

THE OXFORD DICTIONARY FOR WRITERS AND EDITORS

[illegible]

THE OXFORD
DICTIONARY FOR
WRITERS AND
EDITORS

COMPILED BY
THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY DEPARTMENT

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The present work is the successor to eleven editions of the *Authors' and Printers' Dictionary*, first published under the editorship of F. Howard Collins in 1905. The eleventh edition, published in 1973, has been thoroughly revised and extensively rewritten, and a great deal of new material—everyday words, proper names, and abbreviations—has been incorporated to bring the book up to date in matters of vocabulary and usage and to give it an orientation and purpose that are reflected in its new name. The editorial work has been undertaken by the Oxford English Dictionary Department, and in particular by R. E. Allen, D. J. Edmonds, and J. B. Sykes. The book may now be regarded as belonging to the family of Oxford dictionaries, on whose resources it has extensively drawn.

The policy of the book continues to be a presentation of the house style of the Oxford University Press, and the reader is therefore strongly recommended to use it in conjunction with *Hart's Rules for Compositors and Readers at the University Press Oxford* (38th ed., 1978), which further explains and illustrates that style. 'Writers and editors' are the main concern of the dictionary, and it therefore no longer caters directly or extensively for the needs of printers except in so far as those needs are shared by writers and editors in their dealings with publishers and printers.

Because this is primarily a dictionary of style for written English, guidance on pronunciation has been given only in cases where the reader might otherwise experience difficulty or confusion, and where clarification could not be expected from a normal desk or household dictionary such as *The Concise Oxford Dictionary* (6th ed., 1976), to which the reader is referred for systematic treatment of pronunciation in individual cases.

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CONVENTIONS

USED IN THE DICTIONARY

The reader will appreciate that in a work of this size a number of special conventions are adopted in the interests of saving space. The most important of these are listed below.

(i) *bold face*. This is used for headwords and for all approved forms and spellings; a rejected form or spelling is printed in light face except when it stands as a headword with cross-reference to the preferred form. A bold italic face is used for words normally to be printed in italics.

(ii) *oblique stroke*. An oblique stroke is used to mark the end of that part of the headword to which bold-face elements introduced with a dash (iii) or a hyphen (iv) later in the same entry should be attached. Thus the entry **collegi/um**, . . . *pl. -a* shows that the plural form should be *collegia*, and the inflexions given as **gallop/**, . . . **-ed, -er, -ing** are to be understood as *galloped, galloper, and galloping*. Only **bold** elements follow this rule; it should be noted for example in the entry **metal/**, **-led, -ling, -lize**, *not -ise*, that **-led, -ling, and -lize** join the headword, forming *metalled, metalling, and metallize*, but the rejected termination *-ise* is independently given.

(iii) *dash*. A dash is used to stand for the repetition of a single word already given, and the oblique stroke (ii) again marks the end of a common element. Thus in the entry **glove/ box**, — **compartment**, — **puppet** (two words), the three combinations are *glove box, glove compartment, and glove puppet*. Use of more than one dash indicates the repetition of a corresponding number of words: in the list at **Doctor** beginning **Doctor of/ Canon Law or Civil Law, DCL**; — **Dental Surgery, DDS**; — **Divinity, DD**, the two dashes stand for the two words 'Doctor of', and

at **Garcilaso de la Vega** all four words are repeated as dashes in the second part of the entry: — — — — ('**the Inca**'), 1540-1616, Spanish historian.

(iv) *hyphen*. In headwords the hyphen serves two purposes: to indicate that a compound is normally hyphenated whenever used, and to introduce a further second element to form a compound with a first element marked off earlier in the entry by means of an oblique stroke (ii). In the second case the intended form of that compound will be clear from scrutiny of the first compound given and by recourse to the comment given in parentheses at the end of the sequence: (hyphen), (hyphens), (one word). The entry **bird/cage, -seed** (one word) therefore indicates that *birdcage* and *birdseed* are each to be written as one word, and the entry **birth/-control, -rate** (hyphens) indicates that *birth-control* and *birth-rate* are both to be written with hyphens. The dash (iii) and the designation (two words) indicate pairs of words each of which is to be written as two words without hyphen: the entry **fellow/ citizen, — men** (two words) therefore indicates the forms *fellow citizen* and *fellow men*.

In this book, a hyphen that falls at the end of a line is repeated at the beginning of the next line to distinguish a compound that is always hyphenated from a word which happens to be hyphenated because it is split at the end of a line.

(v) *parentheses*. In addition to their normal function, parentheses are used to formulate a concise definition that will serve two or more parts of speech, the part in parentheses being included or omitted as appropriate. Thus the definition at **oxytone** (Gr. gram.), (word) with acute accent on last syllable, covers both the noun ('word with acute accent on last syllable') and the adjective ('with acute accent on last syllable').

(vi) *full point*. The full point is used in the normal way to mark an abbreviated form (when appropriate)

or the end of a sentence. It is omitted as an end-of-sentence mark from the last sentence or section of *complete entries*; where it occurs in this position it serves some other purpose, usually as part of an abbreviation or contraction in which the point is retained. This device enables the reader to determine at a glance whether an abbreviation which occurs as the last word in an entry (as is frequently the case) has a full point or not:

cosine (math., no hyphen), abbr. **cos**

cosmogony, cosmography, abbr. **cosmog.**

(vii) Being a dictionary and not a descriptive handbook, this book is designed to provide information whenever possible at the point in the alphabetical sequence to which the reader may be expected to refer with a particular word in mind. The compilers have thought it useful however to include general entries on broader aspects of usage, especially where this has enabled them to group together representative examples of words and uses of which total coverage in their respective places in the dictionary is precluded for reasons of space. Appended below is a list of longer entries which deal with the broader aspects of usage:

abbreviations and contractions	date
-able	decimal currency
accents	decimal fractions
<i>Acts of Parliament</i>	diphthongs
Arabic	division of words
Assemblies	Dutch
astronomy	edition
authorities	-ei-
book sizes	elision
botany	ellipsis
BSI (list of relevant standards)	footnotes
capitalization	fractions
Chinese	French
Creole	German
	Greek

CONVENTIONS USED IN THE DICTIONARY

headlines or running titles	possessive case
Hebrew	preliminary matter
-ic-	proof
impression	proof-correction marks
imprint	punctuation
Italian	quotation marks
italic	quotations
-ize and -ise	re-
Japanese	reference marks
Latin	rule (typ.)
ligature	Russian
-like	Saint
logic symbols	SI
Mac	Spanish
manuscript	Swedish
mathematics	Syriac
names of persons and places	titles (cited)
neo-	US spellings
non-	well-
numerals	Welsh
pagination	-yse
poetry	zoology
Polish	

All dates given in the dictionary are after Christ unless otherwise specified.

ABBREVIATIONS

USED IN THE DICTIONARY

Abbreviations used regularly in the rulings and explanations are listed below; others are given in the dictionary itself. Abbreviations of subjects (anthropology, botany, etc.) are also valid for their corresponding adjectival forms (anthropological, botanical, etc.).

abbr.	abbreviation	Can.	Canada, -ian
absol.	absolute, (used) absolutely	cap.	capital
adj.	adjective	cc.	centuries
adv.	adverb	Ch.	Church
Afr.	Africa(n)	chem.	chemistry, chemical
Afrik.	Afrikaans	Chin.	China, Chinese
anat.	anatomy	class.	classical
anc.	ancient	collect.	collective(ly)
anthrop.	anthropology	colloq.	colloquial(ly)
apos.	apostrophe	comb.	combination, combining
Arab.	Arabic	comp.	computer type- setting
arch.	archaic	cook.	cookery
archaeol.	archaeology	d.	died
archit.	architecture	Dan.	Danish
astr.	astronomy	dau.	daughter
attrib.	attributive, (used) attri- butively	dép.	<i>département</i> (Fr.)
b.	born	derog.	derogatory
bacteriol.	bacteriology	dress.	dressmaking
bibliog.	bibliography	Du.	Dutch
bind.	binding	dyn.	dynamics
bot.	botany	eccl.	ecclesiastical
Brit.	British	elec.	electrical
c.	century	esp.	especially
c.	<i>circa</i>	exclam.	exclamation
campan.	campanology		

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE DICTIONARY

f., fem.	feminine	mod.	modern
fam.	family	mt.	mountain
fig.	figurative(ly)	mus.	music
Fl.	Flemish	myth.	mythology
foot.	football		
Fr.	French	n., neut.	neuter
		naut.	nautical
gen.	general		
geog.	geography		
geol.	geology	obs.	obsolete
geom.	geometry	off.	official
Ger.	German	orig.	original(ly)
Gr.	Greek	ornith.	ornithology
gram.	grammar		
		Parl.	Parliament(ary)
her.	heraldry	partic.	participle, partici- pial
hist.	history		
hort.	horticulture	path.	pathology
hunt.	hunting	philos.	philosophy
		photog.	photography
Ind.	India(n)	phys.	physics, physi- cal
indep.	independent		
Ins.	Insurance	physiol.	physiology
Ir.	Irish	pl.	plural
It.	Italian	poet.	poetical
ital.	italic	polit.	political
		Port.	Portuguese
joc.	jocular(ly)	predic.	predicative, (used) predi- catively
Lat.	Latin		
lit.	literary	prep.	preposition
liturg.	liturgical, lit- urgy	pron.	pronounced
		propr.	proprietary
m.	masculine	pseud.	pseudonym
mag.	magnetism	psych.	psychology
math.	mathematics		
mech.	mechanics	RC(C)	Roman Catholic (Church)
med.	medicine	relig.	religion
meteor.	meteorology	rhet.	rhetoric(al)
mfr.	manufacture	Rom.	Roman
mil.	military	Russ.	Russian

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE DICTIONARY

s.	small	Swed.	Swedish
S. Afr.	South Africa(n)	techn.	technical
S. Amer.	South America(n)	theat.	theatre
Sc.	Scottish	theol.	theology
Scan.	Scandinavian	trop.	tropical
sci.	science	Turk.	Turkish
Scrip.	Scripture	typ.	typography
sig.	signature	US	United States, America(n)
sing.	singular	usu.	usually
Skt.	Sanskrit		
Sp.	Spanish		
spec.	specifically	zool.	zoology

NOTE ON PROPRIETARY TERMS

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 is any other judgement implied concerning their legal status. In cases where the compilers have some evidence that a word is used as a proprietary name or trade mark this is indicated by the words 'propr. term', but no judgement concerning the legal status of such words is made or implied thereby.

A

- A**, Advanced (Level examination), ampere, *avancer* (on time-piece regulator), the first in a series; film-censorship classification
- A.**, Academician, Academy, Acting (rank), alto, amateur, *anna*, answer, artillery, Associate
- a**, are (unit of area) (no point in scientific and technical work), atto-, year
- a.**, accepted (Fr. *accepté*, Ger. *acceptiert*), on bills of exchange; acre, active (in grammar), adjective, *anna*, area, arrive, (Lat.) *ante* (before)
- a**, *not an*, before all words beginning with a consonant (except silent *h*: e.g. a horse, a hotel; but an heir, an hour) or with a vowel that is pronounced with the sound of *w* or *y*: e.g. a one, a European, a union. Similarly with abbreviations: e.g. an FA Cup match, a Unesco post
- Ä, ä**, in German, Swedish, etc., may *not* be replaced by *Ae, ae* (except in some proper names), *A, a*, or *Æ, æ*. The first only of two vowels takes the umlaut sign, as *äu*
- Å**, ångström
- å**, the 'Swedish *a*', used in Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish
- @**, at, the 'commercial *a*' used in calculating from prices
- A₀** ('A nought' or 'A zero'), paper size. *See* **DIN**
- A1**, first class; *see* **Lloyd's**
- AA**, Advertising Association, Alcoholics Anonymous, anti-aircraft, Architectural Association, Associate in Arts, Automobile Association; film-censorship classification
- AAA**, Amateur Athletic Association, American Automobile Association
- AAC**, *anno ante Christum* (in the year before Christ) (s. caps.)
- Aachen**, W. Germany; cf. **Aix-la-Chapelle**
- AAF**, Auxiliary Air Force (till 1957), (US) Army Air Force
- AAG**, Assistant Adjutant-General
- AAIA**, Associate of the Association of International Accountants
- AAMI**, Association of Assistant Mistresses, Incorporated (usu. called **AAM**). *See also* **IAAM**
- A. & M.**, (Hymns) Ancient and Modern
- A. & N.**, Army and Navy (Stores, Club)
- a.a.O.** (Ger.), *am angeführten Orte* (at the place quoted)
- AAR**, against all risks (Ins.)
- aard/vark, -wolf**, different animals (one word)
- Aarhus**, Denmark
- AAS**, *Academiae Americanae Socius* (Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences), *Acta Apostolicae Sedis* (Acts of the Apostolic See), Agnostics' Adoption Society
- AAU** (US), Amateur Athletic Union
- AB**, *Artium Baccalaureus* (US Bachelor of Arts); able-bodied (seaman)
- ab** (Lat.), from
- ABA**, Amateur Boxing Association, American Bankers' Association, American Bar Association, Antiquarian Booksellers' Association, Association of British Archaeologists
- ABAA**, Associate of British Association of Accountants and Auditors
- abac/us, pl. -uses**, counting-frame, (archit.) plate at top of column
- abalone**, shellfish

à bas (Fr.), down with
abattoir, slaughter-house
Abb. (Ger.), *Abbildung*
abb., abbess, abbey, abbot
Abbasid, Baghdad caliphs, *not*
 Abassid

abbé (Fr. m.), eccl. title (not
 ital.)

Abbildung/ (Ger. typ. f.), an
 illustration (cap.); *pl.* **-en**; *abbr.*
Abb.

Abbotsinch Airport, Glasgow

abbr., abbreviat/ed, -ion

abbreviat/e, -or

abbreviations and contrac-
tions. See the many instances
 in this book for rulings in indi-
 vidual cases. Subject to these,
 the following leading types may
 be noted for guidance:

(a) Abbreviations with
 several even full or even small
 capitals, and acronyms in initial
 capitals and lower case, take no
 points (BBC, TUC, MA, QC,
 NW OHG OED BC AD Aslef.

ABC, the alphabet, Argentina,
 Brazil, and Chile, Associated
 British Cinemas, Audit Bureau
 of Circulations, Australian
 Broadcasting Commission

ABCA, Army Bureau of Current
 Affairs, *now* **BCA**, Bureau of
 Current Affairs

ABC Guide

abdicat/e, -ion, -or

abecedarian (adj.), arranged
 alphabetically; (noun), person
 learning alphabet

à Becket (Thomas), ?1118-70,
 Abp. (one *t*)

Abendlied (Ger.), evening song
 (cap.)

Aberdeen Angus (two caps.)

Aberdeen terrier (one cap.)

Aberdonian, (native) of Aber-
 deen

Abergavenny, Gwent

Abernethy biscuit (one cap.)

Aberystwyth, Dyfed, *not* -ith

abest (Lat.), he, she, or it, is
 absent; *pl.* **absunt**

serves to prevent the modification of the preceding consonant, as changeable, peaceable.

In practice the following words also often retain the *e*: blameable, giveable, hireable, likeable, liveable, nameable, rateable, saleable, sizeable, tameable, timeable, tuneable, unshakeable. Many verbs of more than two syllables ending in *-ate* drop this ending before *-able*, as alienable, calculable, tolerable. See the list in *Hart's Rules*, p. 83

able-bodied (hyphen)

ABM, anti-ballistic-missile missile

Åbo, Swed. for **Turku**

A-bomb, atomic bomb (no point, hyphen)

aboriginal (adj.), indigenous (with init. cap., in tech. sense in Australia); **aborigin/es** (pl. noun, for sing. use **-al**) also with init. cap. in Australia

ab origine (Lat.), from the beginning

aboul/ia, loss of will-power, *not* abulia; adj. **-ic**

above/-board, -mentioned, -named (hyphens)

abovo (Lat.), from the beginning

Abp., Archbishop

abr., abridged, abridgement

abrégé (Fr. m.), abridgement

abréviation (Fr. f.), abbreviation

abridgement, abbr. **abr.**

abs., absolute(ly), abstract

abscess

Abschnitt (Ger. typ. m.), section, part, chapter, or division (cap.); pl. **-e**

absciss/a (math.), pl. **-ae**

absente reo (Lat.), the defendant being absent; abbr. **abs. re.**

absenter, *not* -or

absent-minded (hyphen), **-ly, -ness**

absinth, the plant; **-e**, the liqueur

absit (Lat.), let him, her, or it be

absent; — **omen**, let there be no (ill) omen

absolute(ly), abbr. **abs.**

absorption, *not* -btion

abs. re., *absente reo*, q.v.

abstract, abbr. **abs.**

absunt, see **abest**

Abt. (Ger.), *Abteilung* (division)

abt., about

ABTA, Association of British Travel Agents

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

abulia, use **aboulia**

ab/ uno disce omnes (Lat.), from one (sample) judge the rest; — **urbe condita**, **AUC** (but **A.U.C.** in printing classical Latin texts), from the foundation of Rome, 753 BC

Abu Simbel, site of Egyptian rock-temples

abut/, -ment, -ted, -ter (law), **-ting**

abys/s, deep cavity, **-mal**

abyssal, deep in sea; (geol.) plutonic

Abyssinia, now **Ethiopia**

AC, Alpine Club, (or **A/C**) Aircraftman, Assistant Commissioner, Athletic Club, Companion of the Order of Australia

A/C, (current) account; in printing use **acct.**

AC, *ante Christum* (before Christ) (s. caps.)

Ac, actinium (no point)

a.c., alternating current (elec.), author's correction

ACA, Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales; (or Ireland)

Academician, abbr. **A.**

Académie française (one cap.)

Academy, a learned body; abbr. **A. or Acad.** (cap.)

Academy (the), the Platonic school of philosophy

Acadian, of Nova Scotia (Fr. **Acadie**)

a cappella (It.) (mus.), unaccompanied, *not* alla cappella

ACAS, Advisory, Conciliation, and Arbitration Service

ACC, Army Catering Corps

acc., acceptance (bill), accusative

Acca, Israel, *use* **Acre**

Accademia (It.), Academy

Accadian, *use* **Akkadian**

acced/e, -er

accedence, a giving consent

accelerando (mus.), accelerating; as noun, *pl.* **-s**; abbr. **accel.**

accelerat/e, -or

accents and special sorts:

acute (´), grave (`), circumflex (^); vowels: long (ˉ), short (˘), doubtful (˙); diaeresis, umlaut (¨); cedilla (¸); tilde (~); Gr. breathings: asper, rough (´), lenis, smooth (˘); Arabic 'ain, Hebrew 'ayin (ʿ), Arabic hamza, Hebrew aleph (ʾ), ancient Egyptian special sign ʾ.

Anglo-Saxon (Old English) **p**, **ð** (cap. Ð), æ, œ, ā, ē, ī, ō, ū, æ, œ.

Czech á, ě, d' (cap. Ď), é, ě, í, ň, ó, ř, š, ť (cap. Ě), ú, ů, ý, ž.

Danish æ, ø, å.

Finnish ä, ö, å.

French œ, à, â, ç, é, è, ê, ë, î, ï, ô, ù, û, ü.

Gaelic (Irish) á, é, í, ó, ú; (Scots) à, è, é, í, ò, ó, ú.

German ß (cap. SS), ä, ö, ü.

Hungarian á, é, í, ó, ő, ō, ú, ü, ű.

Icelandic þ (cap. Þ), ð (cap. Ð), æ, œ, á, é, í, ó, ö, ú, ý.

Norwegian æ, ø, å.

Polish ą, ć, ę, ł, ń, ó, ś, ź, ż.

Portuguese à, á, â, ã, ç, è, é, ê, í, î, ò, ô, õ, ú, û.

Romanian à, â, ă, è, î, î, ș, ț, ù.

Spanish á, é, í, ñ, ó, ú, ü.

Swedish ä, å, ö.

Turkish â, ç, ğ, İ, ı, î, ö, ş, ü, û.

Welsh â, á, è, ê, í, î, ô, õ, û, ŵ, ý.

African languages may be set in the Latin alphabet using extra phonetic symbols as required:

the most common are ɛ, ɔ, ɨ, ɓ, ɗ, ɗ, ɗ, ɗ.

accep^m, acceptance (bill)

acceptance, abbr. **acc.**

accept/er, in law and science -or

accessary, *use* **accessory**

accessible

access/it (Lat.), he, she, or it, came near; *pl.* **-erunt**

accessory (noun and adj.), *use* *now* in all senses, *not* -ary

access time (computing)

acciaccatura (mus.), a grace-note

accidence, inflexions of words

accidental (mus.)

accidentally, *not* -tly

accidie, acedia, listlessness

acclimatize, *not* -ise

ACCM, Advisory Council for the Church's Ministry (*formerly* CACTM)

Acco, Israel, *use* **Acre**

accolade

accommodat/e, -ion (two *cs*, two *ms*)

accompanist, *not* -yist

accouche/ment, -ur, -use (*not* ital.)

account, abbr. **A/C**; in printing *use* **acct.**

Accountant-General, abbr. **A.-G.**

Accra, Ghana, *not* **Akkra**

acct., account, *or* account current

accumulat/e (two *cs*), -or

accusative, abbrs. **acc.**, **accus.**

ACE, after Christian (*or* Common) era (non-Christian usage in place of **AD**)

ACF, Army Cadet Force

ACGB, Arts Council of Great Britain

ACGBI, Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland

ACGI, Associate of the City and Guilds of London Institute

Achaemenid, *not* **Achai-**

Acheson (**Dean Gooderham**), 1893-1971, US diplomat

à cheval (Fr.), on horseback

Achilles' heel (apos.); — **tendon** (no apos.)

Achin, Sumatra, Indonesia, *not* **Atchin**