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Oxford English Dictionary Online

The world's greatest dictionary – now available online

A wide range of search options

Updated quarterly



OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

www.oed.com

An illustrious past, an exciting future...

First Edition

- ◆ Work started in 1857
- ◆ Published 1884-1928, 10 volumes, 15,490 pages
- ◆ 70 years to complete

Supplements

- ◆ Published 1933, 1 volume, 866 pages
- ◆ Published 1972-86, 4 volumes, 5,730 pages

Second Edition

- ◆ Amalgamation of the First Edition and Supplements in one sequence
- ◆ Published 1989, 20 volumes, 21,730 pages
- ◆ Weighs 62.6 kilos
- ◆ 615,164 words defined
- ◆ 2,436,600 quotations
- ◆ 139,900 pronunciations
- ◆ 219,800 etymologies
- ◆ Most quoted author: Shakespeare

Additions Volumes

- ◆ Published 1993-97, 3 volumes

Revision Programme

- ◆ Started in 1993
- ◆ Estimated cost £34 million
- ◆ Staff of 80 lexicographers, researchers, systems engineers, and project managers, plus 200 specialist consultants and numerous external contributors
- ◆ Every word, every sense is being fully reviewed and updated for the first time, and new words added

OED Online

- ◆ Launched March 2000
- ◆ Includes the full text of the Second Edition and the 3 Additions volumes
- ◆ Updated quarterly with over 1,800 new and revised words

“The ultimate authority on the English language as well as a history of English speech and thought from its infancy to the present day.” – *The Times*

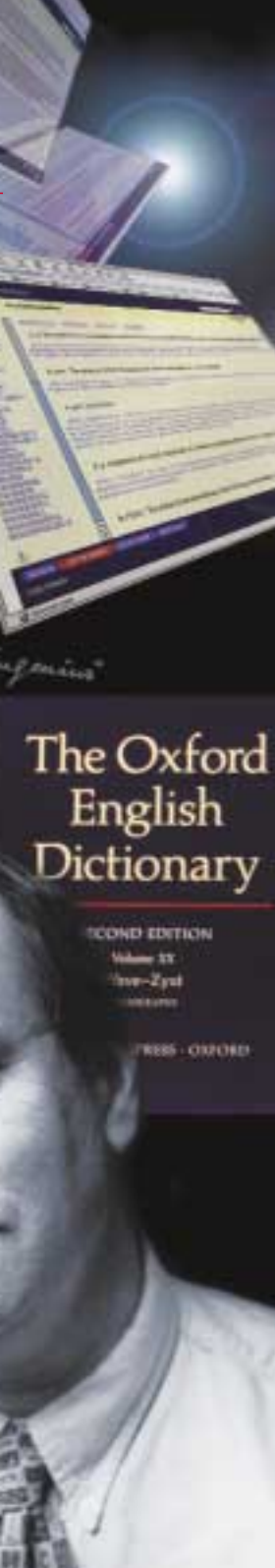
“The greatest work in dictionary making ever undertaken.” – *The New York Times*

dictionary ('dɪkʃənəri). [ad. med.L. *dictiōnārium* or *dictiōnārius* (sc. *liber*) lit. 'a book dealing with the individual words of a language (or certain specified classes of them), so as to set forth their orthography, pronunciation, signification, and use, their synonyms, derivation, and history, or at least some of these facts: for convenience of reference, the words are arranged in some stated order, now

1. a. A book dealing with the individual words of a language (or certain specified classes of them), so as to set forth their orthography, pronunciation, signification, and use, their synonyms, derivation, and history, or at least some of these facts: for convenience of reference, the words are arranged in some stated order, now

Sick, like
1764 What an infamous story is that you have not! After some little remarks on it, the rest follows. I am sure you will like it.
Aime, letters, xxxi. To John Hall Stevenson, Esq. [etc.]





The *Oxford English Dictionary* has been the last word on words for over a century... and it is now available ONLINE.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* is widely acknowledged to be the most authoritative and comprehensive dictionary of English in the world, and the definitive record of English language development over the last fifteen hundred years.

Why?

Because the 20-volume *OED* offers extraordinary breadth and depth of coverage, combined with a unique historical focus. It is an unrivalled guide to both the meaning and usage of English words – both present and past.

It traces the evolution of over 600,000 words from across the English-speaking world through 2.5 million quotations from a wide range of sources – from classic literature and specialist periodicals to film scripts, wills, and cookery books.

The *OED* also offers the best in etymological analysis, listings of variant spellings, and shows pronunciation using the International Phonetic Alphabet.

"There is no longer one English – there are many Englishes. Words are flooding into the language from all corners of the world. Only a dictionary the size of the OED can adequately capture the true richness of the English language throughout its history, and the developments in world English." – John Simpson, Chief Editor, *OED*

What are the benefits of *OED Online*?


- ◆ Unprecedented access to the 20-volume Second Edition and 3 Additions Series volumes, plus at least 1,800 new and revised words each quarter
- ◆ Select how entries are displayed by turning pronunciations, etymologies, variant spellings, and quotations on and off
- ◆ Everything from simple word look-ups to sophisticated Boolean searching, using any of the fields in the Dictionary, can be done with speed and ease
- ◆ Find a term when you know the meaning but have forgotten the word
- ◆ Use wildcards if you are unsure of a spelling, or if you want to search for words with common characteristics
- ◆ Search for quotations from a specified year, or from a particular author and/or work
- ◆ Search for words which have come into English via a particular language
- ◆ Search pronunciations as well as accented and other special characters
- ◆ Search for first cited dates, authors and works
- ◆ Search for words with a particular part of speech
- ◆ Perform case sensitive searches
- ◆ Restrict a search to a previous results set
- ◆ Compare revised entries with entries from the Second Edition to see how language has changed and how new scholarship has increased understanding of our linguistic and cultural heritage

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A wide range of search options

Updated quarterly

[illegible]

-
- SEARCH FOR **ENTRIES** **QUOTATIONS** CONTAINING...
- hand IS language names
- AND (Operation A)
- 1800-1900 IS first cited date
- AND (Operation B)
- feed IS definitions
-  LINGUISTICS SEARCH ENGINE
- [RESET FORM](#)
- ☐ Case-sensitive searching
☐ Exact character searching
- Order by: **REARND REAR**
- 1 word
- ☒ before
☐ after
☐ before or after
- Order of operators: **Athen B**
- ☐ Restrict search to results of
☒ previous search
☐ search number 1
- Part of speech filter
- ☐ noun ☐ preposition
☐ pronoun ☐ interjection
☐ adjective ☐ prefix
☐ article ☐ suffix
☐ verb ☐ containing form
☐ adverb ☐ participle
☐ conjunction ☐ phrase
- SECOND EDITION** 8 results

- M.
?a1425 magnitude
c1425 machiname
M.
c1425 magnificent
adv.
(?c1430) Macabré M.
(a1438) madwoman
M.

◆ **LIST BY DATE** Reorder the entries in the side frame by date, and discover which other words entered the language in the same year as **magnitude**.

- ◆ **SEARCH RESULTS** Results in both the Second Edition and the New Edition are listed, with links to matched entries.

"Quick to access and easy to use... A browser's paradise." The Times

The screenshot shows the OED entry for 'magnitude'. Key features highlighted include:

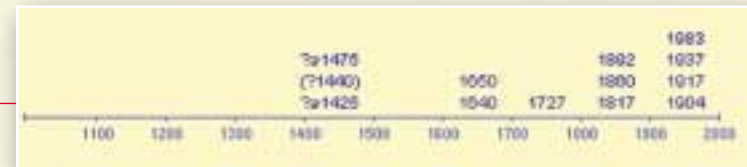
- Search Box:** A search bar at the top with the text 'ma?ni*de' entered.
- Entry Version:** A button labeled 'NEW EDITION' with a subtext 'draft entry Mar. 2006' and an 'EARLIER' link.
- Date Chart:** A button labeled 'DATE CHART'.
- Quotations:** A button labeled 'QUOTATIONS'.
- Cross References:** A button labeled 'CROSS REFERENCES'.
- E-Mail an Entry:** A button labeled 'E-MAIL AN ENTRY'.
- Entry Map:** A button labeled 'ENTRY MAP'.
- Navigation:** Buttons for 'PRINT', 'MAIL', 'HELP', and 'SIGN OUT' at the bottom.

♦ **FIND WORD** Type in this box for a quick word search. You don't need to know exactly how to spell a word – use ? for a single unknown letter, and * to represent any number of letters. *ma?ni*de* brings up a choice of *mad nightshade*, *magnitude* or *mannide*.

- 1 [mad nightshade](#)
- 2 [magnitude, n.](#)
- 3 [mannide, n.](#)

♦ **ENTRY VERSION** Specifies the publication date of the entry and, in this case, contains a button to take you to an earlier version of the entry for *magnitude* from the Second Edition.

♦ **DATE CHART** Turn on the date chart to see at a glance the spread of quotation evidence for *magnitude*.



... by their murmurs magnitude. 1475 (?a1425) tr. R. Higden *Polychron.*
 ... ble waters, whiche be callede sees what for the magnitude of theym. 1640 BP. J.
 Planet II. (1684) 149 'Tis said, that Magnitude does always add to the swiftness o
 O J. BULWER *Anthropometamorphosis* xii. 230 That which fails in magnitude is
 DEFOE *Syst. Magick* i. i. 10 The Height, and Strength, and Magnitude of their
 ... rve to make its Fall more terrible. 1817 T. CHALMERS *Series Disc. Christian*
 ... Ve have something more than the mere magnitude of the planets to allege in favour
 ... re inhabited. 1860 J. TYNDALL *Glaciers of Alps* i. ii. 82 And as our eye ranged

♦ **QUOTATIONS** Click this button to hide or display quotation evidence tracing the usage of *magnitude* from the first recorded occurrence around 1425 to the modern period.

♦ **CROSS REFERENCES** Move to related entries with ease.

♦ **E-MAIL AN ENTRY** Click this button to send an e-mail containing a free link to this entry.

♦ **ENTRY MAP** Displays a list of all the main numbered senses of the entry, enabling you to navigate quickly through long entries.

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Updated quarterly

Charting the past, present, and future of English

The OED is changing

For the first time since it was completed in 1928, the Dictionary is being completely revised, and online publication enables the “treasure house of the English language” to move with the times as never before.

At least **1,800 new and revised words** are released each quarter, offering subscribers to *OED Online* unique access to the latest research.

What’s more, nothing will be discarded, nothing overwritten. Subscribers can **compare revised entries** with entries from the Second Edition to see how language has changed and how new scholarship has increased understanding of our linguistic and cultural heritage.



- ◆ **New Entries** keep the OED up to date with words that have recently become established in the English language. There are many sources of new words, such as works of fiction, specialist areas including science and computing, and borrowings from other languages.



- ◆ Compare and contrast newly revised entries with entries from the Second Edition at the touch of a button. See how the latest scholarly research is improving our picture of the English language.

"the greatest continuing work of scholarship" Newsweek

Why update?

- ◆ Language is constantly evolving: new words appear, and meanings of existing words change
- ◆ New scholarship enables all aspects of existing entries to be improved

The revision programme - what is involved?

- ◆ Oxford University Press has committed £34 million to updating the *OED* - making the revision programme the world's largest humanities research project
- ◆ Every word and every sense is being fully updated to take account of the latest changes in language and scholarship
- ◆ The project, which began in 1993, is expected to double the size of the Dictionary
- ◆ A staff of 80 lexicographers, researchers, systems engineers, managerial and administrative staff, plus approximately 200 specialist consultants and numerous other contributors, are working on the project

You can help...

James Murray, the first editor of the *OED*, launched his famous "Appeal for Readers" in 1879. It was a great success. The many hundreds of contributors who came forward - from Minnesota to Melbourne - made the creation of the Dictionary possible. This is a tradition which continues to the present day.

Be part of the history of the English language...

John Simpson, Chief Editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*
"I would like to invite readers to contribute to the development of the *OED*. Everyone can play a part in recording the history of the language by helping in the creation of the Dictionary."

For more details, and to find out how to submit material, please see **www.oed.com**.

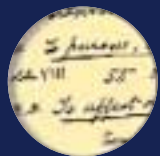


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Oxford English Dictionary News, our free quarterly newsletter, features fascinating and entertaining articles by editors, researchers, and contributors on their work for the *OED*. Each issue also contains an Appeals List, consisting of words and phrases for which further evidence from readers would be particularly welcomed.

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