

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.

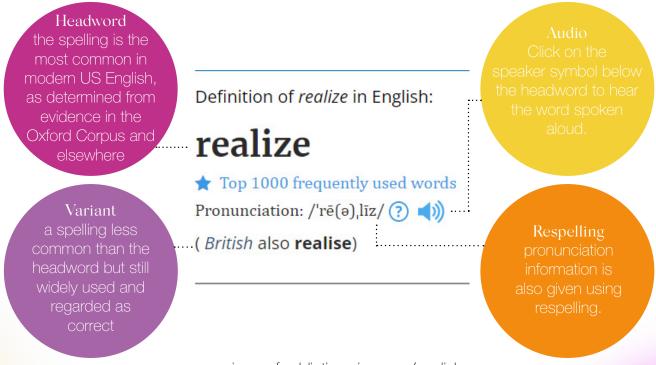
Select your dictionary

You have the option to choose between 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.





Real example sentence an illustrative example of modern English taken from the Oxford Corpus and showing how a word is typically used.

[WITH OBJECT]

VERB

created after
analysing evidence
of use from the Oxford
Corpus, the Oxford
Reading Programme,
and other
sources

More
example sentences
from the Sentence
Dictionary, a bank of
more than two million
real sentences linked
to dictionary

1 Become fully aware of (something) as a fact; understand clearly:

'he realized his mistake at once'

[WITH CLAUSE]: 'they realized that something was wrong'

'she had not realized how hungry she was'

(+ More example sentences) (+ Synonyms

click here to
see words with the
same or a similar
meaning, taken from
ne Oxford Thesaurus

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 nformation 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.



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

TOW

Pronunciation: /ro/(?) ***))

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.

Learn how to access Oxford Dictionaries Premium via an institution

Origin

Early 19th century: named after the 1st Duke of Wellington (see Wellington, 1st Duke of).



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

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'

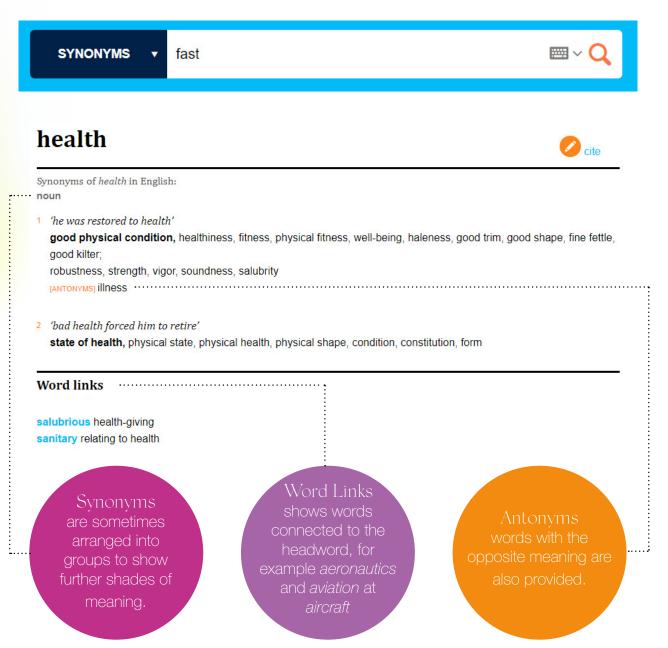
+ More example sentences

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.



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.



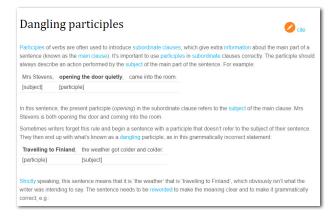






Language resources

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.



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.

 OURSELF

'-ance' or '-ence'	
1) Which is the correct spelling?	
○ avoidence	
o avoidance	

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