

THE CONCISE
OXFORD DICTIONARY
OF CURRENT ENGLISH

Edited by
H. W. FOWLER AND F. G. FOWLER
based on
The Oxford Dictionary

FOURTH EDITION

Revised by
E. McINTOSH



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PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

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

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

Swung dash (~).

To save space the 'swung dash' or 'tilde' is very frequently used in the body of the article or the list of derivatives. It represents either the complete word at the beginning of the article or the uninflected part of that word often marked by a vertical line. As, for example, in the article **repeat**, ~ stands for *repeat* (or *repeat*), ~ed for *repeated*, ~edly² for *repeatedly*², ~ing for *repeating*, ~er¹ for *repeater*¹; and in the article **reverberate** we have ~ating, ~ate, ~atory, ~ation, ~ative, ~ant representing *reverberating*, *reverberate*, *reverberatory*, *reverberation*, *reverberative*, *reverberant*.

E. McI., 1950

From the

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

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

H. G. LE MESURIER, 1934

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From the

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

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

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

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

H. W. F., 1929

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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

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

H. W. F.

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

From the
PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

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

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

VOCABULARY

The words, or senses of words, given are meant to be such only as are current; ‘current’, however, is an elastic term; we might, but we do not, stretch it to include all words and senses used by Shakspere or in the Bible, on the ground that the whole of Shakspere and the whole of the Bible are still commonly read; thus the archaic senses of *addition* (title), *buxom* (pliant), *owe* (own), *sad* (serious), *sort* (suit), and the archaic words *shend* (scold), *wood* (mad), familiar as they are to readers of Elizabethan literature, are not given. We do stretch it to include many words and senses that are fossilized, having in themselves no life or capacity for further

development, but kept extant by being enshrined in perhaps a single proverb or phrase that is still in use; of this sort are *coil* (confusion), preserved by 'shuffled off this mortal coil', and *scotch* (wound), preserved by 'we have scotched the snake, not killed it'.

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

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

SPELLING

The spelling adopted is for the most part, but not invariably, that of the O.E.D. For instance, the verbs that contain the suffix *-ize* (which see), and their derivatives in *-ization* etc., are all given without the alternative forms in *-ise* etc., although these are still the commoner in British (as opposed to American) printing; but such generally established spellings as *judgment*, *rhyme*, *axe*, have not been excluded in favour of the *judgement*, *rime*, *ax*, preferred by the O.E.D., but are retained at least as alternatives having the right to exist. In dealing with verbs such as *level*, *rivet*, *bias*, whose parts and derivatives are variously spelt, the final consonant being often doubled with no phonetic or other significance, we have as far as possible fallen in with the present tendency, which is to drop the

useless letter, but stopped short of recognizing forms that at present strike every reader as Americanisms; thus we write *riveted*, *riveter*, but not *traveling*, *traveler*. On another point of varying usage—the insertion of a mute e in derivatives in *-able*, *-age*, *-ish*, etc., to indicate the ‘long’ sound of the stem vowel (*likable* or *likeable*, *milage* or *mileage*, *latish* or *lateish*)—we have thought ourselves justified in taking a bolder line, and have consistently omitted the *-e*; it is against all analogy (or why not *smileing*, *Romeish*, *doteage*, *tideal*, *indescribeable*, *desireable*, *exciteable*?), it is used chiefly in words not familiar or important enough to have their form respected as established, it obscures the different and more valuable use by which a soft g or c is indicated as in *manageable* and *serviceable*, and it tempts bad spellers to such monstrosities as *unpalateable*, *loveable*, and *moveable*. In words of the type *ardour*, *colour*, *favour*, where the O.E.D. recognizes both *-our* and *-or*, we have excluded the latter as being (except in particular words like *horror* and *torpor*, in which it is usually the only form) entirely non-British. Words in which *-y-* has intruded itself without completely dispossessing a more correct *-i-*, as *sylvan*, *tyro*, *tyre*, we have given with the *-i-* form either alone or placed first.

ORDER OF SENSES

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

DERIVATIVES

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

ETYMOLOGY

Etymology is given in square brackets at the end of each article.

Words of Teutonic origin are illustrated by all or some of the forms found in cognate languages. With words that have passed through several languages on their way to English, the forms taken in successive languages are recorded in full, with the following exceptions. (1) When OF or the like at the beginning of the etymology is not followed by the old French form written in full, it is because the latter is identical in spelling with the English or differs from it only in some unimportant detail specified in brackets. (2) The Latin form of a Greek word is usually omitted, and is to be inferred according to the rules of transliteration given below. Thus (under *pleonasm*) 'f. L f. Gk *pleonasmos*' is to be read 'f. L *pleonasmus* f. Gk *pleonasmos*'. A similar omission of a word in any other language implies absolute identity of form.

Greek words are written with the corresponding English letters (ϕ , χ , ψ , ρ , $\rho\rho$, = ph, kh, ps, rh, rrh, and α , η , ω , = \bar{a} i, \bar{e} i, \bar{o} i), and not according to the Latin transliteration, the rules for which are as follows; Greek k = Latin c; ai = ae; ou = u; u (exc. in diphthongs) = y; ei = i or e; oi = oe (but in nom. pl. = i); g (before g or k) = n; also, - \bar{o} s (nom. masc.), - \bar{o} n, = -us, -um; - \bar{e} s, - \bar{e} , (1st decl. nom.) = -a; - \bar{o} n (nom.) = -o; - \bar{o} s (genit.) = -is; -a (accus. sing. masc. or fem.) = -em.

French nouns of Latin origin are with few exceptions derived from the Latin accusative; but the Latin nominative is here given except when (e.g. in words in -atio) a change of stress is involved.

Greek η (\bar{e}) and ω (\bar{o}), and the e of Latin infinitives of 2nd conj. (- \bar{e} re, - \bar{e} ri), are regularly marked long. The accented letters (\acute{a} , $\acute{æ}$, etc.) in forms quoted from Old English or other Teutonic languages are long.

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

The etymology often contains references in small capitals to words and suffixes.

The first element of a Latin or other compound word is often referred to a prefix article, and the remainder treated separately within brackets; meanings given within the bracket belong to the simple word, those of the compound being added if necessary outside it. Thus *convene* is [f. F *convenir* f. L *CON(venire vent- come)* assemble, agree, fit]. The stem *vent-* and the senses *agree*, *fit*, are here added for the purposes of *convention* and *convenience*, which are referred to *convene*. The first element of a Greek compound similarly treated is sometimes written according to the current (Latin) transliteration, to facilitate reference to the prefix article;

Greek *kakoepeia*, under *cacoepy*, accordingly appears as CACO(*epeia*). Certain similar devices for saving needless repetition will, it is believed, explain themselves.

The etymology of all words from A to R was drawn in the first instance from the O.E.D., but was occasionally modified after reference to Prof. Skeat's *Etymological Dictionary* (Clarendon Press, 4th edition, 1910). From S to Z Prof. Skeat's work has been our main authority, the *Century* and other dictionaries being consulted for the words that he omits.

REFERENCE BY SMALL CAPITALS

The use of small capitals for etymological purposes is explained above.

In the same way reference is made:

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

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

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

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

June, 1911

PRONUNCIATION

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

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

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

PHONETIC SCHEME

Consonants: b; ch (*chīn*); d; dh (*dhe* = the); g (*go*); h; j; k; l; m; n; ng (*sīng*); ngg (*fīnger*); p; r; s (*sīp*); sh (*shīp*); t; th (*thīn*); v; w; y; z; zh (*vīzhn* = vision).

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

ă ǝ ĩ ȳ ȳȳ (rack reck rick rock ruck rook)

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

ār ēr ȳr (part pert port)

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

Vowels marked ˘ may be pronounced either way, e.g. *pātriot* (pā- or pā-). In all vowel symbols with r (ār, ar, etc.), the r, besides influencing the vowel sound, has its consonantal value when followed by a vowel in the next syllable of the word or in the following word (in *fearing* but not in *fearful*, in *far away* but not in *far gone*).

ACCENT

The main accent is shown by the mark ˈ, usually placed at the end of the stressed syllable; but, division into syllables being arbitrary in English, positions for the accent that would disguise the pronunciation are avoided; thus *stārr'ŷ* but *cā'rrŷ*, *wōll'en* but *cōl'ŷ*, *lō'al* but *vēlō'cīty*, *ōv'er* but *co'ver* (kū-), *mūdd'ŷ* but *mūd'dle*. The placing of two accents on a word means either (a) that the two marked syllables are equally stressed, as in *tīt'bit'*, or (b) that among good speakers the one accentuation has as many adherents as the other, or (c) that the stress varies according to position in the sentence as explained in the dictionary article -ED². In the thousands of compounds given under their first elements among the alphabetically arranged combinations, accent is thus shown: if there is no hyphen separating the parts, the accent is always given (back'bone, backslide'); if there is a hyphen, the regular usage is for the first of the compounded words to be stressed, and the accent is then

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

PRONUNCIATION WITHOUT REPELLING

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

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

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

ē = i (*nāk'éd, rély', cōll'ége, prív'èt*)

fr, ūr, = ēr (*bŭrth, bŭrn*)

ȳ, ȳ, = i, ī (*imply', sŭnn'ȳ*).

3. Final e unmarked is not indeterminate, but mute (*sāne, indŭc'tive*; cf. *rĕ'cipĕ, dilĕttāntĕ*).

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

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

Vowels.

ae = ē (*aegis*)

ai = ā (*pain*)

air = ār (*fair*)

au = aw (*maul*)

ay = ā (*say*)

ea, ee, = ē (*mean, meet*)

ear, eer, = ēr (*fear, beer*)

eu, ew, = ū (*feud, few*)

ie = ē (*thief*)

ier = ēr (*pier*)

oa = ō (*boat*)

ou = ow (*bound*)

oy = oi (*coy*)

Consonants.

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

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

dg = j (*judgement*)

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

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

ph = f (*photo*)

qu = kw (*quit*)

tch = ch (*batch*)

x = ks (*fox*)

6. The following terminations have the values shown:

-age = -j (*garbage*)

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

-ey = -ī (*donkey*)

-ous = -us (*furious*)

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

-tion = -shon (*salvation*)

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

INFLEXION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE DICTIONARY

(For list of general abbreviations see Appendix I)

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

attrib./utive etc.
augment./ative etc.
Austral./ia(n)
b./orn
back form./ation
bibl./ical etc.
biblog./raphy etc.
bill./iards
biog./raphy etc.
biol./ogy etc.
Boh./emian
bot./any etc.
Braz./il(ian)
Brit./on
Brit./ish
Bulg./aria(n)
Burm./ese
Byz./antine
c./entury
c./irca
cc., centuries
Celt./ic
cf., compare
chem./istry etc.
Chin./ese
chronol./ogy etc.
cinemat./ography etc.
cl./assical
cogn./ate
collect./ive(ly)
colloq./ual etc.
com./mon
comb./ination etc.
commere./ial etc.
comp., compar./ative
compd., compound
compl./ement
compp., compounds

com./mon -Teut./onic
con./ics
conch./ology etc.
confus./ion
conj., conjunction, con-
jugation
conn./ect etc.
constr./uction etc.
contempt./uous etc.
contr./action etc.
cop./ulative
Copt./ic
Corn./ish
correl./ative etc.
corresp./onding etc.
corrupt./ion
cp., compare
crick./et
cryst./allography
cu., cub., cubic
Cym./ric
d./ied
Da./nish
dat./ive
demonstr./ative
dent./istry
deriv./ative etc.
derog./atory etc.
dial./ect etc.
dict./ionary
diff./erent
different./iate etc.
dim./inutive etc.
dim., diminutives
diplom./acy
dissim./ilate etc.
dist./inct etc.
distrib./utive etc.

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

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

P = proprietary term.

+, sign affixed to all forms not recorded but merely inferred, with the exception of those called Aryan or OTeut. (all of which are inferential).

* = (orig. or chiefly) U.S.

|| = not U.S.

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