

Oxford Dictionaries Premium English

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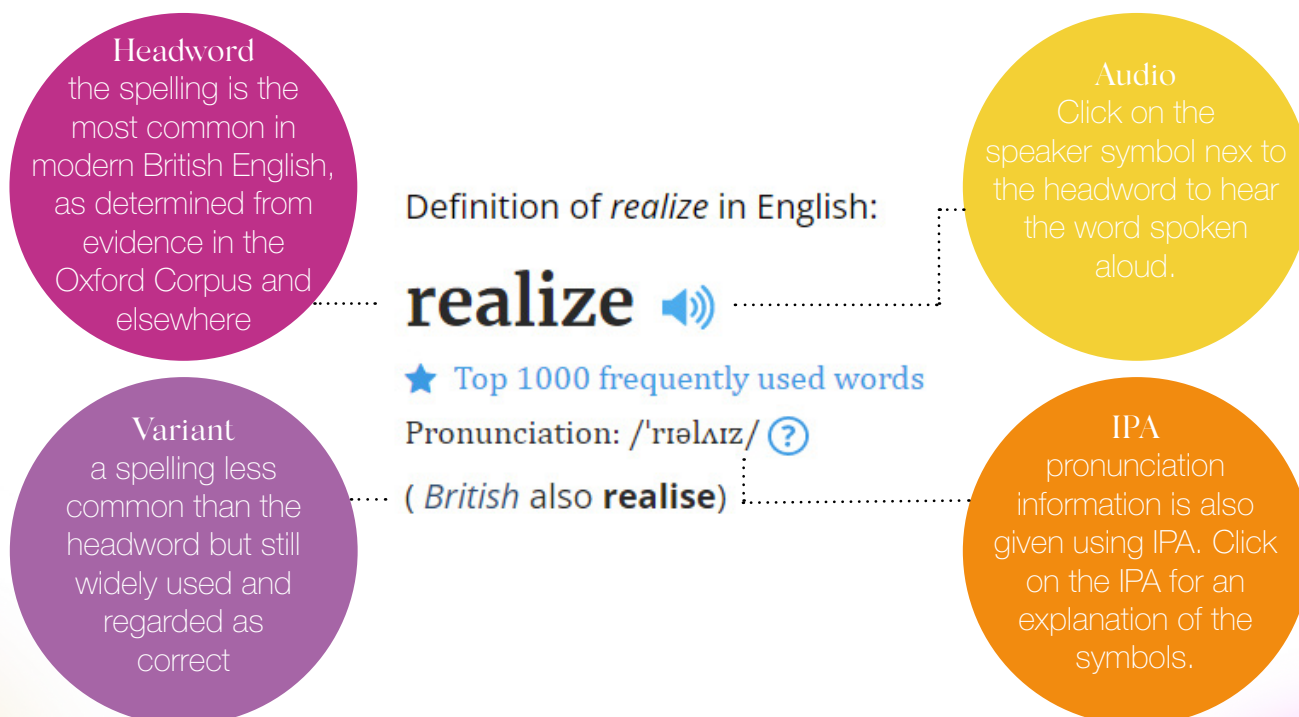
Select your dictionary

You have the option to choose between from 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.





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: /ɒk/  



NOUN

(also **oak tree**)



1 A tree that bears acorns as fruit, and typically has lobed deciduous leaves. Oaks are common in many north 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*).

Homographs

There are 3 main definitions of **row** in English: [row¹](#) [row²](#) [row³](#)

row¹

Pronunciation: /rō/  

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.

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Origin

Early 19th century; named after the 1st Duke of Wellington (see [Wellington, 1st Duke of](#)).

[— More](#)

The wellington boot is named after Arthur Wellesley, the first Duke of Wellington, whose army defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. The first wellington boots were long leather ones, as worn by the great general—rubber **wellies** [1960s] do not seem to have caught on until the beginning of the 20th century.

Words that rhyme with **bumble**

crumble, fumble, grumble, humble, jumble, mumble, rough-and-tumble, rumble, scumble, stumble, tumble, umbel

For editors and proofreaders

Syllabification: bum·ble

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

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'

[+ More example sentences](#)

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.



health



Synonyms of *health* in English:

noun

1 *'he was restored to health'*

good physical condition, healthiness, fitness, physical fitness, well-being, haleness, good trim, good shape, fine fettle, good kilter;
robustness, strength, vigor, soundness, salubrity

[ANTONYMS] illness

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.

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

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](#).

Dangling participles



Participles of verbs are often used to introduce **subordinate clauses**, which give extra **information** about the main part of a sentence (known as the **main clause**). It's important to use **participles** in **subordinate clauses** correctly. The participle should always describe an action performed by the **subject** of the main part of the sentence. For example:

Mrs Stevens, **opening the door quietly**, came into the room.

[subject] [participle]

In this sentence, the present participle (*opening*) in the subordinate clause refers to the **subject** of the main clause. Mrs Stevens is both opening the door and coming into the room.

Sometimes writers forget this rule and begin a sentence with a participle that doesn't refer to the subject of their sentence. They then end up with what's known as a **dangling participle**, as in this grammatically incorrect statement:

Travelling to Finland, the weather got colder and colder.

[participle] [subject]

Strictly speaking, this sentence means that it is 'the weather' that is 'travelling to Finland', which obviously isn't what the writer was intending to say. The sentence needs to be **reworded** to make the meaning clear and to make it grammatically correct, e.g.:

Semicolon

The semicolon is most commonly used to mark a break that is stronger than a **comma** but not as final as a full stop. It's used between two **main clauses** that balance each other and are too closely linked to be made into separate sentences. For example:

*The film was a **critical** success; its lead actors were particularly praised.*

[Read more about semicolons.](#)

Colon

There are three main uses of the colon:

- between two main clauses in cases where the second clause explains or follows from the first:

*We have a **motto**: live life to the full.*

- to introduce a list:

The cost of the room included the following: breakfast, dinner, and Wi-Fi.

- before a quotation, and sometimes before direct speech:

*The **headline** read: 'Local Woman Saves Geese'.*

[Read more about colons.](#)

Apostrophe

There are two main cases where apostrophes are used:

Quizzes

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

TEST YOURSELF

'-ance' or '-ence'

1) Which is the correct spelling?

☐ avoidance

☐ avoidance

Next 0/0

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