
**FULL TEXT SEARCH:** Type a word or phrase into the box to find it in the full text of the Dictionary, or in a selected area from the drop-down list.

**SEARCH FOR:**
- twain
- quotations
- full text
- definitions
- etymologies
- quotations
- quotation date
- quotation author
- quotation work
- quotation text

**MORE OPTIONS:** Search for two words or phrases occurring near each other.

**SEARCH:** Opens the full text search window.

**SEARCH FOR:**
- twain
- quotations
- 10 words or fewer
- before
- after
- before or after
- river

**START SEARCH**

**SEARCH TIPS**

**WILDCARDS:**
- ? represents a single occurrence of any character
- * represents the occurrence of any number of characters (including zero)
- p?th finds pat, pet, pit etc.
- p*th finds pat, paint, pragmatist etc.

**ENTRY MAP:** Displays the main numbered senses of the entry to aid navigation.

**ENTRY VERSION:** Gives the edition and publication date of the entry. A button links to another version of the entry when available.

**HELP:** A comprehensive Help text is available by clicking this button.

**FULL TEXT SEARCH:** Type a word or phrase into the box to find it in the full text of the Dictionary, or in a selected area from the drop-down list.

**FIND WORD:** To look up a word or phrase, simply type into the box and click the magnifying glass. You can use wildcards in all searches.

**ENTRY VERSION:** Gives the edition and publication date of the entry. A button links to another version of the entry when available.

**HELP:** A comprehensive Help text is available by clicking this button.

**SEARCH TIPS**

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**SPECIAL CHARACTERS, HYPHENS, AND CASE:**
- Accents are ignored — cafe finds café
- Old English ð and ð matches Middle English ã
- Hyphens are treated as spaces
- Searching is not case-sensitive

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Start exploring the English language today...

How many ‘-ologies’ are there in the English language?
Type *ology in the ‘Find Word’ box to find out.

How many words start with Z and end in Y?
Type z*y in the ‘Find Word’ box to see a list.

Which words owe a debt to Urdu?
Click on the ‘Search’ button and use a ‘Full Text Search’ to find out. Type urdu in the ‘Search for...’ box and select etymologies from the drop-down list.

What variations on ‘as pretty as a picture’ have authors used?
Use the ‘Full Text Search’, type as pretty as in the ‘Search for...’ box and select quotation text from the drop-down list.

How often is Lewis Carroll’s ‘Alice in Wonderland’ quoted in the OED?
Type carroll in the ‘Search for...’ box, select quotations from the drop-down list, and do a proximity search by clicking the ‘More Options’ button, and typing alice in the second box.

What’s the word for the collecting of beer mats?
Type collect* in the ‘Search for...’ box, select definitions from the drop-down list, click the ‘More Options’ button, choose 5 words or fewer and before or after from the drop-down lists and type beer in the second box.

- widely acknowledged to be the most authoritative and comprehensive dictionary of English in the world
- a historical dictionary which traces the evolution of over 600,000 words – both past and present
- captures the true richness of world English
- uses over 2.4 million quotations from a wide range of sources to illustrate how words have been used over the last millennium
- offers a complete etymological analysis of each word, listings of variant spellings, and shows pronunciation using the International Phonetic Alphabet

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The definitive record of English language development
The world’s greatest dictionary – now available online

Oxford English Dictionary Online

Oxford University Press