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COMPLETE WORDFINDER

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Complete Wordfinder

Edited by

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How to use this book

A great deal of the information given in the *Wordfinder* entries is self-explanatory, but if you need help in understanding any part of an entry, start here by looking at the 'entry maps'. In the sample entries, the various types of information are numbered (1 2 3 etc.); find the number

preceding whatever is puzzling you, then match it up with the numbers round the edges of the entries. The notes against these numbers will tell you which type of dictionary information you are looking at.

A Defining sections

1 Headword
introduces a new entry

2 Pronunciation
in oblique strokes / /

3 Part(s) of speech
in *italic* type

New part of speech
signalled by a bullet •

4 Variant spellings
in **bold** type

5 Inflected forms
in **bold** type

6 Sense letters and numbers
in **bold** type
subdivide meanings

Definitions
explain meaning

7 Grammar notes
give constructional information

1 adviser **2**/advīzər/ **3***n.* (also **9** *disp.* **4** *advisor*) **6** **1** a person who advises, esp. one appointed to do so and regularly consulted. **2** *US* a person who advises students on education, careers, etc. ¶ The disputed form *advisor* is prob. influenced by the adj. *advisory*.
■ **1** counsellor, mentor, guide, counsel, consultant, confidant(e), director, *Law amicus curiae*.

brief /breɪf/ *adj.*, *n.*, & *v.* • *adj.* **1** of short duration; fleeting. **2** concise in expression. **3** abrupt, brusque (**8** *was rather brief with me*). **4** scanty; lacking in substance (*wearing a brief skirt*). • *n.* **1** **7** (in *pl.*) **a** women's brief pants. **b** men's brief underpants. **2** *Law* **a** a summary of the facts and legal points of a case drawn up for counsel. **b** a piece of work for a barrister. **3** instructions given for a task, operation, etc. (orig. a bombing plan given to an aircrew). **4** **9** *RC Ch.* a letter from the Pope to a person or community on a matter of discipline. **5** **9** *US* a short account or summary; a synopsis. • *v. tr.* **1** *Brit. Law* instruct (a barrister) by brief. **2** instruct (an employee, a participant, etc.) in preparation for a task; inform or instruct thoroughly in advance (*briefed him for the interview*) (cf. *DEBRIEF*). **10** **11** □ **be brief** use few words. **hold a brief for** **1** argue in favour of. **2** be retained as counsel for. **in brief** in short. **watching brief** **1** a brief held by a barrister following a case for a client not directly involved. **2** a state of interest maintained in a proceeding not directly or immediately concerning one. **12** □ □ **briefly** *adv.* **briefness** *n. **13** [ME f. AF *bref*, OF *brief*, f. L *brevis* short]
■ *adj.* **1** short, momentary, short-lived; flying, brisk, hasty, speedy, swift; transitory, fleeting, transient, evanescent, passing. **2** short, concise, thumbnail, succinct, compact, to the point, laconic, terse, summary, compendious. **3** curt, abrupt, terse, short, blunt, brusque, direct . . .*

broadcast /bráwdkaast/ *v.*, *n.*, *adj.*, & *adv.* • *v.* (past **5** **broadcast** or **broadcasted**; past part. **broadcast**) **1** *tr.* **a** transmit (programmes or information) by radio or television. **b** disseminate (information) widely. **2** *intr.* undertake or take part in a radio or television transmission. **3** *tr.* scatter (seed etc.) over a large area, esp. by hand. • *n.* a radio or television programme or transmission. • *adj.* **1** transmitted by radio or television. **2** *a* scatter widely. **b** (of information etc.) widely disseminated. • *adv.* over a large area. □ □ **broadcaster** *n.* **broadcasting** *n.* [BROAD + **15** CAST past part.]
■ *v.* **1** **a** air, transmit, relay; radio; screen, televise, telecast. **b** announce, advertise, circulate, publish, proclaim, pronounce; put or give out, report; disseminate. **3** sow . . .

8 Examples
in *italic* type in brackets ()

9 Usage labels
in *italic* type show restricted use

Further notes on usage
signalled by ¶

10 11 Phrase list
signalled by □ gives idioms, phrases, compounds

12 Derivative list
signalled by □ □ gives regularly derived forms

13 Etymology (word history) in square brackets []

15 Cross-references
in SMALL CAPITALS to other headwords or *italic* type to phrases etc.

Preface

The publication of this *Wordfinder* brings to a fruitful conclusion a stimulating collaboration between Reader's Digest and Oxford University Press; it also marks the beginning of an exciting new era in the preparation of lexical reference books. The *Wordfinder* combines the information one would expect to find in a conventional dictionary and a thesaurus in a single volume; moreover, the complete marrying of the two parts into an integrated whole has meant that every meaning for which synonyms are offered has been reappraised. This single analysis of the language, treating meanings and related words side by side, has produced a book which offers the reader an abundance of information about words, accessible from a

number of different points but presented clearly in a fully integrated format.

Many people deserve thanks for their contribution to this project; those involved in the editorial work are listed as part of the project team. I would also like to thank Robin Hosie and Paul Middleton from Reader's Digest; Bill Ramson, Joan Hughes, and the late Harriet Michell for help with Australianisms; and, last but not least, Consultant Editor Dr Robert Ilson for his superhuman efforts in reading and commenting on the entire text.

SKT

Oxford, 1993

A Detailed explanation of defining sections

1 Headword

The headword is printed in bold roman type, or in bold italic type if the word is not naturalized in English and is usually found in italics in printed matter:

adumbrate /áddumbrayt/ *v.tr.* 1 indicate faintly. 2 represent in outline. 3 foreshadow, typify. 4 overshadow. □□ **adumbration** /-bráysh'n/ *n.* **adumbrative** /ədúmbratív/ *adj.* [L. *adumbrare* (as *AD-*, *umbrare* f. *umbra* shade)]

ad valorem /ád válórem/ *adv. & adj.* (of taxes) in proportion to the estimated value of the goods concerned. [L. = according to the value]

Headwords are arranged in letter-by-letter alphabetical order.

Different words that are spelt the same way (homographs) are distinguished by raised numerals:

brig¹ /brig/ *n.* 1 a two-masted square-rigged ship, with an additional lower fore-and-aft sail on the gaff and a boom to the mainmast. 2 *US* a prison, esp. on a warship. [abbr. of BRIGANTINE]

■ 2 see PRISON *n.* 1.

brig² /brig/ *n.* *Sc. & N.Engl.* var. of BRIDGE¹.

2 Pronunciation

Guidance on the pronunciation of a headword will be found in most cases immediately after the headword, enclosed in oblique strokes / /. In some cases, more than one pronunciation is given: that given first is always the preferred pronunciation; if the variant is preceded by the label *disp.*, this indicates that some people disapprove of the variant or consider it incorrect. Guidance on the pronunciation of words printed in bold type within an entry (for example, in the derivatives list) is limited to cases in which the headword pronunciation would be of no help in establishing the correct pronunciation of the derivative.

The *Wordfinder* uses a simple respelling system to represent pronunciation. This is meant to be self-explanatory and easily readable by the lay person without constant recourse to a table of special characters. The system includes only one letter that is not found in the English alphabet: the character *ə* is used to represent the short neutral vowel called *schwa*, to which many unstressed vowels in English are reduced in normal speech. This vowel sounds something like the sound *er* or *uh* used by some people when hesitating; it is the sound of the initial *a* in words such as *abode* or *attract*, the *o* of *confide*, the *e* of *condiment*, etc. For speakers of Southern English 'received pronunciation' it is also the sound of the last syllable of words like *father* or *insular*, the first and last syllables of *particular*, and so on. This is represented as /ə/ in the transcriptions, since speakers of some varieties

of English (Scottish and American, for instance) pronounce the *r* which follows the vowel.

The respelling system also uses a number of accents and diacritics over letters: an acute accent shows a stressed syllable. The macron (ˉ) is used over certain vowels to show that they are pronounced as long vowels, e.g. *ōō* (the vowel sound in *food*), or diphthongs, e.g. *ī* (the vowel sound in *bright*). A breve mark (˘) shows that a sound is to be pronounced as a short vowel, e.g. *ōō* (the vowel in *book* and *put*). An underline character is used to link certain consonants, e.g. to distinguish *th* (the sound at the beginning of *thin*) from *th* (the sound at the beginning of *then*). An apostrophe (') is used between consonants in such words as *organization* to show that some speakers articulate the final syllable without a true vowel sound between 'sh' and 'n'.

For a full explanation of every sound's representation in the respelling system, please see the *Key to the pronunciations* on pp. xx–xxi.

3 Part of Speech

The grammatical identity of words as noun, verb, adjective, and so on, is given for all headwords and derivatives, and for compounds and phrases when necessary to aid clarity. The same part-of-speech label is used for groups of more than one word when the group has the function of that part of speech, e.g. *ad hoc*, *Parthian shot*.

When a headword has more than one part of speech, a list is given at the beginning of the entry, and the treatment of the successive parts of speech (in the same order as the list) is introduced by a bullet in each case:

accidental /áksident'əl/ *adj. & n.* ● *adj.* 1 happening by chance, unintentionally, or unexpectedly. 2 not essential to a conception; subsidiary. ● *n.* 1 *Mus.* a sign indicating a momentary departure from the key signature by raising or lowering a note. 2 something not essential to a conception. □□ **accidentally** *adv.* [ME f. LL *accidentalis* (as ACCIDENT)]

The standard part-of-speech names are used, and the following additional explanations should be noted:

- Nouns used attributively are designated *attrib.* when their function is not fully adjectival (e.g. *model* in a *model student*; the *student* is very *model* is not acceptable usage).
- Adjectives are labelled *attrib.* (= attributive) when they are normally placed before the word they modify (e.g. *undue* in *without undue effort*), and *predic.* (= predicative) when they normally occur (usually after a verb) in the predicate of a sentence (e.g. *afraid* in *he was afraid*). When an adjective can occur either attributively or predicatively, the designation *adj.* is used on its own.

Finding your way round an entry

Further information is to be found in the correspondingly numbered paragraphs on pp. xii-xix. For example, if you want to know more about how usage labels work in defining

sections, look at paragraph A9 on p. xiv; if you want to understand synonym ordering, look at paragraphs B6, 7, and 8 on p. xviii, and so on.

B Synonym sections

1 Synonyms
introduced by a black box ■

2 Content
of synonym sections:
a synonyms,
b cross-references, or
c both

3 Part(s) of speech
in *italic type*

New part of speech
signalled by a bullet •

4 Forms
in brackets ()

5 Sense numbers and letters
refer back to defined meanings

6 7 Ordering
of synonyms

7 Punctuation
is significant

brief /breɪf/ *adj.*, *n.*, & *v.* • *adj.* **1** of short duration; fleeting. **2** concise in expression. **3** abrupt, brusque (*was rather brief with me*). **4** scanty; lacking in substance (*wearing a brief skirt*). • *n.* **1** (in *pl.*) **a** women's brief pants. **b** men's brief underpants. **2** *Law* **a** a summary of the facts and legal points of a case drawn up for counsel. **b** a piece of work for a barrister. **3** instructions given for a task, operation, etc. (orig. a bombing plan given to an aircrew). **4** *RC Ch.* a letter from the Pope to a person or community on a matter of discipline. **5** *US* a short account or summary; a synopsis. • *v. tr.* **1** *Brit. Law* instruct (a barrister) by brief. **2** instruct (an employee, a participant, etc.) in preparation for a task; inform or instruct thoroughly in advance (*briefed him for the interview*) (cf. **DEBRIEF**). □ **be brief** use few words. **hold a brief for 1** argue in favour of. **2** be retained as counsel for. **in brief** in short. **watching brief 1** a brief held by a barrister following a case for a client not directly involved. **2** a state of interest maintained in a proceeding not directly or immediately concerning one. □□ **briefly** *adv.* **briefness** *n.* [ME f. AF *bréf*, OF *brief*, f. L *brevis* short]

1. 3 *adj.* **5 1 2a 6** short, momentary, short-lived **7**; flying, brisk, hasty, speedy, swift; transitory, fleeting, transient, evanescent, passing. **2** short, concise, thumbnail, succinct, compact, to the point, laconic, terse, summary, compendious. **3** curt, abrupt, terse, short, blunt, brusque, direct, unceremonious. **4 2b** see **SCANTY**. **3** • *n.* **1 4** (*briefs*) pants, knickers, bikini briefs, G-string; underpants, boxer shorts, **9** *US* shorts, *propr.* Y-fronts. **3** instructions, guideline(s), directive(s), orders, directions. **5** summary, outline, digest, précis, résumé, *aperçu*, abstract, abridgement, synopsis. • *v.* **2** coach, instruct, train, drill, prime, prepare, make or get ready; advise, inform, apprise, acquaint, put in the picture, *colloq.* fill in, put a person wise. **10 11** □ **hold a brief for 1 13** see **ADVOCATE** *v.* **in brief** in short, briefly, concisely, in sum, in summary, to sum up, succinctly, in a word, to cut a long story short, in a nutshell. **12** □□ **2c** **briefly** momentarily, for a few moments or seconds or minutes, fleetingly, hurriedly, hastily, quickly; **13** see also in *brief* above.

addictive /ədɪktɪv/ *adj.* (of a drug, habit, etc.) causing addiction or dependence.
■ **2a** habit-forming, compulsive, obsessive, (**6** *of a drug*) hard.

abash /əbæʃ/ *v. tr.* (usu. as **abashed** *adj.*) embarrass, disconcert.
□□ **abashment** *n.* [ME f. OF *esbaïr* (*es-* = A-3, *baïr* astound or *baer* yawn)]
■ **4** (**abashed**) **13** see **EMBARRASSED** (**EMBARRASS** 1b).

8 Explanations
in *italic type*

9 Usage labels
in *italic type* show
restricted use

**10 11 Synonym
phrase list**
signalled by □

**12 Synonym
derivative list**
signalled by □□

13 Cross-references
in the synonym
sections

Visual Cues

Look out for the symbols which act as signposts

- / / pronunciation
 - part of speech
 - phrase list
 - derivative list
 - synonym section
- SMALL CAPITALS
cross-references

How to use this book

evidence of their currency; in general they are formed as follows:

- verbs drop silent final *-e* except after *c* and *g* (e.g. *movable* but *changeable*).
- verbs of more than one syllable ending in *-y* (preceded by a consonant or *qu*) change *y* to *i* (e.g. *enviable*, *undeniable*).
- a final consonant is often doubled as in normal inflection (e.g. *conferrable*, *regrettable*).

6 Definition

Definitions are listed in a numbered sequence in order of comparative familiarity and importance, with the most current and important senses first.

They are subdivided into lettered senses (a, b, etc.) when these are closely related or call for collective treatment.

Definitions may include both multi-item paraphrases and single-item synonyms. A comma is generally used between synonyms, as in the definition of sense 3 of *impossible*: 'outrageous, intolerable'. A semicolon is generally used before and after paraphrases. For example, the definition of sense 2 of *impossible* reads 'not easy; not convenient; not easily believable'; that of *incommunicative* reads 'not communicative; taciturn'.

7 Grammar notes

Definitions are often accompanied by explanations in brackets of how the word or phrase in question is used in context. Often, the comment refers to words that usually follow (foll. by) or precede (prec. by) the word being explained. For example, at *bridle*:

... consisting of buckled leather straps, a metal bit, and reins. **b** a restraining device or influence (*put a bridle on your tongue*). **2** *Naut.* a mooring-cable. **3** *Physiol.* a ligament checking the motion of a part. • *v.* **1** *tr.* put a bridle on (a horse etc.). **2** *tr.* bring under control; curb. **3** *intr.* (often foll. by *at* or *up at*) express offence, resentment, etc., esp. by throwing up the head and drawing in the chin. □ **bridle-path** (or **-road** or **-way**) a rough path or road fit only for riders or walkers, not vehicles. [OE *bridel*]

The formula (foll. by *to* + infin.) means that the word is followed by a normal infinitive with *to*, as after *want* in *wanted to leave* and after *ready* in *ready to burst*.

The formula (foll. by *that* + clause) indicates the routine addition of a clause with *that*, as after *say* in *said that it was late* or after *warn* in *warned her that she was being followed*. (For the omission of *that*, as in *said it was late*, see the usage note in the entry for *that*.)

'*pres. part.*' and '*verbal noun*' denote verbal forms in *-ing* that function as adjectives and nouns respectively, as in *set him laughing* and *tired of asking*.

8 Illustrative examples

Many examples of words in use are given to support, and in some cases supplement, the definitions. These appear in italics in brackets. They are meant to amplify meaning and (especially when following a grammatical point) illustrate how the word is used in context.

(See examples in the 'map' of articles on p. x.)

9 Usage

If the use of a word is restricted in any way, this is

indicated by any of various labels printed in italics, as follows:

Geographical

Brit. indicates that the use is found chiefly in British English (and often also in Australian and New Zealand English, and in other parts of the Commonwealth) but not in American English.

US indicates that the use is found chiefly in American English (often including Canada and also in Australian and New Zealand English) but not in British English except as a conscious Americanism.

Other geographical designations (e.g. *Austral.*, *NZ*, *S.Afr.*) restrict uses to the areas named.

These usage labels should be distinguished from comments of the type '(in the UK)' or '(in the US)' preceding definitions, which denote that the thing defined is associated with the country named. For example, *Pentagon* is a US institution, but the term is not restricted to American English.

Register

Levels of usage, or registers, are indicated as follows:

- *formal* indicates uses that are normally restricted to formal (esp. written) English, e.g. *commence*.
- *colloq.* (= colloquial) indicates a use that is normally restricted to informal (esp. spoken) English.
- *sl.* (= slang) indicates a use of the most informal kind, unsuited to written English and often restricted to a particular social group, while *coarse sl.* is used to show that an expression is regarded as vulgar or unacceptable even in spoken use in most social contexts.
- *archaic* indicates a word that is restricted to special contexts such as legal or religious use, or is used for special effect.
- *literary* indicates a word or use that is found chiefly in literature.
- *poet.* (= poetic) indicates uses confined to poetry or other contexts with romantic connotations.
- *joc.* (= jocular) indicates uses that are intended to be humorous or playful.
- *derog.* (= derogatory) denotes uses that are intentionally disparaging.
- *offens.* (= offensive) denotes uses that cause offence, whether intentionally or not.
- *disp.* (= disputed) indicates a use that is disputed or controversial. Often this is enough to alert the user to a danger or difficulty; when further explanation is needed a usage note (see below) is used as well or instead. Many uses labelled *disp.* are also treated more fully in Appendix 2, 'Some points of English Usage'.
- *hist.* (= historical) denotes a word or use that is confined to historical reference, normally because the thing referred to no longer exists.
- *propr.* (= proprietary) denotes a term that has the status of a trade mark (see the Note on Proprietary Status, p. xxiv).

Subject

The many subject labels, e.g. *Law*, *Math.*, *Naut.*, show that a word or sense is current only in a particular field of activity, and is not in general use.

- The designation *absol.* (= absolute) refers to uses of transitive verbs with an object implied but not stated (as in *smoking kills* and *let me explain*).
- The designation 'in *comb.*' (= in combination), or 'also in *comb.*', refers to uses of words (especially adjectives and nouns) as an element joined by a hyphen to another word, as with *crested* (which often appears in forms such as *red-crested*, *large-crested*) or *footer* (as *six-footer*).

4 Variants

Variant spellings are given before the definition; in all such cases the form given as the headword is the preferred form. Variant forms are also given at their own places in the dictionary when these are three or more entries away from the main form:

amir /əmeɪr/ *n.* (also **ameer**) the title of some Arab rulers. [Arab. 'amīr commander f. *amara* command: cf. EMIR]
ameer var. of AMIR.

Variant spellings given at the beginning of an entry normally apply to the whole entry, including any phrases and undefined derivatives.

When variants apply only to certain functions or senses of a word, these are given in brackets at the relevant point in the entry:

burden /bɜːdn/ *n.* & *v.* ● *n.* **1** a load, esp. a heavy one. **2** an oppressive duty, obligation, expense, emotion, etc. **3** the bearing of loads (*beast of burden*). **4** (also archaic **burthen** /bɜːθən/) a ship's carrying-capacity, tonnage. **5** **a** the refrain or chorus of a song. **b** the chief theme or gist of a speech, book, poem, etc. ● *v.tr.* load with a burden; encumber, oppress.

Words that are normally spelt with a capital initial are given in this form as the headword; when they are in some senses spelt with a small initial and in others with a capital initial this is indicated by repetition of the full word in the appropriate form within the entry.

Variant American spellings are indicated by the designation *US*. These variants are often found in American use in addition to or instead of the main forms given:

amoeba /əmeɪbə/ *n.* (US **ameba**) (*pl.* **amoebas** or **amoebae** /-beɪ/) any usu. aquatic protozoan of the genus *Amoeba*, esp. *A. proteus*, capable of changing shape. □ **amoebic** *adj.* **amoeboid** *adj.* [mod.L f. Gk *amoibē* change]

Pronunciation of variants is given when this differs significantly from the pronunciation of the headword.

abatis /əbætɪs/ *n.* (also **abattis** /əbætɪss/) (*pl.* same or **abatisses**, **abattisses**) *hist.* a defence made of felled trees with the boughs pointing outwards. □ **abatised** *adj.* [F f. *abatire* fell: see ABATE]

5 Inflection

Inflection of words (i.e. plurals, past tenses, etc.) is given after the part of speech concerned:

broadcast /brɔːdkɑːst/ *v., n., adj., & adv.* ● *v.* (*past broadcast* or **broadcasted**; *past part.* **broadcast**) **1 tr. a** transmit (programmes or information) by radio or television. **b** disseminate (information) widely. **2 intr.** undertake or take part in a radio or television transmission. **3 tr.** scatter (seed etc.) over a large area, esp. by hand ...

The forms given are normally those in use in British English. Variant American forms are identified by the label *US*; these variants are often found in American use in addition to or instead of the main forms given.

Pronunciation of inflected forms is given when this differs significantly from the pronunciation of the headword. The designation 'pronunc. same' denotes that the pronunciation, despite a change of form, is the same as that of the headword.

In general, the inflection of nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs is given when it is irregular (as described further below) or when, though regular, it causes difficulty (as with forms such as *budgeted*, *coos*, and *taxis*).

Plurals of nouns

Nouns that form their plural regularly by adding *-s* (or *-es* when they end in *-s*, *-x*, *-z*, *-sh*, or soft *-ch*) receive no comment. Other plural forms are given, notably:

- nouns ending in *-i* or *-o*.
- nouns ending in *-y*.
- nouns ending in Latinate forms such as *-a* and *-um*.
- nouns with more than one plural form, e.g. *fish* and *aquarium*.
- nouns with plurals involving a change in the stem, e.g. *foot*, *feet*.
- nouns with a plural form identical to the singular form, e.g. *sheep*.
- nouns in *-ful*, e.g. *handful*.

Forms of verbs

The following forms are regarded as regular:

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

Other forms are given, notably:

- doubling of a final consonant, e.g. *bat*, *batted*, *batting*.
- strong and irregular forms involving a change in the stem, e.g. *come*, *came*, *come*, and *go*, *went*, *gone*.
- irregular inflections of borrowed words, e.g. *samba'd*.

Comparative and Superlative of Adjectives and Adverbs

Words of one syllable adding *-er* or *-est* and those ending in silent *-e* dropping the *-e* (e.g. *braver*, *bravest*) are regarded as regular. Most one-syllable words have these forms, but participial adjectives (e.g. *pleased*) do not.

Those that double a final consonant (e.g. *hot*, *hotter*, *hottest*) are given, as are two-syllable words that have comparative and superlative forms in *-er* and *-est* (of which very many are forms ending in *-y*, e.g. *lucky*, *luckier*, *luckiest*), and their negative forms (e.g. *unluckier*, *unluckiest*).

It should be noted that specification of these forms indicates only that they are available; it is usually also possible to form comparatives with *more* and superlatives with *most* (as in *more lucky*, *most unlucky*), which is the standard way of proceeding with adjectives and adverbs that do not admit of inflection.

Adjectives in *-able* formed from Transitive Verbs

These are given as derivatives when there is sufficient

14 Prefixes, suffixes, and combining forms

A large selection of these is given in the main body of the text; prefixes are given in the form **ex-**, **re-**, etc., and suffixes in the form **-ion**, **-ness**, etc. These entries should be consulted to explain the many routinely formed derivatives given at the end of entries (see 12 above).

Combining forms (e.g. *bio-*, *-graphy*) are semantically significant elements that can be attached to words or elements as explained in the usage note at the entry for *combine*.

The pronunciation given for a prefix, suffix, or combining form is an approximate one for purposes of articulating and (in some cases) identifying the headword; pronunciation and stress may change considerably when they form part of a word.

15 Cross-references

Cross-references in defining sections are introduced in any of a number of ways, as follows:

- '=' denotes that the meaning of the item at which the cross-reference occurs is the same as that of the item referred to.

- 'see' indicates that the information sought will be found at the point referred to, and is widely used in the phrase sections of entries to deal with items that can be located at any of a number of words included in a phrase or idiom (see also 10 above).

- 'see also' indicates that further information can be found at the point referred to.

- 'cf.' denotes an item related or relevant to the one being consulted, and the reference often completes or clarifies the exact meaning of the item being treated.

- 'opp.' refers to a word or sense that is opposite to the one being treated, and again often completes or clarifies the sense.

- References of the kind '*pl. of*' (= plural of), '*past of*' (= past tense of), etc., are given at entries for inflections and other related forms.

Cross-references introduced in any of these ways appear in small capitals if the reference is to a main headword, and in italics if the reference is to a compound, idiom, or phrase within an entry.

References in italics to compounds and defined phrases and idioms are to the entry for the first word unless another is specified.

Usage Notes

These are added to give extra information not central to the definition, and to explain points of grammar and usage. They are introduced by the symbol ¶. The purpose of these notes is not to prescribe usage but to alert the user to a difficulty or controversy attached to particular uses. Appendix 2 is devoted to the most important points of difficulty in English usage.

10 Phrases and Idioms

These are listed (together with compounds) in alphabetical order after the treatment of the main senses, introduced by the symbol □. The words, *a*, *the*, *one*, and *person* do not count for purposes of alphabetical order.

They are normally defined under the earliest important word in the phrase, except when a later word is more clearly the key word or is the common word in a phrase with variants (in which case a cross-reference often appears at the entry for the earliest word).

11 Compounds

Compound terms forming one word (e.g. *bathroom*) are listed as main entries; those consisting of two or more words (e.g. *chain reaction*) or joined by a hyphen (e.g. *chain-gang*) are entered as phrases under the first word or occasionally as main entries.

12 Derivatives

Words formed by adding a suffix to another word are in many cases listed at the end of the entry for the main word, introduced by the symbol □□. In this position they are not defined since they can be understood from the sense of the main word and that given at the suffix concerned.

When further definition is called for they are given main entries in their own right (e.g. *changeable*).

For derivative words used in combination (e.g. *-crested* in *red-crested*), see 3 above.

13 Etymology

The user is also referred to Appendix 1, 'The History of English'.

A brief account of the etymology, or origin, of words is given in square brackets at the end of entries. It is not given for compound words of obvious formation (such as *bathroom* and *jellyfish*), for routinely formed derivatives (such as *changeable*, *muddy*, and *seller*), or for words consisting of clearly identified elements already explained (such as *Anglo-Saxon*, *overrun*, and many words in *in-*, *re-*, *un-*, etc.). It is not always given for every word of a set sharing the same basic origin (such as the group *proprietary* to *propriety*). Noteworthy features, such as an origin in Old English, are however always given.

More detailed information can be found in the *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology* (ed. C. T. Onions et al., 1966) and the *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology* (ed. T. F. Hoad, 1986).

The immediate source language is given first. Forms in other languages are not given if they are exactly or nearly the same as the English form given in the headword.

Words of Germanic origin are described as 'f. Gmc' or

'f. WG' (West Germanic) as appropriate; unrecorded or postulated forms are not normally given.

OE (Old English) is used for words that are known to have been used before AD 1150, and ME (Middle English) for words traceable to the period 1150–1500 (no distinction being made between early and late Middle English).

Words of Romance origin are referred to their immediate source, usually F (French) or OF (Old French before 1400), and then to earlier sources when known.

AF (Anglo-French) denotes a variety of French current in England in the Middle Ages after the Norman Conquest.

Rmc (Romance) denotes the vernacular descendants of Latin that are the source of French, Spanish, Italian, etc. Romanic forms are almost always of the 'unrecorded' or 'postulated' kind, and are not specified except to clarify a significant change of form. Often the formula 'ult. f. L' etc. (ultimately from Latin etc.) is used to indicate that the route from Latin is via Romanic forms.

(Latin) denotes classical Latin up to about AD 200; OL (Old Latin) Latin before about 75 BC; LL (Late Latin) Latin of about 200–600; med.L (medieval Latin) Latin of about 600–1500; mod.L (modern Latin) Latin in use (mainly for technical purposes) since about 1500.

Similar divisions for 'late', 'medieval', and 'modern' are made for Greek.

Many English words have corresponding forms in both French and Latin, and it cannot always be established which was the immediate source. In such cases the formula 'F or L' is used (e.g. *section* ... F *section* or L *sectio*); in these cases the Latin form is the source of the French word and (either directly or indirectly) of the English word.

Some words are derived from languages which are not in wide enough use for them to be included as entries in the dictionary. These languages are listed below by regions; further information about them can be found in encyclopedias and other reference books.

- Those spoken in **America** are Aleut (related to Inuit), Surinam Negro (a Creole based on English), and the following American Indian languages: Abnaki, Araucan, Aymará, Chinook, Creek, Dakota, Fox, Galibi, Hopi, Miskito, Narragansett, Nootka, Ojibwa, Paiute, Penobscot, Renape, and Taino.
- Those spoken in **Africa** are Bangi, Fiot, Foulah, Khoisan, Kongo, Lingala, Mandingo, Mbuba, Mende, Nguni, Temne, and Twi.
- Those spoken in **Asia** are Ambonese (spoken in Indonesia), Assamese (in India), Batti (in Tibet), Maldivé (in the Maldivé Islands), Mishmi (in India), Sundanese (in Indonesia), and Tungus (in Siberia).
- Tongan is a Polynesian language.

When the origin of a word cannot be reliably established, the forms 'orig. unkn.' (= origin unknown) and 'orig. uncert.' (= origin uncertain) are used, even if frequently canvassed speculative derivations exist (as with *gremlin* and *pommy*). In these cases the century of the first recorded occurrence of the word in English is given.

An equals sign (=) precedes words in other languages that are parallel formations from a common source (cognates) rather than sources of the English word.

usu. foll. by *of* colloq. a large amount; plenty (*bags of time*).
4 (in pl.) Brit. colloq. trousers. **5** sl. derog. a woman, esp. regarded as unattractive or unpleasant. **6** an animal's sac containing poison, honey, etc. **7** an amount of game ...

- **n.** **1** sack, shopping bag, string bag, plastic bag, Austral. port, Brit. carrier bag, carrier, dial. poke, usu. hist. reticule. **2 a** valise, satchel, grip, suitcase, case, overnight bag, vanity case, carry-on luggage or bag, Gladstone bag, carpet-bag, portmanteau; briefcase, attaché case, dispatch-box, dispatch-case, Austral. port, US sl. keister; (*bags*) baggage, luggage, gear, belongings.
- b** handbag, evening bag, clutch bag, shoulder-bag, wallet, US pocketbook, purse. **3** (*bags*) see LOT **n.** 1.
- 4** (*bags*) see TROUSERS.

In the case of verbs with grammar notes, an alternative form with a following particle is often given in brackets to show that the synonyms substitute for the phrase rather than the headword alone:

- consist** /kən'sist/ *v.intr.* **1** (foll. by *of*) be composed; have specified ingredients or elements. **2** (foll. by *in, of*) have its essential features as specified (*its beauty consists in the use of colour*). **3** (usu. foll. by *with*) harmonize; be consistent. [L *consistere* exist (as COM-, *sistere* stop)]
- **1** (*consist of*) contain, comprise, be composed of, include, have in it.

Forms that are given in bold type in the defining section are repeated in bold type in brackets in the synonym section if the synonyms offered are for that form; for example, the adjective *impoverished* is treated under the verb to *impoverish* by the grammar note '(often as **impoverished** adj.)' at the beginning of the entry. In the synonym section, a cross-reference is given for the verb in each of its senses, followed by a list of synonyms for the adjective *impoverished*, in each case introduced by '(**impoverished**)' to show that the synonyms are for this different form.

5 Synonym sense numbering

The sense numbering of synonym sections follows the pattern of the defining section of the entry, so that readers can easily see which synonyms are appropriate to which meanings of the headword. However, it is not the practice to give synonyms for every sense represented in the defining section, and in some cases it is less repetitious to give a list of synonyms for a number of senses together. Sense numbering in the synonym section may therefore take the form of a list of numbers (and sometimes also letters), as, for example, **1a, 2b, 3d**, or show a range of senses to which the synonyms apply, as **1-3, 2-5**, etc.

Wherever a single list of synonyms covers all the meanings explained in the defining section, sense numbers are dispensed with and the synonym list is simply introduced by the synonym cue ■.

6 Arrangement of synonyms

Within a synonym sense, the synonyms are arranged in conceptual groups separated by semicolons. Each 'branch' of meaning has its own group, within which the synonyms are organized loosely in order of association, with labelled synonyms (see 9 below) in their own sequence at the end of the group.

This means that the synonyms which are semantically and stylistically closest to each other are also physically close to each other on the page. For each sense the list of synonyms begins with those closest in meaning to it; then

come those less close to it in meaning. In each list of synonyms a comma separates items that are virtually synonyms of each other; a semicolon separates items that are less close to each other in meaning. Sometimes the division is a grammatical rather than a semantic one; for example, synonyms for a meaning of a verb that is labelled both for transitive and intransitive uses in the defining section may have first a group of synonyms that substitute for both types of context, then synonyms limited to one or the other use in their own group(s) after a semicolon.

7 Punctuation and style of synonym lists

Synonyms may be single words or phrases. The individual synonyms within a group are separated by commas, while a new group (and resetting of the label sequence) is signalled by a semicolon within synonym sections. Readers should note the difference in this use of the semicolon from that employed in defining sections (where it introduces a separate piece of defining text with a different nuance of meaning from the part of the definition that precedes it).

Brackets are sometimes used in synonym lists. Their principal use is to show optional parts of a synonym or phrase, e.g. for single-word synonyms, 'content(ed)' (indicating that both 'content' and 'contented' are appropriate synonyms); for phrases, '(have or take a) zizz' (indicating that the simple verb 'zizz' has phrasal variants 'have a zizz' and 'take a zizz'), etc.

Explanatory matter in italic type is discussed at 8 below. All synonym text is printed in roman type with the exception of unassimilated foreign words that are normally printed in italic in English contexts; these words (which at their own defining sections have the headword printed in bold italic type) are printed in light italic type in synonym sections.

8 Explanations in synonym lists

Sometimes it is necessary to provide further explanatory text in a synonym list; these are given in italic type to differentiate them from the synonyms themselves. Grammatical notes are explained at 4 above and usage labels at 9 below. Apart from these categories of explanatory matter, the reader will find that the word *or* is frequently used in phrasal synonyms to introduce a variant without repeating the whole phrase, e.g. 'make public or known' (expandable to 'make public' and 'make known'), 'not worth anything or a straw or a rap' ('not worth anything', 'not worth a straw', 'not worth a rap'), etc.

Occasionally it is necessary to limit the application of a synonym to a narrower field than that implied by the definition of the headword. For example, in the entry *habit*, the compound *habit-forming* is defined as 'causing addiction'. The corresponding synonym list reads 'addictive, compulsive, (*of a drug*) hard; see also *obsessive* (OBSESS)', indicating that the synonyms 'addictive' and 'compulsive' may be used of habit-forming substances in general and of activities etc. that may cause dependence, whereas the synonym 'hard' may only be applied to a habit-forming drug.

9 Usage labels in synonym lists

The same range of subject, regional, and register labels is used in synonym sections as in defining sections: for a full explanation of their meaning, please see 9 on p. xiv above.

B Detailed explanation of synonym sections

1 Distribution and signalling of synonym sections

Synonyms are offered at over a third of the entries in the *Wordfinder*, covering in all over 23,000 lexical items. The categories for which no synonyms are normally offered include the following:

- highly technical vocabulary, especially nouns in technical use only (e.g. *eosinophil*, *habeas corpus*, *organzine*, *spirochaete*, *trochoid*);
- words for which there are no true synonyms (e.g. *abbot*, *pannier*, *rectangle*);
- headwords that treat word-forming elements such as prefixes, suffixes, and combining forms (e.g. *ad-*, *hyper-*, *un-*, *-acious*, *-ling*, *-ness*);
- headwords that are abbreviations made up of initial capitals (e.g. *CPU*, *DSO*, *LPG*, *VSO*), and most other abbreviations;
- headwords providing only a cross-reference for a variant spelling of another headword (e.g. *disk*, *eon*, *inclosure*);
- most headwords that are labelled *archaic* in all their uses (e.g. *grimalkin*, *hitherward*, *whilom*);
- words and meanings that are labelled *coarse sl.* in their defining sections.

Outside these categories an attempt has been made to provide at least one full synonym list for each semantic group, together with cross-references to the full list from the most important words within the group. In general, nouns that are normally used in literal senses and have developed no metaphorical or extended uses are less likely to have synonyms than adjectives, adverbs, and verbs. Even if no synonyms are offered at the headword you first look up, it may be worth also looking up the keyword(s) used in its definition, where synonyms or related words could be used. Other ways of finding extra synonyms include looking up the items in synonym sections (which may have synonym sections of their own), and considering the synonyms of related items: as Laurence Urdang has pointed out, users 'can easily find synonyms for, say, *abdication* by making nouns out of the verbs listed under *abdicate*'. In the *Wordfinder*, this is illustrated by using the synonyms listed, for example, under the word *savage* in order to create a set of synonyms for *savagely*. Moreover, extra information about the synonyms themselves can be found in the defining sections, for in this book the synonym sections and the defining sections complement each other.

A synonym section is always signalled by the symbol ■; the headword itself is never repeated. Readers will also notice that the synonym sections are set out with a ragged right-hand margin, contrasting with the justified setting

of the defining sections; this is designed to aid orientation on the page.

2 Content of synonym sections

A synonym section may consist of one or more lists of synonyms, one or more cross-references to synonym sections under other headwords, or a mixture of the two. A synonym list may also be supplemented by a 'see also' reference to another list.

All cross-references in synonym sections are to the appropriate sense(s) of the synonym section of another entry, not to its defining section. For a full explanation of the cross-reference styles used in the synonym sections, see 13 below.

3 Parts of speech in synonym sections

The full list of parts of speech included in the entry is not repeated at the beginning of the synonym paragraph. Only those parts of speech for which synonyms are offered are mentioned again in the synonym paragraph; where more than one part of speech has synonyms, the bullet cue is used as a visual separator between the part-of-speech sections, but not before the first part of speech.

Parts of speech are mentioned within the phrases or derivatives list of a synonym section only when this is necessary to distinguish between synonyms for a single compound or phrase that may have different grammatical functions according to context. In these cases the bullet separator is not used, but the synonym lists for the different parts of speech are labelled with their part of speech in brackets.

4 Forms of synonyms

If the synonyms offered are only substitutable in context for any form other than the exact form of the headword, the altered form for which the synonyms substitute is given in brackets at the beginning of the synonym list. The type-style of the bracketed form follows as closely as possible the information given in the appropriate sense of the defining section. For example, in the entry for *bag*, sense 2a of the synonym section offers a list of synonyms for the headword in the sense of 'a piece of luggage'; after the semicolon there is an italicized note in brackets ('bags'), corresponding to the grammar note in the defining section ('usu. in pl.'), followed by synonyms for the plural use *bags* in the collective sense of 'luggage'. Senses 3 and 4 of the noun are used only in the plural, so the whole synonym list for each of these is preceded by ('bags'):

bag /bag/ *n.* & *v.* ● *n.* **1** a receptacle of flexible material with an opening at the top. **2 a** (usu. in pl.) a piece of luggage (put the bags in the boot). **b** a woman's handbag. **3** (in pl.;

Key to the pronunciations

The *Wordfinder* uses a simple respelling system to show how each headword is pronounced. As far as possible the phonetic symbols follow the letters of the English alphabet and special symbols have been kept to a minimum.

a, á	as in	pat /pat/, pattern /páttørn/
aa, áa	as in	palm /paam/, rather /ráathør/, maharaja /maahoráajə/
aar, áar	as in	farm /faarm/, farmer /faarmør/
air, áir	as in	fair /fair/, mayor /mair/, share /shair/, heir /air/, footwear /fóotwair/, fairy /fáiri/
árr	as in	carry /kárri/, barrier /bárrior/
aw, áw	as in	law /law/, caught /kawt/, thought /thawt/, caution /káwsh'n/, lawful /láwfóol/
awr, áwr	as in	warm /wawrm/, warning /wáwrning/
ay, áy	as in	day /day/, raid /rayd/, made /mayd/, prey /pray/, gauge /gayj/, reign /rayn/, daily /dáyli/, graceful /gráysfóol/
b, bb	as in	bay /bay/, bubble /búbb'l/
ch	as in	church /church/, itch /ich/, picture /pikchər/, cello /chéllō/
d, dd	as in	dog /dog/, sudden /súdd'n/
e, é	as in	men /men/, said /sed/, mellow /méllō/, many /ménni/, jealous /jélləss/
ee, éc	as in	feet /feet/, leave /leev/, siege /seej/, receive /riseev/, recent /réess'nt/
eer, éer	as in	hear /heer/, here /heer/, deer /deer/, weird /weerd/, hearing /héering/, merely /méerli/, souvenir /sóovənéer/
er, ér	as in	fern /fern/, prefer /prifér/, early /érli/
érr	as in	ferry /férrí/, burial /bérríəl/
ə	as in	along /əlóng/, soda /sóde/, pollen /póllən/, lemon /lémmən/, suppose /səpóz/, serious /scériəss/
ər	as in	parade /pəráyd/, bitter /bittər/, nuclear /nyðóokliər/
f, ff	as in	fit /fit/, telephone /téllifón/, tough /tuf/, coffee /kóffi/, sapphire /sáffír/
g, gg	as in	get /get/, ghost /góst/, exhaust /igzáwst/, struggle /strúgg'l/
h	as in	head /hed/, behave /biháyv/

i, í	as in	pin /pin/, little /litt'l/, guild /gild/, media /méedia/, decide /disíd/, activity /aktívvti/, women /wimmin/, busy /bizzí/, gymnast /jinnast/
í, î	as in	time /tím/, fight /fit/, guide /gid/, buy /bí/, writing /ríting/, dial /díəl/, sky /skí/
ír, ír	as in	fire /fir/, choir /kwír/, desire /dizír/, thyroid /thíroyd/
írr	as in	lyrics /lirriks/, delirious /dilirriəss/
j	as in	judge /juj/, carriage /kárrij/, soldier /sóljər/
k, kk	as in	kick /kik/, coat /kót/, mix /miks/, chaos /káyoss/, school /skóol/, pocket /pókkit/
kh	as in	loch /lokh/, verligte /fairlikhtə/
l, ll	as in	like /lík/, lily /lilli/
'l	as in	bottle /bótt'l/, candle /kánd'l/
m, mm	as in	may /may/, hammer /hámmər/
'm	as in	chasm /kázz'm/, idealism /idééeliz'm/
n, nn	as in	nun /nun/, runner /rúnnər/
n	as in	en route /ON rōót/, thé dansant /táy donsón/ (used to show that the preceding vowel is nasalized)
'n	as in	wooden /wóódd'n/, button /bútt'n/
ng	as in	sing /sing/, sink /singk/
ngg	as in	single /singg'l/, anger /áנגgər/
o, ó	as in	rob /rob/, robin /róbbin/, cough /kof/, restaurant /réstərɔnt/
ō, ō	as in	go /gō/, boat /bōt/, show /shō/, toe /tō/, hotel /hōtél/, motion /mósh'n/, rainbow /ráynbō/, chateau /sháttō/
ō, ō	as in	colonel /kón'l/, jeu /zhō/, chauffeuse /shōfōz/
oo	as in	unite /yoonít/, speculate /spékyoolayt/ (used to indicate that the value of the vowel may be long, like ōō, or short, like ōō)
ōō, ōō	as in	wood /wōōd/, could /kōōd/, push /pōōsh/, football /fōōtbawl/, sugar /shōōggər/
ōō, ōō	as in	food /fōōd/, few /fyōō/, do /dōō/, blue /blōō/, music /myōōzik/, review /rivyōō/
oor, oor	as in	tour /toor/, cure /kyoor/, jury /joōri/
or, ór	as in	door /dor/, four /for/, corner /kórner/

In synonym sections, the labels are entirely printed in italic type (e.g. 'esp. *US*' becomes '*esp. US*'). Labelled synonyms have their own sequence at the end of the unlabelled group (which means that if, for example, you were looking for synonyms of a slang word, you would find the neutral synonyms before those that also are limited to a particular subject, regional variety, or style of language).

The label precedes the synonym or group of synonyms to which it applies and applies to all synonyms listed up to the next label, semicolon, or full stop (whichever comes first). The order of precedence of the labels themselves is:

- (i) subject (only) in alphabetical order, e.g. *Archaeol.*, *Biol.*, *Law*;
- (ii) region (only) in alphabetical order of the main label (with labels qualified by '*esp.*' preceding the main label and those followed by '*and*' and '*or*' following), e.g. *esp. Austral.*, *Austral.*, *Austral. & NZ*, *Brit.*, *NZ*, *S.Afr.*, *US*;
- (iii) combinations of region and subject, e.g. *Brit. Law* fit in after the appropriate regional label on its own;
- (iv) register (only) in alphabetical order, e.g. *archaic*, *colloq.*, *disp.*, *hist.*, *sl.*;
- (v) combinations of register and region fit in after the appropriate register label on its own, e.g. *colloq.*, *Austral. colloq.*, *Brit. colloq.*, *US colloq.*, *sl.*, *Austral. sl.*, *Brit. sl.*, *US sl.*

10 Synonyms of phrases

Phrase lists in synonym sections are introduced by the same symbol, □, as is used in the defining section. Those phrases for which synonyms are being offered are shown

in bold, followed by their part of speech (if needed: see 3 above), sense number (if needed: see 5 above), and synonyms and/or cross-references. The synonyms of phrases may, of course, include single words as well as other phrases.

11 Synonyms of compounds

The explanation of synonym phrase lists also applies to compounds, which are listed in a single alphabetical sequence with the phrases.

12 Synonyms of derivatives

Synonym derivative lists are introduced by the same symbol, □, as is used in the defining section. Those derivatives for which synonyms are being offered are shown in bold, followed by their part of speech (if needed: see 3 above), synonyms and/or cross-references.

13 Synonym cross-references

Essentially the same conventions are used for cross-references in synonym sections as for cross-references elsewhere in the text, with the exception that, when referring to a derivative in a synonym section, the derivative itself is given in italic type, followed by the main headword under which this will be found, in small capitals inside round brackets, e.g. '*see elasticity* (ELASTIC)'.

It should be noted that cross-references in synonym sections are to the *synonym section* of the appropriate entry, not to its defining section. Only such information (in the way of parts of speech, sense numbers, etc.) is given as is necessary to enable the reader to find the correct synonym list.

Abbreviations used in this book

Some abbreviations (especially of language-names) occur only in etymologies. Others may appear in italics. Abbreviations in general use (such as *etc.*, *i.e.*, and those for books of the Bible) are explained in the dictionary text itself.

abbr.	abbreviation	Braz.	Brazil Brazilian	derog.	derogatory
ablat.	ablative	Bret.	Breton	dial.	dialect
absol.	absolute(ly)	Brit.	British in British use	different.	differentiated
acc.	according			dimin.	diminutive
accus.	accusative	Bulg.	Bulgarian	disp.	disputed (use or pronunciation)
adj.	adjective	Burm.	Burmese		disseminated
adv.	adverb	Byz.	Byzantine	dissim.	distributive
Aeron.	Aeronautics			distrib.	Dutch
AF	Anglo-French	c.	century	Du.	
Afr.	Africa African	c.	<i>circa</i>		
Afrik.	Afrikaans	Can.	Canada Canadian	E	English
Akkad.	Akkadian	Cat.	Catalan	Eccl.	Ecclesiastical
AL	Anglo-Latin	Celt.	Celtic	Ecol.	Ecology
alt.	alteration	Ch.	Church	Econ.	Economics
Amer.	America American	Chem.	Chemistry	EFris.	East Frisian
Anat.	Anatomy	Chin.	Chinese	Egypt.	Egyptian
anc.	ancient	Cinematog.	Cinematography	E.Ind.	East Indian, of the East Indies
Anglo-Ind.	Anglo-Indian	class.	classical	Electr.	Electricity
Anthropol.	Anthropology	coarse sl.	coarse slang	elem.	elementary
Antiq.	Antiquities	cogn.	cognate	ellipt.	elliptical(ly)
	Antiquity	collect.	collective(ly)	emphat.	emphatic(ally)
app.	apparently	colloq.	colloquial(ly)	Engin.	Engineering
Arab.	Arabic	comb.	combination; combining	Engl.	England; English
Aram.	Aramaic	compar.	comparative	Entomol.	Entomology
arbitr.	arbitrary arbitrarily	compl.	complement	erron.	erroneous(ly)
Archaeol.	Archaeology	Conchol.	Conchology	esp.	especial(ly)
Archit.	Architecture	conj.	conjunction	etym.	etymology
Arith.	Arithmetic	conn.	connected	euphem.	euphemism
assim.	assimilated	constr.	construction	Eur.	Europe, European
assoc.	associated association	contr.	contraction	ex.	example
Assyr.	Assyrian	Corn.	Cornish	exc.	except
Astrol.	Astrology	corresp.	corresponding	exclam.	exclamation
Astron.	Astronomy	corrupt.	corruption		
Astronaut.	Astronautics	Criminol.	Criminology	F	French
attrib.	attributive(ly)	Crystallog.	Crystallography	f.	from
attrib.adj.	attributive adjective			fam.	familiar
augment.	augmentative	Da.	Danish	fem.	feminine
Austral.	Australia Australian	decl.	declension	fig.	figurative(ly)
aux.	auxiliary	def.	definite	Finn.	Finnish
		Demog.	Demography	Flem.	Flemish
back-form.	back-formation	demons.	demonstrative	fall.	followed, following
Bibl.	Biblical	demons.adj.	demonstrative adjective	form.	formation
Bibliog.	Bibliography			Fr.	French
Biochem.	Biochemistry	demons.pron.	demonstrative pronoun	Frank.	Frankish
Biol.	Biology			frequent.	frequentative(ly)
Bot.	Botany	deriv.	derivative		

órr	as in	sorry /sóri/, corridor /kórridor/, warrior /wóriər/
ör, ór	as in	fleur-de-lys /flórdále/, voyeur /vwaayór/
ow, ów	as in	mouse /mowss/, coward /kówərd/
owr, ówr	as in	hour /owr/, powerful /pówrfdól/
oy, óy	as in	boy /boy/, noisy /nóyzi/
p, pp	as in	pit /pit/, supper /súppər/
r, rr	as in	run /run/, fur /fur/, spirit /spírrit/
s, ss	as in	sit /sit/, messy /méssi/, centre /séntər/, scent /sent/, accent /áksənt/, fix /fiks/, pizza /pietsə/
sh	as in	shut /shut/, social /sósh'l/, partial /paərsh'l/, passion /pásh'n/, action /áksh'n/, machine /məsheen/, niche /neesh/
t, tt	as in	taste /tayst/, butter /búttər/
th	as in	thin /thin/, truth /trúth/
th	as in	then /then/, mother /múthər/
u, ú	as in	cut /kut/, blood /blud/, money /múnni/, enough /ínúf/
ur, úr	as in	curl /kurl/, curtain /kúrt'n/, journey /júrni/
úrr	as in	hurry /húrrí/, worry /wúrrí/
v, vv	as in	vet /vet/, civil /sívvil/
w	as in	way /way/, quick /kwik/
y	as in	yet /yet/, million /milyən/, queue /kyú/, accuse /əkýdúz/, tortilla /tortéeyə/, junker /yóŋgkər/
z, zz	as in	zero /zeérō/, phrase /frayz/, lenses /lénziz/, examine /igzámmin/, cousin /kúzz'n/, fuzzy /fúzzí/, xylem /zílēm/
zh	as in	measure /mészər/, massage /mássaazh/, jabot /zhábbō/, vision /vízh'n/

Hyphen

As an aid to correct pronunciation a hyphen is used within a pronunciation entry to avoid confusion, for example to distinguish between *t* followed by *h* and *th*, or *s* followed by *h* and *sh*, etc.:

gatehouse /gáy-t-howss/, **mishap** /miss-hap/

or where two or more vowels appearing together would be unclear, for example:

intuition /intyoo-ish'n/, **vehicle** /veé-ik'l/

More than one acceptable pronunciation may be given, with commas between the variants, for example:

suit /súot, sjúot/

If the pronunciations of a word differ only in part then the syllable or syllables affected are shown as follows:

bedroom /bédroom, -rúom/,

grandmother /gránmuthər, gránd-/

The same principle applies to derivative forms that are given within the main entry, for example:

complete /kəmpleét/, **completion** /-pléesh'n/

Stress

The mark **ˈ** that appears over the vowel symbol in words of more than one syllable indicates the part of the word which carries the stress. Where a word has two or more stress markers then the main stress may vary according to the context in which a word is used, for example:

afternoon /aáftərnuún/

In the phrase 'afternoon tea' the main stress falls on the first syllable /aáftər-/ but in the phrase 'all afternoon' the main stress falls on the last syllable /-nuún/.

The stress on some words can vary according to the speaker's preference, for example:

television /téllivízh'n/

In the phrase 'on television' it is acceptable for the main stress to fall on either the first or the third syllable /téllivízh'n/ or /telivízh'n/.