  
 t., intransitive  
 Icel./andic  
 illit./erate etc.  
 imit./ative etc.  
 imper., imperat./ive  
 imperf./ect  
 impers./onal  
 improv./er (ly)  
 incept./ive  
 incl./uding, -usive  
 Ind./ia (n)  
 ind., indicative, indirect  
 indecl./inable  
 inf./initive  
 infl./uence etc.  
 instr./umental (case)  
 int./erjection  
 interrog./ative (ly)  
 intr./ansitive  
 Ir./ish  
 iron./ical (ly)  
 irreg./ular (ly)  
 It., Ital./ian  
 Ital./ics  
 Jam./aica (n)  
 Jap./an (ese)  
 Jav./anese  
 Jew./ish  
 Joc./ose, -ular (ly)  
 L, Latin  
 lang./uage  
 Lat./in  
 lexicog./raphy etc.  
 LG, Low German  
 lit./eral (ly)  
 Lith./uanian (n)  
 LL, late Latin  
 log./ic etc.  
 M, middle (with languages)  
 magn./etism etc.  
 manuf./acture etc.  
 masc./uline  
 math./ematics etc.  
 MDu., middle Dutch  
 ME, middle English (1200-1500)  
 mech./anics etc.  
 med./icine etc.  
 med. L, medieval Latin  
 metaph./or etc.  
 metaphys./ics etc.  
 metath./esis etc.  
 meteor./ology etc.  
 meton./ymy  
 Mex./ican  
 MHG, middle High German  
 mil./itary etc.  
 min./eralogy etc.  
 MLG, middle Low German  
 mod./ern  
 monosyl./labic etc.  
 morphol./ogy etc.  
 MSw., middle Swedish  
 mus./ic etc.  
 myth./ology etc.  
 n./oun  
 N. Amer., North American  
 nat. hist., natural history  
 nat. phil., natural philo-  
 sophy  
 naut./ical etc.  
 nav./al etc.  
 neg./ative (ly)  
 neut./er  
 NFris., North Frisian  
 nn., nouns  
 nom./inative  
 Norm./an  
 north./ern  
 Norw./egian, -ay  
 N.T., New Testament  
 num./eral  
 O, old (with languages)  
 obj./ect etc.  
 obl./ique  
 obs./olete  
 obsc./ure etc.  
 obsolesc./ent  
 obstet./rics etc.  
 occas./ional (ly)  
 ODa., old Danish  
 OE, old English  
 OF, old French  
 OFris., old Frisian  
 OHG, old High German  
 OIr., old Irish  
 OLG, old Low German  
 ON, old Norse  
 ONF, old northern French  
 onomat./opoeic etc.  
 opp., (as) opposed (to)  
 OPr., old Provençal  
 opt., optative, optics etc.  
 ord./inary  
 orig./inal (ly)  
 ornith./ology etc.  
 OS, old Saxon  
 OSlav., old Slavonic  
 OSp., old Spanish  
 O.T., Old Testament  
 p./age  
 paint./ing  
 Pal./estine  
 palaeog./raphy etc.  
 palaeont./ology etc.  
 parenth./etic etc.  
 Parl./liament (ary)  
 part., (present) participle  
 partic./ipial  
 pass./ive (ly)  
 path./ology etc.  
 pedant./ic (ally)  
 perf./ect (tense)  
 perh./aps  
 Pers./ia (n)  
 pers./on (al)  
 pert./aining  
 Peruv./ian  
 Pg., Portuguese  
 pharm./acy etc.  
 philol./ogy etc.  
 philos./ophy etc.  
 Phoen./icia (n)  
 phon., phonet./ics etc.  
 phonol./ogy etc.  
 photog./raphy etc.  
 phr./ase  
 phren./ology etc.  
 phrr., phrases  
 phys./ics etc.  
 physiol./ogy etc.  
 pl./ural  
 plup./erfect  
 poet./ical etc.  
 Pol./ish, -and

# xvi ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE DICTIONARY

pol./itics etc.	Rom./an hist./ory	therm./ometry etc.
pol. econ., political eco-	Russ./ia(n)	thr./ough
nomy		trans./itive etc.
polit./ics etc.	s./ingular	transf., in transferred sense
pop./ular etc.	S. Afr., South Africa(n)	translit./eration etc.
Port./uguese	Sax./on	trig./onometry etc.
poss./essive, /ible etc.	sb., substantive	Turk./ish, -ey
p.p., past or passive participle	Sc., Scotch, Scots, Scottish	typ./ography etc.
pp., pages	Scand./inavia(n)	
Pr./ovençal	schol./astic	
pr./onounced etc.	sci./ence etc.	ult./imate(ly)
prec., (the) preceding (word)	Scot., Scotland, Scottish	uncert./ain
pred./icate etc.	sculp./ture	unexpl./ained
pref./ix	Sem./itic	unkn./own
prep./osition	sent./ence	U.S., United States
pres./ent (tense)	Serb./ian	usu./al(ly)
pret./erite	sing./ular	
print./ing	Skr., Sanskrit	v./erb
priv./ative	sl./ang	var., variant, various
prob./able etc.	Slav./onic	v. aux., verb auxiliary
pron., pronoun etc., pro-	sociol./ogy etc.	vb. verb
nounced etc.	Sp./anish	vbl. verbal
pronunc./ation	sp./elling	v.l., verb intransitive
prop./er(ly)	spec./ial(ly)	voc./ative
pros./ody etc.	spirit./ualism etc.	v.refl., verb reflexive
Prov./ençal	sport./ing etc.	v.t., verb transitive
prov., proverb etc., pro-	st./em	vulg./ar(ly)
vincial etc.	stat./ics etc.	vv., verbs
psych./ology etc.	subj., subject etc., subjunctive	
psycho-an./alysis	subst./antive	W, Welsh
	suf./fix	w./ith
	sup., superl./ative	W. Afr., West Africa(n)
R.-C., Roman Catholic	surg./ery etc.	wd, word
redupl./icated etc.	surv./eying etc.	wds, words
ref./erence	Sw./edish	WFlem., West Flemish
refash./ioned etc.	syn./onym etc.	WFris., West Frisian
refl./exive(ly)		WG, West Germanic
rel./ated, -ative	t., transitive	wh./ich
repl./acing etc.	tech./nical(ly)	W.Ind., West Indian, -ies
repr./esent etc.	teleg./raphy etc.	
rhet./oric etc.	term./ination	yd, yard
Rom., Roman, Romance,	theatr./ical etc.	yr(s), year(s)
Romanic	theol./ogy etc.	
Rom./an ant./iquities	theos./ophy etc.	zoogeog./raphy etc.
Rom./an Cath./olic		zool./ogy etc.

P = proprietary name. See below.

•, in etymologies, sign affixed to all forms not recorded but merely inferred.

•, other than in etymologies = (orig. or chiefly) U.S.

|| = not U.S.

~ represents either the complete word at the beginning of the article or the uninflected part of that word often marked by a vertical line.

NOTE. The addition of etc. to the completion of an abbreviation means that it may be used not only for the exact form given, but for connected words or phrases; e.g. *bot./any etc.* means *botany, botanical, botanically, in botany*; *adv./erb etc.* means *adverb, adverbial, adverbially*; *transl./ation etc.* means *translated* as well as *translation*. Abbreviations given in the list with initial capital have always the capital in use; but those given with initial small letter have either form according to circumstances.

This dictionary 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 editor has some evidence that a word is used as a proprietary name or trade mark this is indicated by the symbol P, but no judgement concerning the legal status of such words is made or implied thereby.



**A**, letter (pl. *As*, *A's*, *Aes*). (Mus.) note, & the corresponding scale. (In argument) first imaginary person or case. (Alg.) first known quantity. (Naut.) *A1* (*Ä wün*), first-class vessel in Lloyd's Register of Shipping; excellent, best, (colloq.; *A1* POPULATION). (Naut.) *Æ*, third-class ship at Lloyd's.

**a<sup>1</sup>**, **an**, (*a*, *am*; emphatic, *ä*, *än*), adj. (occas. called indefinite article. Before all consonants except silent *h*, use *a*; *a history*, *a historian*, though some still write *an* before *h* in unaccented syllable, but *an hour*: before all vowels except *eu*, *ü*, use *an*; *an ulcer*, but *a unit*, *a eulogy*; also *a one*. Placed after *many*, *such*, *what*, or any adj. preceded by *how*, *so*, *as*, *too*. Used with apparent plurals of number, *a dozen men* = a dozen of men; also with pl. adj. *few*, *good many*, *great many*). (Unemphatic substitute for) *one*, *some*, *any*; *one like (a Daniel)*; (after *all* of *many* of, etc.) the same (*all of a size*); (distrib.) each (*£40 a year*, where *a* is orig. = foll.). [weakening of OE *æn* ON *an*]

**a<sup>2</sup>**, prep. On, to, towards, into, in. Mostly now written as *prep.*, or oftener omitted than expressed, or confused w. **a<sup>1</sup>**. On: *abed*, *afoot*. To: *ashore*. Towards: *aback*, *afar*, *aside*. Into: *apart*, *asunder*. In: *now-a-days*, *twice a day*; w. vbl nouns, passively, *a-building*, actively, *was (a) fighting*, and esp. w. *go*, *set*, as *he went a begging*, *they set the bells a ringing*. [weakening of OE prep. *an*, ON]

**a-**, pref. f. various sources. 1. OE *a-*, orig. *ar-*, away, on, up, out, as *arise*. Occas. confused w. OF *a-* f. *ad-*, *ac-*, *ad-* etc. (No. 4), as *accuse* etc. 2. ME *a-* f. OE *an*, *on*, prep.; see *prec.* 3. ME *a-* f. OE of prep., as *akin*, *a-clock*. 4. ME *a-*, = OF pref. *a-*, f. L *ad* to, at, either directly, as *ascend*, or thr. F *a-* as *agree*; many was derived in the latter way have been later assim. to L spelling, as *a(d)dress*, *a(g)grieve*. 5. ME *a-*, = OF *a-*, f. L *ab* from, away, as *abridge*. 6. ME, AF *a-* = OF *e-*, *es* f. L *ex* out, utterly, as *amend*, *affray*. 7. Gk *a-*, *an-*, not, without; directly, as *amorphous*, thr. L, as *acatalectic*, or thr. L & F, as *adsmant*; compounded chiefly w. Gk words, but also w. others, as *a-moral*.

**-a**, suf. 1. Nn. f. Gk, L, & Rom. fem. sing., as *idea* (Gk), *arena* (L), *piazza* (It.), *duenna* (Sp.), esp. Nat. Hist. terms, ancient or latinized mod. (*hyena*, *dahlia*), geogr. names (*Africa*), & names of women,

ancient or latinized mod. (*Lydia*, *Hilda*). 2. Gk & L neut. pl. nouns (*genera*, *phenomena*), esp. names, often f. mod. L, of classes of animals (*mammalia*).

**aard-vark** (*ärd' värk*), n. S.-African quadruped between armadillos & ant-eaters. [f. Du. *aarde* EARTH + *varken* pig; see FARROW]

**aard-wolf** (*ärd' wólf*), n. S.-African carnivore between hyenas & civets. [see *prec.*]

**Aar'on's beard** (*är-*), n. Kinds of plant, esp. great St John's wort. [ref. to Ps. cxxxiii. 2]

**Aar'on's ród** (*är-*), n. Kinds of plant, esp. great mullein & golden rod. [ref. to Num. xvii. 8]

**aasvogel** (*ah'sfógl*), n. S.-Afr. vulture. [S.-Afr. Du. (*aas* carrion + *vogel* bird)]

**ab-**, pref. repr. L *ab*, off, away, from, f. F, as *abuse*, or L, as *abduct*.

**äb'a**, **abaya** (*äbä'ya*), nn. Sack-like outer garment worn by Arabs. [Arab.]

**abäck'**, adv. Backwards; (Naut.) of square sails pressed against mast by head wind; *taken ~*, of ship w. sails in that state, (fig.) surprised, discomfited. [*A<sup>2</sup>* + *BACK<sup>1</sup>*]

**äb'acus**, n. (pl. -*ci*, pr. -*si*). 1. Calculating frame w. balls sliding on wires, used before adoption of the nine figures & zero, & still in China etc., & in elementary teaching. 2. (Archit.) upper member of capital, supporting architrave. [L *abacus* f. Gk *abax* -*akos* tablet]

**Abäd'don**, n. Hell; the devil (*Rev.* ix. 11). [Heb. word, destruction (*abad* he perished)]

**abaft'** (-*ah*), adv. & prep. (naut.). In stern half of ship; nearer the stern than, aft of. [*A<sup>2</sup>* + *baft*, OE *beaftan* f. *be* BY + *aftan* AFT]

**\*äbalö'né**, n. Californian edible mollusc with ear-shaped shell lined with mother-of-pearl, sea-ear. [Sp.]

**abän'don'**, v. t. Give up to another's control or mercy; yield oneself completely to a passion or impulse; give up (a possession or habit); forsake (a person, post). [ME, f. OF *abandoner* f. phr. *à bandon* under control f. Rom. \**bandonem* f. med. L *bandum*, var. LL *bannus*, -um BAN<sup>2</sup>]

**abän'don'** (or as F, see Ap.), n. Careless freedom, letting oneself go. [F; see *prec.*]

**abän'doned** (-*ond*), a. Profligate. [p. of *ABANDON<sup>1</sup>*]

**abändonee'**, n. (law). One to whom anything is relinquished. [*ABANDON<sup>1</sup>* + *EE*]