

The Pocket
Oxford
English Dictionary

牛津袖珍
英语词典

[英语版]

新版
New
Edition

外语教学与研究出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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[英语版]

Ninth edition

Edited by

Catherine Soanes

外语教学与研究出版社
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北京 BEIJING

(京)新登字 155 号

京权图字: 01 - 2003 - 3977

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

牛津袖珍英语词典/(英)索恩斯(Soanes, C.)编. —北京:外语教学与研究出版社,2004.4

ISBN 7 - 5600 - 4051 - 9

I. 牛… II. 索… III. 英语—词典 IV. H316

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2004)第 0235⁰⁰号

Originally published by Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, Oxford

©Oxford University Press 1969, 1978, 1984, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002

This reprint of The Pocket Oxford English Dictionary 9th Edition originally published in English in 2002 is published by arrangement with Oxford University Press for distribution in the mainland territory of China only and not for export therefrom

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牛津袖珍英语词典[英语版]

Catherine Soanes 编

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责任编辑:徐宁

出版发行:外语教学与研究出版社

社址:北京市西三环北路 19 号(100089)

网址: <http://www.fltrp.com>

印刷:北京外国语大学印刷厂

开本:787×965 1/32

印张:34.375

版次:2004年6月第1版 2004年6月第1次印刷

书号:ISBN 7 - 5600 - 4051 - 9/H·1995

定价:39.90 元

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出版前言

Contents

《牛津袖珍英语词典》(*Pocket Oxford English Dictionary*, 简称 POD) 是牛津大学出版社在《新牛津英语词典》(*New Oxford English Dictionary*) 基础上推出的新一代系列词典之一, 在英国本土及海外受到广大读者尤其是学生的欢迎和喜爱。此次出版的 POD 为 2002 年第 9 版, 除保留其原有的收词量大、新词汇多、便于携带等特点之外, 还具有以下一些鲜明特色:

一、简明准确的释义。POD 的释义建立在对数百万真实语料的科学分析基础之上, 直指词语的核心意义, 避免较难的和过于术语化的释义词, 便于读者理解。它的版面清晰明了, 单词、短语、派生词等都独立起行, 便于查阅。

二、扼要实用的用法说明。本词典的用法说明是读者学习和使用英语的好帮手, 涉及语法要点、拼写、词义相近的词语的辨析和某一具体单词的正确使用等内容。如 data 词条的“用法说明”清楚地指出 data 是 datum 一词的复数形式, 但在日常使用中, data 被用作单数的情况已被广泛地接受。

三、直观有趣的词源说明。本词典的词源说明力图做到非术语化, 突出词根, 使读者一目了然。此外, 许多词源说明还为单词提供了饶有趣味的文化背景知识。如 acid test (决定性的考验) 的词源说明便指出这一短语是出自 the use of an acid to test whether or not a metal is gold (用硝酸试金的方法)。

四、丰富多样的文中列表。POD 提供了许多关于各学科列表。这些列表不是以附录的形式出现, 而是插入文中伴随与之相关的核心词汇。除常见的国家名称、化学元素、地质年代等列表之外, 还有许多其他词典中查不到的知识性词汇列表, 如工具名称 (随 tool 一词)、常见乔木与灌木 (随 tree 一词)、恐龙种类 (随 dinosaur 一词) 等, 让读者在查阅单词时常有意想不到的收获。

经牛津大学出版社惠允, 外语教学与研究出版社引进出版《牛津袖珍英语词典》第 9 版, 相信会成为我国广大英语学习者的良师益友。

外语教学与研究出版社

学术与辞书部

2004 年 6 月

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The Pocket Oxford English Dictionary 1

The text is directly informed by the extensive and detailed research carried out for NODE. This information is presented in a clear and concise way. Definitions and meanings of words are immediately accessible, avoiding the use of difficult and over-technical vocabulary. An open layout, with each new section of an entry (phrases, derivatives, usage notes, etymological wordbuilder features) on a new line, ensures that finding individual sections and entries is easy to do.

In addition to providing information on the standard core of English as an international language, the dictionary has a number of special features which form an integral part of the text. Firstly, there is information on related words in the form of special wordbuilder sections, enabling the user to expand their vocabulary. Secondly, there are boxed usage notes within the text giving clear guidance on points of grammar and usage. Thirdly, there are in-text lists and tables focusing on core study subjects, for example giving information on such subjects as chemical elements, countries and nationalities of the world, and geological ages.

Pronunciations are given using a simple respelling system, newly devised for the dictionary, making them very easy to understand. Greater clarity has also been introduced into etymologies, which are written in a non-technical style to focus on root words; word language names written out in full.

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Preface

The *Pocket Oxford English Dictionary* is part of the range of new generation dictionaries based on the *New Oxford Dictionary of English*. It aims to provide up-to-date and accessible information on the core vocabulary of current English in a single pocket-sized volume. Its priorities are clear explanations of meaning and help with aspects of words which often cause difficulties, especially spelling, pronunciation, and usage. It will be particularly useful to secondary-school students, and in the UK is ideal for students working for GCSE and Standard Grade level examinations.

The text is directly informed by the evidence of how the language is actually used today, based on the analysis of hundreds of millions of words of real English carried out for *NODE*. This information is presented in a clear and concise way; definitions focus on the central meanings of words and are immediately accessible, avoiding the use of difficult and over-technical vocabulary. An open layout, with each new section of an entry (phrases, derivatives, usage notes, etymologies, wordbuilder features) on a new line, ensures that finding individual sections and entries is easy to do.

In addition to providing information on the standard core of English as an international language, the dictionary has a number of special features which form an integral part of the text. Firstly, there is information on related words in the form of special wordbuilder sections, enabling the user to expand their vocabulary. Secondly, there are boxed usage notes within the text giving clear guidance on points of grammar and usage. Thirdly, there are in-text lists and tables focusing on core study subjects, for example giving information on such subjects as chemical elements, countries and nationalities of the world, and geological ages.

Pronunciations are given using a simple respelling system, newly devised for the dictionary, making them very easy to understand. Greater clarity has also been introduced into etymologies, which are written in a non-technical style to focus on root words, with language names written out in full.

Guide to the use of the dictionary

1. Structure of entries

The *Pocket Oxford English Dictionary* is designed to be as straightforward as possible and the use of special dictionary symbols and conventions has been kept to a minimum. Those that are used are explained below.

Headword	bathe /bayth/ ● v. (bathes, bathing, bathed) 1 wash by immersing one's body in water. 2 ^{Brit.} take a swim. 3 soak or wipe gently with liquid to clean or soothe. ● n. a swim.	Verb inflections
● Introduces new part of speech	- DERIVATIVES bather n. - ORIGIN Old English.	Label (showing regional distribution)
Pronunciation (for selected words)	apogee /ap-uh-jee/ ● n. 1 Astron. the point in the orbit of the moon or a satellite at which it is furthest from the earth. 2 the highest point: <i>his creative activity reached its apogee in 1910.</i>	Subject label
Sense number	- ORIGIN from Greek <i>apogaion diastēma</i> , 'distance away from earth'.	Example of use (taken from real evidence)
	buck ¹ ● n. 1 the male of some animals, e.g. deer and rabbits. 2 a vertical jump performed by a horse. 3 ^{archaic} a fashionable young man. ● v. 1 (of a horse) perform a buck. 2 go against: <i>the shares bucked the market trend.</i> 3 (buck up) ^{informal} make or become more cheerful.	Label (showing currency)
	- ORIGIN Old English.	Typical pattern (in bold)
Homonym number (indicates different word with the same spelling)	buck ² ● n. N. Amer. & Austral./NZ informal a dollar. - ORIGIN unknown.	Label (showing level of formality)

Variant spelling
centralize (also **centralise**) ● **v.** (**centralizes, centralizing, centralized**) bring under the control of a central authority.
Derivatives (in alphabetical order) → **DERIVATIVES** **centralism** n. **centralist** n. & adj. **centralization** (also **centralisation**) n.

Grammatical information (in round brackets)
him ● **pron.** (third person sing.) used as the object of a verb or preposition to refer to a male person or animal previously mentioned.
 – **ORIGIN** Old English.

Plural form
Cross reference (in bold small capitals) → **die**² ● **n.** **1** sing. of **DICE**. **2** (pl. **dies**) a device for cutting or moulding metal or for stamping a design onto coins or medals.
Phrases and idioms → **PHRASES** **the die is cast** an event has happened that cannot be changed.
 – **ORIGIN** Old French *de*.

Wordbuilder section
bacteria ● **pl. n.** (sing. **bacterium**) a group of microscopic organisms, each made up of a single cell, many kinds of which can cause disease.
 – **DERIVATIVES** **bacterial** adj.
Word origin → **ORIGIN** Greek *baktērion* 'little rod'.
 – **WORDBUILDER** bacillus (*rod-shaped bacterium*), coccus (*rounded bacterium*), sepsis, septicaemia (*presence of bacteria in tissues or blood*); *E. coli*, listeria, salmonella (*bacteria causing food poisoning*); pneumococcus (*bacterium causing pneumonia and some forms of meningitis*).

Usage note → **USAGE** **bacteria**
 The word **bacteria** means 'microscopic organisms, each made up of a single cell' and is the plural form of **bacterium**. This means that **bacteria** should always be used with a plural verb: *the bacteria were multiplying*.

2. Headword

The headword is printed in bold type.

Variant spellings are given after the headword, e.g. **centralize** (also **centralise**), or before a particular sense if the variant only applies to that sense; in all such cases the form given as the headword is the preferred form.

Words that are different but spelled the same way (homographs) are given small numbers to distinguish them (e.g. **buck**¹ and **buck**²).

Variant American spellings are indicated by the label *US*, e.g. **colour** (*US color*).

3. Inflection

Plurals of nouns

Plurals formed by adding *-s* (or *-es* when they end in *-s*, *-x*, *-z*, *-sh*, or soft *-ch*) are regular and are not shown.

Other plural forms are given in the dictionary, notably for:

- nouns ending in *-i* or *-o*, e.g. **alibi** → **alibis**, **albino** → **albinos**
- nouns ending in *-a*, *-um*, or *-us* which are or appear to be Latin forms, e.g. **spectrum** → **spectra**, **areola** → **areolae**
- nouns ending in *-y*, e.g. **fly** → **flies**
- nouns with more than one plural form, e.g. **storey** → **storeys** or **stories**
- nouns with plurals showing a change in stem, e.g. **foot** → **feet**
- nouns with plurals that are the same as the singular form, e.g. **sheep** → **sheep**

Verbs

Verbs which change their form (inflect) by simply adding *-s*, *-ing*, and *-ed* to the infinitive (e.g. **abduct**) are regular and are not shown in the dictionary.

Other verb inflections are given in full in the dictionary, notably for:

- verbs ending in *-e*, e.g. **change** → **changes**, **changing**, **changed**
- verbs which inflect by doubling a consonant, e.g. **bat** → **bats**, **batting**, **batted**
- verbs ending in *-y* which inflect by changing *-y* to *-i*, e.g. **try** → **tries**, **trying**, **tried**
- verbs in which the past tense and/or the past participle do not follow the regular *-ed* pattern, e.g. **feel** → **feels**, **feeling**, **felt**; **wake** → **wakes**, **waking**, **woke**; past part. **woken**
- verbs ending in *-er*, whether the final *-r* is doubled or not, e.g. **confer** → **confers**, **conferring**, **conferred**; **banter** → **banters**, **bantering**, **bantered**

Adjectives

The following forms for comparative and superlative are regular and are not shown in the dictionary:

- words of one syllable adding *-er* and *-est*, e.g. **great** → **greater**, **greatest**
- words of one syllable ending in silent *-e*, which drop the *-e* and add *-er* and *-est*, e.g. **brave** → **braver**, **bravest**
- words which form the comparative and superlative by adding 'more' and 'most'

Other forms are given in the dictionary, notably for:

- adjectives which form the comparative and superlative by doubling a final consonant, e.g. **hot** → **hotter**, **hottest**
- two-syllable adjectives which form the comparative and superlative with *-er* and *-est*, e.g. **happy** → **happier**, **happiest**

4. Hyphenation

Although standard spelling in English is fixed, the use of hyphens is not. A few general rules are followed, and these are outlined below.

Noun compounds: there are no set rules as to whether a compound (a word such as **airstream**) is written as one word, two words, or with a hyphen (unless the hyphen is used to show the word's grammatical function: see below): **airstream**, **air stream**, and **air-stream** are all acceptable. However, in modern English, hyphens are being used less than before, and compounds tend to be written either as one word (**airstream**) or two words (**air raid**) rather than with a hyphen. There is a further difference between British and US English: compounds tend to be written as two words in British English and one word in US English.

To save space and avoid confusion, only one of the three possible forms—the standard British one—is given in the dictionary. This does not, however, mean that other forms are incorrect or not used.

Grammatical function: hyphens are also used to show a word's grammatical function. When a noun compound made up of two separate words (e.g. **credit card**) is placed before another noun, the rule is that the compound is written with a hyphen, e.g. *I used my credit card but credit-card debt*. This may be seen in example sentences but is not otherwise mentioned in the dictionary entries.

A similar rule exists with compound adjectives such as **well known**. When used after the verb (predicatively) such adjectives are not written with a hyphen, but when used before the noun (attributively) they

should have a hyphen: *he is well known* but *a well-known painter*.

The rule with verb compounds is that, where a noun compound is two words (e.g. **hero worship**) any verb compound formed from it is normally hyphenated (to **hero-worship**). This form is shown in the dictionary entries.

5. Labels

Unless otherwise stated, the words and senses in this dictionary are all part of standard English. Some words, however, are suitable only for certain situations or are found only in certain contexts, and where this is the case a label (or a combination of labels) is used.

Register labels

These refer to the particular level of use in the language—indicating where a term is informal or formal, historical or archaic, and so on.

formal: normally used only in writing, such as in official documents

informal: normally used only in speaking, or informal writing

dated: no longer used by most English speakers, but still used by older people

archaic: old-fashioned language, not in ordinary use today, though sometimes used to give an old-fashioned effect and also found in the literature of the past

hist.: historical—only used today to refer to some practice or thing that is no longer part of modern life, e.g. **blunderbuss**.

literary: found only or mainly in literature

tech.: technical—normally used only in technical language, though not restricted to a particular subject field

rare: not in normal use

humorous: used to sound funny or playful

euphem.: euphemistic—used instead of a more direct or vulgar term

dialect: not part of the standard language, but still widely used in certain local regions of the English-speaking world

derog.: derogatory—intended to express a low opinion or cause offence

offens.: offensive—likely to cause offence, especially racial offence, whether the speaker means to or not

vulgar: very informal language, usually referring to sexual activity or other bodily functions, which is widely thought of as taboo and may cause offence

Geographical labels

English is spoken throughout the world, but the main regional types of English are British, US and Canadian, Australian and New Zealand, South African, Indian, and West Indian. The majority of words and

senses listed in the dictionary are common to all the major regional varieties of English, but where important local differences exist these are shown.

The geographical label 'Brit.' means that the use is found typically in British English but is not found in American English, though it may be found in other varieties such as Australian English. The label 'US', on the other hand, implies that the use is typically US and is not standard in British English, though it may be found elsewhere.

Subject labels

These are used to indicate that a word or sense is associated with a particular subject field or specialist activity, such as Music, Chemistry, or Soccer.

6. Definition

Definitions are separated by numbers and listed in order of comparative familiarity and importance, with the most current and important senses first.

7. Derivatives

Derivatives are words formed from another word with the addition of a suffix; for example, **adjustable** is a derivative of **adjust**, with the suffix **-able** added to it. Many derivatives can be understood from the sense of the main word and the particular suffix used; in such cases, the derivatives are listed at the end of the entry for the main word (e.g. **abdication** at **abdicate**). When a derivative has more than one meaning and further explanation is needed, then it is given an entry in its own right (e.g. **agreeable**).

8. Wordbuilder sections, lists, and tables

The Wordbuilder sections in the dictionary provide a selection of words related to the headword, generally including brief definitions, to encourage the user to expand their vocabulary. Fuller definitions of the words listed in these sections can be found at the main entries for those words. For instance, the Wordbuilder section at the entry for **animal** gives the related words *fauna*, *invertebrates*, *vertebrates*, and *zoology*, and that at **brass** lists a selection of brass musical instruments, all of which have their own entries in the dictionary.

The dictionary also includes a number of lists and tables giving information on such subjects as geological ages and countries and nationalities. These lists are situated as near as possible in the text to a

'parent' entry. For instance, lists of countries and nationalities are given as near as possible to an entry relating to a continent, such as **American**, while the list of geological ages is given near to the entry for **geology**. If the table and entry are on different pages, then the entry will have the words '(See table)' to direct the user to turn the page.

9. Pronunciation system used in the dictionary

The *Pocket Oxford English Dictionary* uses a respelling system for pronunciations in which special symbols are avoided. The dictionary's policy is to give a pronunciation for any word which might cause difficulty; it does not provide pronunciations for everyday words believed to be familiar to everyone, such as *table* or *large*. Foreign pronunciations are always given an English pronunciation, e.g. /kor-don **bler**/ (cordon bleu).

Hyphens have been used to divide pronunciations approximately into syllables. The main stress is shown in bold, e.g. /**ab**-duh-muhn/ (abdomen). Secondary stresses are not given.

An apostrophe has been used instead of the sound /uh/ in cases where this is too heavy, or where the sound is a syllabic consonant (a consonant that is a whole syllable), as in /ay-zh'n/ (Asian) or /**har**-k'n/ (hearken).

A consonant is sometimes doubled to avoid confusion, for example, -ss- is given whenever -s- might be pronounced as -z-, as in /**cha**-liss/ (chalice).

'I' occurs in initial segments of words and in stand-alone segments (e.g. /I-uh-**tol**-luh/ (ayatollah), /**cat**-I-uhn/ (cation)). All other instances of 'I' are represented with 'y'.

A rhyming pronunciation is given where the alternative respelling involves odd-looking word groups, as in aisle /rhymes with mile/.

List of Respelling Symbols

Vowels	Examples	Vowels	Examples	Vowels	Examples
a	as in cat	ew	as in few	oy	as in boy
ah	as in calm	i	as in pin	u	as in cup
air	as in hair	l	as in eye	uh	as in along
ar	as in bar	o	as in top	uu	as in book
aw	as in law	oh	as in most	y	as in cry
ay	as in say	oi	as in join	yoo	as in unit
e	as in bed	oo	as in soon	yoor	as in
ee	as in meet	oor	as in poor		Europe
eer	as in beer	or	as in corn	yr	as in fire
er	as in her	ow	as in cow		

Consonants	Examples	Consonants	Examples	Consonants	Examples
b	as in bat	l	as in leg	sh	as in shop
ch	as in chin	m	as in man	t	as in top
d	as in day	n	as in not	th	as in thin
f	as in fat	ng	as in sing, finger	th	as in this
g	as in get	nk	as in thank	v	as in van
h	as in hat	p	as in pen	w	as in will
j	as in jam	r	as in red	y	as in yes
k	as in king	s	as in sit	z	as in zebra
kh	as in loch			zh	as in vision

10. Abbreviations used in the dictionary

abbrev.	abbreviation	Meteorol.	Meteorology
adj.	adjective	Mil.	Military
adv.	adverb	n.	noun
Anat.	Anatomy	N. Amer.	North American
Amer. Football	American Football	Naut.	Nautical
Archit.	Architecture	N. Engl.	Northern English
Astron.	Astronomy	NZ	New Zealand
Austral.	Australian	opp.	opposite of
Biochem.	Biochemistry	offens.	offensive
Biol.	Biology	part.	participle
Bot.	Botany	Philos.	Philosophy
Chem.	Chemistry	Phonet.	Phonetics
comb. form	combining form	Physiol.	Physiology
contr.	contraction	pl.	plural
derog.	derogatory	predet.	predeterminer
det.	determiner	prep.	preposition
Electron.	Electronics	pres.	present
Engl. Law	English Law	pronunc.	pronunciation
esp.	especially	Rom. Myth.	Roman Mythology
euphem.	euphemistic	S. Afr.	South African
exclam.	exclamation	Sc.	Scottish
fem.	feminine	sing.	singular
Geol.	Geology	Stat.	Statistics
Gk Myth.	Greek Mythology	symp.	symbol
hist.	historical	tech.	technical
Ind.	Indian	usu.	usually
Ir.	Irish	v.	verb
Math.	Mathematics	var.	variant
Med.	Medicine	Zool.	Zoology

Note on trademarks and proprietary status

This dictionary includes some words which have, or are asserted to have, proprietary status as trademarks or otherwise. Their inclusion does not imply that they have acquired for legal purposes a non-proprietary or general significance, nor any other judgement concerning their legal status. In cases where the editorial staff have some evidence that a word has proprietary status this is indicated in the entry for that word by the label trademark, but no judgement concerning the legal status of such words is made or implied thereby.

A a

A¹ (also **a**) ● **n.** (pl. **As** or **A's**) **1** the first letter of the alphabet. **2** referring to the first, best, or most important item in a group. **3** Music the sixth note of the scale of C major.

– PHRASES **from A to B** from one's starting point to one's finishing point.

A² ● **abbrev.** **1** ampere(s). **2** (Å) ångstrom(s). **3** answer.

a¹ ● **det.** **1** used when mentioning someone or something for the first time; the indefinite article. **2** one single: *a hundred*. **3** per: *typing 60 words a minute*.
– ORIGIN Old English.

a² ● **abbrev.** **1** (in travel timetables) arrives. **2** (used before a date) before. [ORIGIN Latin *ante*.]

a⁻¹ (often **an-** before a vowel) ● **prefix** not; without: *atheistic*.
– ORIGIN Greek.

a⁻² ● **prefix** **1** to; towards: *aside*. **2** in the process of: *a-hunting*. **3** in a specified state: *aflutter*.
– ORIGIN Old English.

a⁻³ ● **prefix** **1** of: *anew*. **2** utterly: *abash*.
– ORIGIN Old French.

A1 ● **adj.** informal excellent.

AA ● **abbrev.** **1** Alcoholics Anonymous. **2** Automobile Association.

aardvark /ard-vark/ ● **n.** an African mammal with a tubular snout and a long tongue, feeding on ants and termites.
– ORIGIN South African Dutch, 'earth pig'.

ab- (also **abs-**) ● **prefix** away; from: *abdicate*.
– ORIGIN Latin.

aback ● **adv.** (in phr. **take aback**) shock or surprise (someone).
– ORIGIN Old English.

abacus /a-buh-kuhss/ ● **n.** (pl. **abacuses**) a frame with rows of wires along which beads are slid, used for counting.
– ORIGIN Greek *abax* 'slab'.

abaft /uh-bahft/ ● **adv.** & **prep.** Naut. in or behind the stern of a ship.
– ORIGIN from archaic *baft* 'in the rear'.

abandon ● **v.** **1** leave permanently. **2** give up (an action or practice) completely. **3** (**abandon oneself to**) give in to (a desire) completely. ● **n.** complete

lack of self-consciousness or self-control.

– DERIVATIVES **abandonment** **n.**
– ORIGIN Old French *abandoner*.

abandoned ● **adj.** wild; uncontrolled.

abase /uh-bayss/ ● **v.** (**abases, abasing, abased**) (**abase oneself**) behave in a way that causes others to think less of one.

– DERIVATIVES **abatement** **n.**
– ORIGIN Old French *abaissier* 'to lower'.

abashed ● **adj.** embarrassed or ashamed.

– ORIGIN Old French *esbair* 'utterly astound'.

abate /uh-bayt/ ● **v.** (**abates, abating, abated**) (of something bad) become less severe or widespread.

– DERIVATIVES **abatement** **n.**
– ORIGIN Old French *abatre* 'to fell'.

abattoir /a-buh-twar/ ● **n.** a slaughterhouse.
– ORIGIN French.

abess /ab-biss/ ● **n.** a woman who is the head of an abbey of nuns.

abbey ● **n.** (pl. **abbeys**) a building occupied by a community of monks or nuns.
– ORIGIN Old French *abbie*.

abbot ● **n.** a man who is the head of an abbey of monks.
– ORIGIN Greek *abbas* 'father'.

abbreviate /uh-bree-vi-ayt/ ● **v.** (**abbreviates, abbreviating, abbreviated**) shorten (a word, phrase, or text).
– ORIGIN Latin *abbreviare*.

abbreviation ● **n.** a shortened form of a word or phrase.

USAGE abbreviation

What is the difference between an **abbreviation**, an **acronym**, a **contraction**, and an **initialism**? An **abbreviation** is a shortened form of a word or phrase (for example, *miss* is an abbreviation of *mistress*). An **acronym** is a word formed from the first letters of other words (for example, *laser* is an acronym formed from the initial letters of the words *light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation*). A **contraction** is a shortened form of a word or words, often joined by an apostrophe (for example *I'll* is a