THE
CONCISE
OXFORD
DICTIONARY

牛津简明英语词典

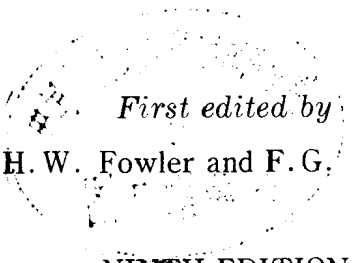## Ninth Edition

The foremost authority on current English

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The Concise Oxford Dictionary

牛津简明英语词典

First edited by

H. W. Fowler and F. G. Fowler

NINTH EDITION

Edited by

Della Thompson

半个世纪以前,COD 和 POD 就是我国学英语的学生最常用的两部词典。它们的主要优点是定义明晰、准确,还有简要的词源注释。现在看到的 COD 第 9 版(1998)和 POD 修订第 8 版(1996),又有许多改进,如注音用国际音标,新词和新的词义收罗很多,同一前缀(如 over-)的词分列,增加了习惯用法说明等等。这样,它们对英语学习者和使用者的帮助自然更大,更会使人爱不释手了。

北京外国语大学教授　　　丁往道

(丁往道)

学习英语,必须正确理解词义。要正确理解词义,必须查阅释义准确的英语词典。这类词典中,最适合中国学生使用的要算《牛津袖珍英语词典》与《牛津简明英语词典》。这两部词典久负盛名,其最大特点是释义不但准确可靠而且简明精练。解放前我国学习英语的人莫不视为必备的参考书,我念大学时也经常查阅,从中获益匪浅。现在外语教学与研究出版社,为了促进我国的英语教学,特出版这两部词典的最新版。它增收了大量的新词新义,改进了设计与安排,同时也保存了最初几版的特点。我根据个人的亲身经验,趁此机会竭诚向广大学习英语的青年朋友推荐,希望他们人人手头都有这两部词典;《简明》常备案头,《袖珍》随身携带,对词义、用法等凡有疑问便顺手翻阅。只要坚持不懈,就能渐渐正确理解词义,学会正确使用英语。
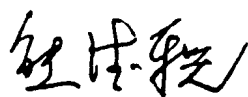
北京外国语大学教授

（危东亚）

我们中国人学英文，离不开一本好的英语词典。在能供我们选择的英语词典中，牛津词典系列是大家公认的世界上英语词典中最可靠和最有权威的词典。这次外研社出版的 COD, POD 和 LOD 最新版本，不但增收了大量的新词新义，而且在设计和安排方面也有较大的改进。令我特别高兴的是看到外研社推出了该本 1998 年版的 LOD。我在二次世界大战开始时初进英国中学，学生们人手一册 LOD。它的体积小到接近于《新华字典》，便于随身携带，并且保持了牛津词典的特点——准确、简明、精练，我相信它同样会受到中国广大初学者的欢迎。

北京外国语大学教授

（熊德锐）

牛津大学出版社是国际出版界的老字号。其牛津英语词典系列，特别是《牛津简明英语词典》堪为精品，素来具有收词量大、注解精当、举例简要、词源确切、附录实用等特色。近年出版的各种新版本，注意增添新词新义、实录新拼法新用法、采用国际音标，加之讲究版面的清晰醒目，推陈出新，精益求精，从而享誉全球。今外研社受权在国内出版《牛津简明英语词典》、《牛津袖珍英语词典》和《牛津小小英语词典》，以满足不同阶层、不同年龄的读者层和各种阅读任务的需要，是我国辞书出版的一大举措，对我国英语教学必将产生积极影响。

北京大学/清华大学教授

（胡壮麟）

Editorial Staff

Preface

The ninth edition of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* is 14 per cent larger than the eighth and it takes further the changes in methodology and presentation that were introduced in its predecessor. These changes were in two main areas: firstly, the use of computer technology; and secondly, the aim of making the information contained in the dictionary more accessible to the user.

With regard to the use of computer technology, the *COD* has benefited in this edition not only from the availability of the previous edition in the form of an electronically tagged database, but from access to large bodies of corpus and citational evidence. The British National Corpus, a database containing over 100,000,000 words of text, has been the most significant of these, together with the OUP Dictionary Department's vast computerized collection of selected citations and its other computerized dictionary texts including the twenty-volume *Oxford English Dictionary*. The gathering of evidence for new words and usages has been greatly enhanced by electronic access to these sources, and the dictionary is now able to incorporate more quickly and reflect more acc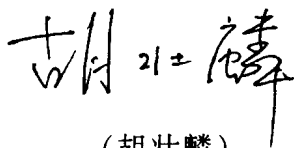urately changes that have arisen in the language since the previous edition, with additions being made to the text right up to the time of printing. As a result, this edition contains over 7,000 new words and senses in a wide variety of areas. For example, the growing availability of international cuisine in Britain and elsewhere is reflected by the use in English of terms such as *bhaji, fajita, gravlax, penne, sharon fruit,* and many others; in the field of politics we have *dream ticket, Euro-rebel, placeman, rainbow coalition,* and *spin doctor;* in ecology new terms such as *arcology, carr, ecocide, greening,* and *wind farm* have arisen; in science and medicine, *blue box, bronchodilator, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, Feynman diagram, hyperspace, nicad, packet switching, repetitive strain injury,* and *wormhole.*

Access to large corpora has also facilitated the statistical evaluation of disputed spellings, a reassessment of the hyphenation of compound nouns and a review of the italicization or otherwise of foreign words and phrases. The general trends away from the hyphenating of compound nouns and away from the italicization of foreign words and phrases are now recorded in the dictionary. For example, instead of being hyphenated, *aftercare, postdoctoral,* and *teardrop* are now usually written as one word, while *boiler room, hand grenade,* and *taxi driver* are usually found as separate words. Similarly, *en route, hoi polloi,* and *tour de force* now tend to be written in roman rather than italic script, reflecting their increased assimilation into English. In addition to these changes, some proprietary terms are now recorded in the dictionary with a lower case initial letter, also reflecting general usage (but not affecting their legal proprietary status).

Another important feature of this edition has been the enlisting of special consultants for North American usage, which has enabled us to improve our coverage of this area and to apply geographical labels more accurately. Examples of new North American entries are *antsy, badass, ditzy, drywall, all-wheel drive, Latino, pork barrel, road kill, sweat sock,* and *upchuck.*

Special attention has been given to the improvement of coverage in science and technology. Many terms which have become familiar outside the pages of technical books and journals have been added, especially in life sciences (including natural history) and computing, such as *accelerator board, biocide, client-server, flash memory,* and *ketamine,* and their definitions seek to balance comprehensibility and precision.

The aim to make the information contained in the dictionary more accessible to the user has resulted firstly in extending the policy of 'denesting' begun in the eighth edition. In this edition all compound nouns have been given their own entries rather than being 'nested' under their first element. This makes them easier to find and results in fewer extremely long entries. Attention has also been given to making etymologies clearer by minimizing the use of abbreviations and bracketed information and by the use of clearer punctuation. Usage Notes, which were previously buried within entries, have been extracted, expanded, and placed at the end of entries. A clearer style of explanation has been adopted and many more illustrative examples given.

Finally, the pronunciations have been thoroughly revised, giving a more up-to-date representation of the standard British English accent (Received Pronunciation) by means of the International Phonetic Alphabet, in line with the

system introduced into the *New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*.

Many people were involved in the preparation of this new edition. In addition to the editorial staff already listed on page v, we would like to thank the following for sundry advice and contributions and for help with proofreading: Judy Pearsall, David Shirt, Catherine Soanes, Angus Stevenson, Bill Trumble, Rachel Unsworth, and Maurice Waite.

D. J. T.

March 1995

English over Fifteen Centuries

Fifteen centuries of English cannot easily be summarized, but this brief account may afford some perspective to the information given in the dictionary, and help to make more sense of the strange and often unpredictable ways in which words seem to behave.

ORIGINS

English belongs to the Indo-European family of languages, a vast group with many branches, thought to be derived from a common ancestor-language called Proto-Indo-European. The words we use in English are derived from a wide range of sources, mostly within this family. The earliest sources are Germanic, Norse, and Romanic; more recently, with the growth and decline of the British Empire and the rapid development of communications, they have been worldwide.

It is difficult to be sure exactly what we mean by an 'English' word. Most obviously, words are English if they can be traced back to the Germanic language of the Anglo-Saxons, who settled in Britain from the fifth century. From this time are derived many common words such as *eat, drink, speak, work, house, door, man, woman, husband, wife.* The Anglo-Saxons displaced the Celtic peoples, whose speech survives in Scottish and Irish Gaelic, Welsh, Manx, and Cornish. Little Celtic influence remains in English, except in names of places and rivers.

Anglo-Saxon Britain continued to have contact with the Roman Empire, of which Britain had formerly been a part, and with Latin, which was the official language throughout the Empire and survived as a language of ritual (and for a time also of learning and communication) in the Western Christian Church. After the mission of St Augustine in AD 597, the Christianized Anglo-Saxons built churches and monasteries, and there were considerable advances in art and learning. At this time English was enriched by many words from Latin, some of which are still in use, such as *angel, disciple, martyr,* and *shrine.* Other words were derived from Latin via the Germanic languages, for example *copper, mint* (in the sense of coinage), *pound, sack,* and *tile,* and others were ultimately of oriental origin, for example *camel* and *pepper.*

The next important influence on the vocabulary of English was the Old Norse language of the Danish and other Scandinavian invaders of the ninth and tenth centuries, collectively called Vikings. They occupied much of the east side of England, and under Cnut (Canute) ruled the whole country for a time. Because Old Norse was also a Germanic language (of a different branch from English) many words were similar to the Anglo-Saxon ones, and it is difficult to establish the extent of the Old Norse influence. However, a number of Norse words are identifiable and are still in use, such as *call, take,* and *law,* names of parts of the body such as *leg,* and other basic words such as *egg, root,* and *window.* Many more Norse words are preserved in some dialects of the east side of England, and especially in place names.

In the Saxon kingdom of Wessex, King Alfred (871–99) and his successors did much to keep English alive by using it (rather than Latin) as the language of education and learning; by the tenth century there was a considerable amount of English prose and verse literature. Saxon and Danish kingdoms existed side by side for several generations, and there was much linguistic interaction. One very important effect on English was the gradual disappearance of many word-endings, or inflections, leading to a simpler grammar. This was partly because the stems of English and Norse words were often very close in form (for example, *stan* and *steinn,* meaning 'stone'), and only the inflections differed as an impediment to mutual understanding. So forms such as *stāne, stānes,* etc., began to be simplified and, eventually, eliminated. The process continued for hundreds of years into Middle English (see below).

THE NORMAN CONQUEST

In 1066 William of Normandy was crowned King of England. The arrival of the French-speaking Normans as a ruling nobility brought a transforming influence on the language. French, as one of the Romance languages, has its roots in the spoken or 'vulgar' Latin that continued in use until about AD 600. For two hundred years after the Norman Conquest, French (in its regional Norman form) was the language of the aristocracy, the lawcourts, and the Church hierarchy in England. During these years many French words were adopted into English. Some were connected with law and government, such as *justice, council,* and *tax,* and some

were abstract terms such as *liberty, charity,* and *conflict.* The Normans also had an important effect on the spelling of English words. The combination of letters *cw-,* for example, was standardized in the Norman manner to *qu-,* so that *cwēn* became *queen* and *cwic* became *quik* (later *quick*).

This mixture of conquering peoples and their languages—Germanic, Scandinavian, and Romance—has had a decisive effect on the forms of words in modern English. The three elements make up the basic stock of English vocabulary, and different practices of putting sounds into writing are reflected in each. The different grammatical characteristics of each element can be seen in the structure and endings of many words. Many of the variable endings such as *-ant* and *-ent, -er* and *-or, -able* and *-ible* exist because the Latin words on which they are based belonged to different classes of verbs and nouns, each of which had a different ending. For example, *important* comes from the Latin verb *portare,* meaning 'to carry' (which belongs to one class or conjugation) while *repellent* comes from the Latin verb *pellere,* meaning 'to drive' (which belongs to another). *Capable* comes from a Latin word ending in *-abilis,* while *sensible* comes from one ending in *-ibilis,* and so on.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

Middle English, as the English of c.1100–1500 is called, emerged as the spoken and written form of the language under these influences. By the reign of Henry II (1154–89) many of the aristocracy spoke English and the use of French diminished, especially after King John (1199–1216) lost possession of Normandy in 1204. Many Anglo-Saxon words had disappeared altogether: for example, *niman* was replaced by the Old Norse (Scandinavian) *taka* (meaning 'take'), and the Old English *sige* was replaced by a word derived from Old French, *victory.* Other Old English words that disappeared are *ādl* (disease), *lof* (praise), and *lyft* (air: compare German *Luft*).

Hundreds of the Romance words were short simple words that would now be distinguished with difficulty from Old English words if their origin were not known: for example, *bar, cry, fool, mean, pity, stuff, touch,* and *tender.* Sometimes new and old words continued in use side by side, in some cases on a roughly equal footing and in others with a distinction in meaning (as with *doom* and *judgement,* and *stench* and *smell*). This has produced pairs of words which are both in use today, such as *shut* and *close,* and *buy* and *purchase,* in which the second word of each pair is Romance in origin and often more formal in connotation. This mixture of types of words is a feature especially of modern English. For many meanings we now have a choice of less formal or more formal words, the more formal ones in some cases being used only in very specific circumstances. For example, the word *vendor* is used instead of *seller* only in the context of buying or selling property. Many technical words derived from or ultimately from Latin, such as *estop* and *usucaption,* survive only in legal contexts, to the great confusion of the layman.

PRINTING

There was much regional variation in the spelling and pronunciation of Middle English, although a good measure of uniformity was imposed by the development of printing from the fifteenth century. This uniformity was based as much on practical considerations of the printing process as on what seemed most 'correct' or suitable. It became common practice, for example, to add a final *e* to words to fill a line of print. The printers—many of whom were foreign—used rules from their own languages, especially Dutch and Flemish, when setting English into type. William Caxton, the first English printer (1422–91), exercised an important but not always beneficial influence. The unnecessary insertion of *h* in *ghost,* for example, is due to Caxton (who learned the business of printing on the Continent), and the change had its effect on other words such as *ghastly* and (perhaps) *ghetto.* In general, Caxton used the form of English prevalent in the south-east of England, although the East Midland dialect was the more extensive. This choice, together with the growing importance of London as the English capital, gave the dialect of the South-East a special importance that survives to the present day.

PRONUNCIATION

At roughly the same time as the early development of printing, the pronunciation of English was also undergoing major changes. The main change, which began in the fourteenth century during the lifetime of the poet Chaucer, was in the pronunciation of vowel sounds. The so-called 'great vowel shift' resulted in the reduction of the number of long vowels (for example, in *deed* as distinct from *dead*) from seven to the five which we know today (discernible in the words *bean, barn, born, boon,* and *burn*). It also affected the pronunciation of other vowels: the word *life,* for example, was once pronounced as we now pronounce *leaf,* and *name* was pronounced as two syllables to rhyme with *farmer.* In many cases, as with *name,* the form of the word did not change, and this accounts for many of the 'silent' vowels at the ends of words. The result of these developments was a growing difference between what was spoken and what was written.

THE RENAISSANCE

The rediscovery in Europe of the culture and history of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds exercised a further romanizing influence on English which blossomed in the Renaissance of the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries. Scholarship

flourished, and the language used by scholars and writers was Latin. During the Renaissance, words such as *arena, dexterity, excision, genius, habitual, malignant, specimen,* and *stimulus* came into use in English. They are familiar and useful words but their Latin origins sometimes make them awkward to handle, as, for example, when we use *arena, genius,* and *stimulus* in the plural. There was also a tendency in the Renaissance to try to emphasize the Greek or Latin origins of words when writing them. This accounts for the *b* in *debt* (the earlier English word was *det*; in Latin it is *debitum*), and *l* in *fault* (earlier *faut*; the Latin source is *fallere* fail), the *s* in *isle* (earlier *ile*; *insula* in Latin), and the *p* in *receipt* (earlier *receit*; *recepta* in Latin). Some words that had gone out of use were reintroduced, usually with changed meanings, for example *artificial, disc* (originally the same as *dish*), and *fastidious.*

LATER INFLUENCES

The development of technology from the eighteenth century onwards has also played a part in continuing the influence of Latin. New technical terms have come into use, formed on Latin or Greek source-words because these can convey precise ideas in easily combinable forms, for example *bacteriology, microscope, radioactive,* and *semiconductor.* Combinations of Germanic elements are also used, as in *software, splashdown,* and *take-off.* This process has sometimes produced odd mixtures, such as *television,* which is half Greek and half Latin, and *microchip,* which is half Greek and half Germanic.

In recent times English speakers have come into contact with people from other parts of the world, through trade, colonization, and improved communications. This contact has produced a rich supply of new words that are often strange in form. India, where the British first had major dealings in the seventeenth century, is the source of words such a *bungalow, jodhpurs,* and *khaki.* Usually these words have been altered or assimilated to make them look more natural in English (e.g. *bungalow* from Gujarati *bangalo*). Examples from other parts of the world are *harem* and *mufti* (from Arabic), *bazaar* (from Persian), *kiosk* (from Turkish), and *anorak* (from Eskimo). From European countries have acquired *balcony* (from Italian), *envelope* (from French), and *yacht* (from Dutch).

Thousands of such words, though not English in the Germanic sense, are regarded as fully absorbed into English. In addition, many words and phrases are used in English contexts but are generally regarded as 'foreign', and are conventionally printed in italics to distinguish them when used in an English context. Very many of these are French, for example *accouchement* (childbirth), *bagarre* (a scuffle), *chanson* (a French song), *flânerie* (idleness), and *rangé* (domesticated), but other languages are represented, as with *echt*

(genuine) and *Machtpolitik* (power politics) from German, and *mañana* (tomorrow) from Spanish (see also *Italicization,* Appendix XIII D).

Usage often recognizes the difficulties of absorbing words from various sources by assimilating them into forms that are already familiar. The word *picturesque* which came into use in the eighteenth century, is a compromise between its French source *pittoresque* and the existing Middle English word *picture,* to which it is obviously related. The English word *cockroach* is a conversion of the Spanish word *cucaracha* into a pair of familiar words *cock* (a bird) and *roach* (a fish). Cockroaches have nothing to do with cocks or roaches, and the association is simply a matter of linguistic convenience.

Problems of inflection arise with words taken from other languages. The ending -*i* in particular is very unnatural in English, and usage varies between -*is* and -*ies* in the plural. A similar difficulty occurs with the many adopted nouns ending in -*o,* some of which come from Italian (*solo*), some from Spanish (*armadillo*), and some from Latin (*hero*); here usage varies between -*os* and -*oes.* Verbs often need special treatment, as for example *bivouac* (from French, and before that probably from Swiss German) which needs a *k* in the past tense (*bivouacked,* not *bivouaced* which might be mispronounced), and *ski* (from Norwegian) where the past form *skied* is not really satisfactory, and *ski'd* was once popular as an alternative. In this dictionary extensive help is given with these and other difficulties of inflection.

DICTIONARIES

One obvious consequence of the development of printing in the fifteenth century was that it allowed the language to be recorded in glossaries and dictionaries, and this might be expected to have had a considerable effect on the way words were used and spelt. However, listing all the words in the language systematically in alphabetical order with their spellings and meanings is a relatively recent idea. In 1580, when Shakespeare was sixteen, a schoolmaster named William Bullokar published a manual for the 'ease, speed, and perfect reading and writing of English', and he called for the writing of an English dictionary. Such a dictionary, the work of Robert Cawdrey (another schoolmaster), was not published until 1604. Like the dictionaries that followed in quick succession (including Bullokar's own *English Expositor*), its purpose was described as being for the understanding of 'hard words'. It was not until the eighteenth century that dictionaries systematically listed all the words in general use at the time regardless of how 'easy' or 'hard' they were; the most notable of these were compiled by Nathaniel Bailey (1721) and, especially, Samuel Johnson (1755). They were partly a response to a call, expressed by Swift, Pope, Addison, and other writers, for the language to be

fixed and stabilized, and for the establishment of an English Academy to monitor it. None of these hopes as such were realized, but the dictionaries played an important role in settling the form and senses of English words.

The systematic investigation and recording of words in all their aspects and on a historical basis is first and exclusively represented in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, begun by the Scottish schoolmaster James A. H. Murray in 1879. This describes historically the spelling, inflection, origin, and meaning of words, and is supported by citations from printed literature and other sources as evidence from Old English to the present day. To take account of more recent changes and developments in the language, a four-volume *Supplement* was added to the work from 1972 to 1986, and a new edition integrating the original dictionary and its *Supplement* appeared in 1989. Because of its depth of scholarship, the *Oxford English Dictionary* forms a major basis of all English dictionaries produced since. Smaller concise and other household dictionaries that aim at recording the main vocabulary in current use began to appear early this century and in recent years the number has grown remarkably.

Dictionaries of current English, as distinct from historical dictionaries, generally record the language as it is being used at the time, and with usage constantly changing the distinction between 'right' and 'wrong' is sometimes difficult to establish. Unlike French, which is guided by the rulings of the *Académie française*, English is not monitored by any single authority; established usage is the principal criterion. One result of this is that English tolerates many more alternative spellings than other languages. The alternatives are based on certain patterns of word formation and variation in the different languages through which they have passed before reaching ours.

It should also be remembered that the smaller dictionaries, such as this one, provide a selection, based on currency, of a recorded stock of over half a million words; that is to say, they represent about 15–20 per cent of what is attested to exist by printed sources and other materials. Dictionaries therefore differ in the selection they make, beyond the core of vocabulary and idiom that can be expected to be found in any dictionary.

DIALECT

Within the British Isles, regional forms and dialects, with varying accents and usage, have continued to exist since the Middle Ages, although in recent times, especially with the emergence of mass communications, they have been in decline. A special feature of a dialect is its vocabulary of words (often for everyday things) that are understood only locally. It is not possible in a small

dictionary to treat this kind of vocabulary in any detail, but its influence can be seen in the origins of words that have achieved a more general currency, for example *boss-eyed* (from a dialect word *boss* meaning 'miss', 'bungle'), *fad*, *scrounge* (from a dialect *scrunge* meaning 'steal') and *shoddy*. Far more information on dialect words is available in *The English Dialect Dictionary* (ed. J. Wright, London, 1898–1905), in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, and in numerous glossaries published by dialect societies.

ENGLISH WORLDWIDE

Usage in modern times is greatly influenced by rapid worldwide communications, by newspapers and, in particular, by television and radio. Speakers of British English are brought into daily contact with alternative forms of the language, especially American English. This influence is often regarded as unsettling or harmful but it has had a considerable effect on the vocabulary, idiom, and spelling of British English, and continues to do so. Among the many words and idioms in use in British English, usually without any awareness of or concern about their American origin, are *OK, to fall for, to fly off the handle, round trip,* and *to snoop.* American English often has more regular spellings, as outlined in *Spelling Rules,* Appendix XIII B.

English is now used all over the world; as a result, there are many varieties of English, with varying accents, vocabulary, and usage. Varieties in use in Southern Africa, India, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and elsewhere have an equal claim to be regarded as 'English' and, although learners of English may look to British English as the centre of an English-speaking world, or British and American English as the two poles of such a world, it is very important that dictionaries should take account of English overseas, especially as it affects usage in Britain. The process is a strengthening and enriching one, and is the mark of a living and flourishing language.

FURTHER READING

This survey has had to be brief, and restricted to those aspects of English that are of immediate concern to the users of a dictionary. Those who are interested in exploring further will find a host of books on the history and development of English. Good general accounts are A. C. Baugh and T. Cable, *A History of the English Language* (3rd edn., New Jersey and London, 1978) and B. M. H. Strang, *A History of English* (London, 1970). At a more popular level, and more up to date on recent trends, are R. W. Burchfield, *The English Language* (Oxford, 1985) and R. McCrum et al., *The Story of English* (London, 1986). *The Oxford Companion to the English Language* (ed. T. McArthur, Oxford, 1992) contains much that will interest those who want to know more about the English of today and its place among the languages of the world.

Using this Dictionary

1. STRUCTURE OF ENTRIES

The following pages aim to illustrate the presentation of information in entries in the dictionary. The use of special conventions has been kept to a minimum. A reference list of abbreviations used may be found on p. xx; for additional information on the use of labels see p. xix.

1.1 The Headword

(a) Its Forms

IPA pronunciation (see p. xvii) | variant spelling (applicable to whole entry)

headword in bold roman type —— **cosy** /ˈkəʊzɪ/ *adj., n., & v.* (*US* **cozy**) ● *adj.* (**cosier,** —— comparative and superlative forms of adjective
cosiest) 1 comfortable and warm; snug. **2** *derog.*
complacent; expedient, self-serving. **3** warm and

plural inflection of noun (see p. xviii) —— friendly. ● *n.* (*pl.* **-ies) 1** a cover to keep something hot, esp. a teapot or a boiled egg. **2** *Brit.* a canopied corner seat for two. ● *v.tr.* (**-ies, -ied**) (often foll. by *along*) —— inflected forms of verb (see p. xviii)

indicating subsumed idioms, phrasal verbs, and derivatives —— *colloq.* reassure, esp. deceptively. □ **cosy up to** *US colloq.* **1** ingratiate oneself with. **2** snuggle up to. □ **cosily** *adv.* **cosiness** *n.* [18th c. from Scots, of unknown origin]

subsumed derivatives

foreign headword in bold italic type —— *figurant* /ˈfɪɡjʊr(ə)nt, French figyrã/ *n.* (*fem.* *figurante* —— French IPA pronunciation (see p. xvii)
/ˈfɪɡjʊr(ə)nt, French figyrãt/) a ballet dancer appearing only in a group. [French, pres. part. of *figurer* FIGURE]

naturalized headword in bold roman type —— **bon mot** /bɒn ˈməʊ/ *n.* (*pl.* **bons mots** *pronunc.* same or —— indicating same pronunciation despite form change
/-məʊz/) a witty saying. [French, = good word]

pronunciation of inflected form

compounds entered as separate headwords —— **bone dry** *adj.* completely dry.

It should be noted that proper names are not listed as such in the dictionary, but only the general vocabulary items to which they have given rise—hence, for example, the format of the entry for *Jesus*.

(b) Sense Division

superior numeral to distinguish a homograph

numbered sequence of senses by currency or comparative significance

definition ——

beaver[1] /'biːvə/ *n. & v.* ● *n.* (*pl.* same or **beavers**) **1 a** any large amphibious broad-tailed rodent of the genus *Castor*, native to N. America, Europe, and Asia, and able to gnaw through tree trunks and make dams. **b** its soft light brown fur. **c** a hat of this. **2** (in full **beaver cloth**) a heavy woollen cloth like beaver fur. **3** (**Beaver**) a boy aged six or seven who is an affiliate member of the Scout Association. ● *v.intr.* (usu. foll. by *away*) *colloq.* work hard. [Old English *be(o)for,* from Germanic]

letters used for closely-related or dependent subdivisions

alternative form only applicable to specific sense

different spelling (capital initial), applicable to specific sense

1.2 Labelling

(a) Parts of Speech

list of parts of speech to be treated

bullet introducing successive parts of speech

transitive and intransitive subdivisions of verb

indication of specific grammatical form in common use

slant /slɑːnt/ *v., n., & adj.* ● *v.* **1** *intr.* slope; diverge ~~from a line; lie or go obliquely to a vertical or horizontal line.~~ **2** *tr.* cause to do this. **3** *tr.* (**often as slanted** *adj.*) present (information) from a particular angle esp. in a biased or unfair way. ● *n.* **1** a slope; an oblique position. **2** a way of regarding a thing; a point of view, esp. a biased one. ● *adj.* ~~sloping, oblique.~~ □ **on a** (or **the**) **slant** aslant. [aphetic form of ASLANT: the verb related to Middle English *slent* from Old Norse *sletta* 'dash, throw']

separate sections for each part of speech

blue blood *n.* noble birth. □ **blue-blooded** *adj.* ——————

part of speech of derivative

part of speech indicating function of a compound headword

(b) Usage

subject label (p. xix)

bracketed information indicating restricted subject area(s)

grammatical information ——

absolute use of verb with implied object

label indicating restricted geographical area (cf. next sample)

stitch /stɪtʃ/ *n. & v.* ● *n.* **1 a** (in sewing or knitting or crocheting etc.) a single pass of a needle or the thread or loop etc. resulting from this. **b** a particular method of sewing or knitting etc. (*am learning a new stitch*). **2** (usu. in *pl.*) *Surgery* each of the loops of material used in sewing up a wound. **3** the least bit of clothing (*hadn't a stitch on*). **4** an acute pain in the side of the body ~~induced by running etc.~~ ● *v.tr.* **1** (also *absol.*) sew; make stitches (in). **2** join or close with stitches. □ **in stitches** *colloq.* ~~laughing uncontrollably.~~ **stitch up 1** join or mend by sewing or stitching. **2** *Brit. slang* ~~cause (a person) to be charged with a crime, esp. by informing or manufacturing evidence; cheat.~~ **3** *slang*; often *derog.* = *sew up* 2. □ **stitcher** *n.* **stitchery** *n.* **stitchless** *adj.* [Old English *stice* from Germanic: related to STICK[2]]

illustrative example

register labels (see p. xix)

bracketed
comment referring
to an institution
associated with the   ——— **FBI** *abbr.* (in the US) Federal Bureau of Investigation.
country named

conscious /ˈkɒnʃəs/ *adj. & n.* ● *adj.* **1** awake and aware
of one's surroundings and identity. **2** (usu. foll. by *of,* or ———   formula for
that + **clause**) aware, knowing (*conscious of his*   grammatical
delimiter ——— *inferiority*). **3** (of **actions, emotions,** etc.) realized or   construction
recognized by the doer; intentional (*made a conscious*
headword ——— *effort not to laugh*). **4** (in *comb.*) aware of, concerned
productive in   with (*fashion-conscious*). ● *n.* (**prec.** by *the*) — the ——— specific
combinations of   conscious mind. □ **consciously** *adv.* [Latin *conscius*   construction
elements joined   'knowing with others or in oneself' from *conscire* (as
usu. by a hyphen   COM-, *scire* 'know')]

noun used   **lunchtime** /ˈlʌn(t)ʃtʌɪm/ *n.* the time when lunch is
attributively ——— eaten (often *attrib.*: *lunchtime drinking*).

use restricted to predicative position
│

fond *adj.* **1** (*predic.*; foll. by *of*) having affection or a
adjective used ——— liking for. **2** (*attrib.*) affectionate, loving, doting. **3**
attributively in ——— (*attrib.*) (of beliefs etc.) foolishly optimistic or
these senses   credulous: naive. □ **fondly** *adv.* **fondness** *n.* [Middle
English from obsolete *fon* 'fool, be foolish']

1.3 Cross-reference

small capitals indicating a headword entry elsewhere
│

statics /ˈstatɪks/ *n.pl.* (usu. treated as *sing.*) **1** the
science of bodies at rest or of forces in equilibrium
antonym for ——— (opp. DYNAMICS 1a). **2** = STATIC *n.* [from STATIC *n.* + -S¹:
consultation   **see -ICS**]
│   │
more information   cross-reference to noun
at headword -ics   sense of the headword **static**

cum grano salis /kʌm ˌɡrɑːnəʊ ˈsɑːlɪs/ *adv.* with a grain
of salt (**cf.** *take with a pinch of salt* (**see** SALT)). [Latin]
│   │   │
cross-reference to information for   italic script   information to be found
comparison or classification   indicating   at headword named
subsumed idiom

variant entered in ——— **'mongst** *poet.* var. of AMONGST (see AMONG).
headword list