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 US 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: /rē(ə)lz/ (British also realise)

Audio

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

Respelling

Pronunciation information is also given using respelling.
The alphabet has its roots in Phoenician writing of the 2nd millennium BCE, from which the modern Hebrew and Arabic systems are ultimately derived. The Greek alphabet, which emerged in 1000–900 BCE, 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: /ɔːk/ ① ③

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 Fagacese: many species, including the deciduous Eastern white oak (Q. alba) and Eastern black oak (Q. velutina) and the evergreen live oak (Q. virginiana).
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".

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

make a mess
Create a dirty or untidy state:
‘all the eggs broke and made a 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 kitter;
   - 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.

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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