Oxford Dictionaries Premium English

Oxford Dictionaries Premium is more than just a dictionary. Discover our additional English language resources and learn more about English language and culture.

Select your dictionary

You have the option to choose between British and US English in your searches.

Navigating a dictionary entry

On every entry page in our Premium dictionary, you will see the headword, pronunciation, part of speech, and labels where necessary.

Headword
the spelling is the most common in modern British English, as determined from evidence in the Oxford Corpus and elsewhere.

Variant
a spelling less common than the headword but still widely used and regarded as correct.

Definition of realize in English:

realize

Top 1000 frequently used words
Pronunciation: /ˈrɛlɪz/ (British also realise)

Audio
Click on the speaker symbol next to the headword to hear the word spoken aloud.

IPA
pronunciation information is also given using IPA. Click on the IPA for an explanation of the symbols.

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The alphabet has its roots in Phoenician writing of the 2nd millennium BC, from which the modern Hebrew and Arabic systems are ultimately derived. The Greek alphabet, which emerged in 1000–900 BC, developed two branches, Cyrillic (which became the script of Russian) and Etruscan (from which derives the Roman alphabet used in the West).

**Notes**

Encyclopedic notes provide further information about a proper name.

Usage notes provide information on how to use the word and which uses are regarded as controversial or incorrect.

Technical notes offer further information about a scientific or biological term, for example taxonomic name (official Latin name) of a plant or animal.

### oak

**Pronunciation:** /ək/ 🎧

**NOUN**

(also oak tree)

1. A tree that bears acorns as fruit, and typically has lobed deciduous leaves. Oaks are common in many northern temperate forests and are an important source of hard and durable wood used chiefly in construction, furniture, and (formerly) shipbuilding.

   Genus *Quercus*, family *Fagaceae*: many species, including the deciduous *Eastern white oak* (*Q. alba*) and *Eastern black oak* (*Q. velutina*) and the evergreen *live oak* (*Q. virginiana*).
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Origins
an account of the word's origin or etymology, regularly updated with the latest research from the OED historical project

Rhyming dictionary
a list of words that rhyme with the headword is provided

Line break information
Syllabification is available for editors and proofreaders, showing how to divide the word at the end of a line

Homographs
You can jump quickly between homograph entries (entries which have the same spelling but different origins) by clicking the numbers at the top of the page.

A detailed guide to the dictionary can be found here

Derivative entries, phrases, and phrasal verbs
Phrases, phrasal verbs, and derivative entries are given at the end of relevant entries, and also as standalone entries which link back to the parent, as in this example for 'make a mess'.

make a mess
Create a dirty or untidy state:
‘all the eggs broke and made a mess’

See parent entry: mess
Using the thesaurus

As well as exploring synonyms from an entry page, you can also access the thesaurus by selecting 'synonyms' from the search bar drop down menu.

Other features of the thesaurus include:

- **Choose the Right Word:** discussion of words with similar meanings, analysing the differences between them
- **Confusables:** help with similar-looking words that are often confused with each other
- **Word Toolkit:** helps you to distinguish between words with similar meanings by showing the different words typically used with each one

**health**

Synonyms of health in English:
noun

1. 'He was restored to health'
   - good physical condition, healthiness, fitness, physical fitness, well-being, health, good health, fine fettle, good fettle;
   - robustness, strength, vigor, soundness, salubrity
   - [Antonyms] ill health

2. 'bad health forced him to retire'
   - state of health, physical state, physical health, physical shape, condition, constitution, form

**Word Links**
salubrious health-giving
sanitary relating to health

Synonyms are sometimes arranged into groups to show further shades of meaning.

Word Links shows words connected to the headword, for example aeronautics and aviation at aircraft

Antonyms: words with the opposite meaning are also provided.
Specialist dictionaries

As well as the dictionary and thesaurus, subscribers also have access to New Hart’s Rules, Garner’s Legal Usage, the New Oxford Dictionary for Writers and Editors, and the Pocket Fowler’s Modern English usage.

Language resources

Language resources, including grammar, tips for better writing, and punctuation guidance, are available. Click ‘GRAMMAR’ at the top of any page to explore these resources.

Quizzes

You can find quizzes to test your language skills on the English dictionary homepage, and in the side bar for every entry.

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