

FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS
MINNEAPOLIS LIBRARY

Concise Oxford English Dictionary

ELEVENTH EDITION, REVISED

Edited by
Catherine Soanes
Angus Stevenson

FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS

JUL 21 2015

MINNEAPOLIS LIBRARY

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.

It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education by publishing worldwide in

Oxford New York

Auckland Cape Town Dar es Salaam Hong Kong Karachi

Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Nairobi

New Delhi Shanghai Taipei Toronto

With offices in

Argentina Austria Brazil Chile Czech Republic France Greece

Guatemala Hungary Italy Japan Poland Portugal Singapore

South Korea Switzerland Thailand Turkey Ukraine Vietnam

Oxford is a registered trade mark of Oxford University Press
in the UK and in certain other countries

Published in the United States

by Oxford University Press Inc., New York

© Oxford University Press 1964, 1976, 1982, 1990, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008

Database right Oxford University Press (makers)

First published 1911

New edition (revised) 1929

Third edition (with Addenda) 1934

Fourth edition 1951

Fifth edition 1964

Sixth edition 1976

Seventh edition 1982

Eighth edition 1990

Ninth edition 1995

Tenth edition 1999

Tenth (revised) edition 2001

Eleventh edition 2004

Eleventh edition (revised) 2006

Eleventh edition (revised) 2008

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press, or as expressly permitted by law, or under terms agreed with the appropriate reprographics rights organization. Enquiries concerning reproduction outside the scope of the above should be sent to the Rights Department, Oxford University Press, at the address above

You must not circulate this book in any other binding or cover
and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Data available

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Data available

ISBN 978-0-19-954841-5

1

Typeset in Frutiger and Parable

by Interactive Sciences Ltd, Gloucester

Printed and bound in Great Britain by

Clays Ltd, St Ives plc

infirmity *n.* (pl. **infirmities**) physical or mental weakness.

infix *v.* /ɪnˈfɪks/ **1** implant or insert firmly into something. **2** Grammar insert (a formative element) into the body of a word. *n.* /ɪnˈfɪks/ Grammar a formative element inserted in a word.

– DERIVATIVES **infixation** *n.*

in flagrante delicto /ɪn ˈflaɡrante ˈdɪlɪktɒ, ˈdɪlɪktɒ/ *adv.* in the very act of wrongdoing, especially in an act of sexual misconduct.

– ORIGIN *L.* 'in the heat of the crime' (lit. 'in blazing crime').

inflame *v.* **1** intensify or aggravate: *high fines further inflamed public feelings*. **2** provoke (someone) to strong feelings. **3** cause inflammation in. **3** literary light up with or as if with flames.

– DERIVATIVES **inflamer** *n.*

inflammable *adj.* easily set on fire. *n.* a substance which is easily set on fire.

– DERIVATIVES **inflammability** *n. **inflammableness** *n. **inflammably** *adv.***

USAGE

The words **inflammable** and **flammable** both mean 'easily set on fire'. **Inflammable** is formed using the Latin prefix *in-* which has the meaning 'into' (rather than the more common use of *in-* to indicate negation), and here has the effect of intensifying the meaning of the word in English.

inflammation *n.* a localized physical condition in which part of the body becomes reddened, swollen, hot, and often painful, especially as a reaction to injury or infection.

inflammatory *adj.* **1** relating to or causing inflammation. **2** arousing or intended to arouse angry or violent feelings: *inflammatory language*.

inflatable *adj.* capable of being inflated. *n.* a plastic or rubber object that must be inflated before use.

inflate *v.* **1** expand or cause to expand by filling with air or gas. **2** increase by a large or excessive amount. *→* [usu. as **adjective**] exaggerate. **3** bring about inflation (of a currency) or in (an economy).

– DERIVATIVES **inflatedly** *adv.* **inflator** (also **inflator**) *n.* – ORIGIN *ME:* from *L. inflat*, *inflare* 'blow into', from *in-* 'into' + *flare* 'to blow'.

inflation *n.* **1** the action of inflating or the condition of being inflated. **2** Economics a general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money. **3** Astronomy (in some theories of cosmology) a very brief exponential expansion of the early universe, interrupting the standard linear expansion.

– DERIVATIVES **inflationary** *adj.* **inflationism** *n.*

inflationist *n.* & *adj.*

inflect *v.* **1** Grammar change or be changed by inflection. **2** vary the intonation or pitch of (the voice), especially to express mood or feeling. **3** technical bend or deflect from a straight course, especially inwards.

– DERIVATIVES **inflection** *n.*

– ORIGIN *ME:* from *L. inflectere*, from *in-* 'into' + *flectere* 'to bend'.

inflection (chiefly *Brit.* also **inflexion**) *n.* **1** Grammar a change in the form of a word (typically the ending) to express a grammatical function or attribute such as tense, mood, person, number, case, and gender. **2** the modulation of intonation or pitch. **3** chiefly Mathematics a change of curvature from convex to concave.

– DERIVATIVES **inflectional** *adj.* **inflectionally** *adv.*

inflectionless *adj.*

inflection point *n.* **1** (Also **point of inflection**)

Mathematics a point of a curve at which a change in the direction of curvature occurs. **2** chiefly *US* (in business) a time of significant change in a situation; a turning point.

inflexed *adj.* technical bent or curved inwards.

inflexible *adj.* **1** unwilling to change; not able to be changed or adapted. **2** not able to be bent; stiff.

– DERIVATIVES **inflexibility** *n.* **inflexibly** *adv.*

infect *v.* (often **infect something on**) cause (something unpleasant) to be suffered by someone else.

– DERIVATIVES **infectable** *adj.* **infecter** (also **infecter**) *n.*

infection *n.*

– ORIGIN *C16* (in the sense 'afflict, trouble'): from *L. inflat*, *inflere* 'strike against'.

in-flight *adj.* occurring or provided during an aircraft flight.

inflorescence /ɪnˈflɒrɪs(ə)ns, -flə-/ *n.* botany **1** the complete flower head of a plant including stems, stalks, bracts, and flowers. **2** the process of flowering.

– ORIGIN *C18:* from *mod. L. inflorescentia*, from *late L. inflorescere* 'come into flower'.

inflow *n.* **1** the action of flowing or moving in. **2** the movement of a great deal of money, people, or things into a place.

– DERIVATIVES **inflowing** *n.* & *adj.*

influence *n.* **1** the capacity to have an effect on the character or behaviour of someone or something, or the effect itself. **2** a person or thing with such a capacity. **3** the power arising out of status, contacts, or wealth. **3** Physics archaic electrical or magnetic induction. *n.* *v.* have an influence on.

– PHRASES **under the influence** informal affected by alcoholic drink.

– DERIVATIVES **influenceable** *adj.* **influencer** *n.*

– ORIGIN *ME:* (orig. in the sense 'influx' and, in astrology, 'the flowing in of ethereal fluid'); from *Offr.*, from *mod. L. influentia* 'inflow', from *L. influere*, from *in-* 'into' + *fluere* 'to flow'.

inluent /ɪnˈflʊənt/ *adj.* flowing in. *n.* a stream flowing into another stream or lake.

– ORIGIN *ME:* from *L. influent*, *influerē* 'flow in'.

influential *adj.* having great influence.

– DERIVATIVES **influentially** *adv.*

influenza *n.* a highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory passages causing fever, severe aching, and catarrh.

– DERIVATIVES **influenzal** *adj.*

HISTORY

The words **influenza**, **influence**, and **influx** are closely linked, all deriving ultimately from Latin *influerē* 'flow into'. **Influence** originally referred to a supposed emanation from the stars, believed to affect human character and destiny; the notion of astral power was then transferred to personal power. The Italian word for **influenza**, *influenza*, embraced the various senses of its English counterpart, but in addition, from the notion that the stars had an influence on health, took on the sense 'an outbreak of an epidemic'. In 1743 it was applied specifically to an epidemic of flu that spread from Italy throughout Europe, and at this time the word **influenza** was adopted into English.

influx /ɪnˈflʌks/ *n.* **1** an arrival or entry of large numbers of people or things. **2** an inflow of water into a river, lake, or the sea.

– ORIGIN *C16:* from *late L. influxus*, from *influerē* (see **influence**).

info *n.* informal short for **information**.

infoling *n.* technical an inward fold.

– DERIVATIVES **infolde** *adj.*

infomediary *n.* an Internet company that gathers and links information on particular subjects on behalf of commercial organizations and their potential customers.

infomercial /ɪnˈfɒ(ɹ)mə(ɹ)ʃ(ə)l/ *n.* chiefly *US* an advertising film which promotes a product in an informative and supposedly objective style.

– ORIGIN 1980s: blend of **information** and **commercial**. **inform** *v.* **1** give information to. **2** (**inform on**) give incriminating information about (someone) to the police or other authority. **3** give an essential or formative principle or quality to: *religion informs every aspect of their lives*.

– ORIGIN *ME:* *enforme*, *informe* 'give form to', from *Offr. enformer*, from *L. informare* 'shape, describe'.

informal *adj.* **1** relaxed and unofficial; not formal.

2 of or denoting the grammatical structures, vocabulary, and idiom suitable to everyday language and conversation rather than to official or formal contexts.

– DERIVATIVES **informality** *n.* **informally** *adv.*

informal vote *n.* *Austral./NZ* an invalid vote or voting paper.

substantialism *n.* Philosophy the doctrine that behind phenomena there are substantial realities.

– DERIVATIVES **substantialist** *n.* & *adj.*

substantially *adv.* 1 to a great or significant extent.

2 for the most part; essentially.

substantiate /səb'stɒn(ə)z/ *v.* provide evidence to support or prove the truth of.

– DERIVATIVES **substantiation** *n.*

– ORIGIN C17: from med. L. *substantiāt*, *substantiāre* 'give substance'.

substantive /səb'stɪntɪv/ *adj.* 1 having a firm basis in reality and so important or meaningful. 2 having a separate and independent existence. > (of a rank or appointment) permanent. > (of an enactment, motion, or resolution) made in due form as such; not amended. 3 (of law) defining rights and duties, as opposed to giving the procedural rules by which those rights and duties are enforced. 4 (of a dye) not needing a mordant. *n.* *n.* *Grammar*, dated a noun.

– DERIVATIVES **substantival** /'stɪnt(ə)l/ *adj.*

substantively *adv.*

substation *n.* 1 a set of equipment reducing the high voltage of electrical power transmission to that suitable for supply to consumers. 2 a subordinate police station or fire station. 3 *n. Amer.* a small local post office.

substituent /səb'strɪjʊənt/ *n.* Chemistry an atom or group of atoms taking the place of another or occupying a specified position in a molecule.

substitute *n.* 1 a person or thing acting or serving in place of another. 2 a sports player nominated as eligible to replace another after a match has begun.

3 *Scott. Law* a deputy. *n.* *v.* 1 (usu. **substitute something for**) use, add, or serve in place of. > (usu. **substitute something with**) replace with another. > Chemistry replace (an atom or group in a molecule) with another. 2 replace (a sports player) with a substitute during a match.

– DERIVATIVES **substitutability** *n.* **substitutable** *adj.*

substitutive *adj.*

– ORIGIN ME (denoting a deputy or delegate): from L. *substitūt*, *substituere* 'put in place of'.

USAGE

Traditionally, the verb *substitute* is followed by *for* and means 'put (someone or something) in place of another', as in *she substituted the fake vase for the real one*. More recently it has also been used with *with* or *by* to mean 'replace (something) with something else', as in *she substituted the real vase with the fake one*. Though still disapproved of by traditionalists, this use is now generally regarded as part of standard English.

substitution *n.* the action or an instance of substituting someone or something.

– DERIVATIVES **substitutional** *adj.* **substitutionary** *adj.*

substrate /səb'strɛt/ *n.* 1 the surface or material on which an organism lives, grows, or feeds. 2 the substance on which an enzyme acts. 3 a surface on which something is deposited or inscribed, e.g. the silicon wafer used to manufacture integrated circuits.

– ORIGIN C19: anglicized form of **SUBSTRATUM**.

substratum /səb'strætəm, 'strætəm/ *n.* (pl. *substrata*) 1 an underlying layer or substance, in particular a layer of rock or soil beneath the surface of the ground. 2 a foundation or basis.

substructure *n.* an underlying or supporting structure.

– DERIVATIVES **substructural** *adj.*

subsume /səb'sju:m/ *v.* include or absorb in something else.

– DERIVATIVES **subsumable** *adj.* **subsumption** *n.*

– ORIGIN C16 (in the sense 'subjoin, add'): from med. L. *subsumere*, from *sub-* 'below' + *sumere* 'take'.

subsurface *n.* the stratum or strata below the earth's surface.

subsystem *n.* a self-contained system within a larger system.

subtenant *n.* a person who leases property from a tenant.

– DERIVATIVES **subtenancy** *n.*

subtend /səb'tend/ *v.* 1 Geometry (of a line, arc, etc.) form (an angle) at a particular point when straight lines from its extremities meet. > (of an angle or chord) have bounding lines or points that meet or coincide with those of (a line or arc). 2 Botany (of a bract) extend under (a flower) so as to support or enfold it.

– ORIGIN C16: from L. *subtendere*, from *sub-* 'under' + *tendere* 'stretch'.

subterfuge /səb'tɜ:fju:di/ *n.* a trick or deception used in order to achieve one's goal.

– ORIGIN C16: from Fr., or from late L. *subterfugium*, from L. *subterfugere* 'escape secretly', from *subter-* 'beneath' + *fugere* 'flee'.

subterminal *adj.* technical near the end of a chain or other structure.

subterranean /səb'tɛrɪˈeɪn/ *adj.* 1 existing, occurring, or done under the earth's surface. 2 secret.

– DERIVATIVES **subterraneous** *adj.* **subterraneously** *adv.* – ORIGIN C17: from L. *subterraneus* (from *sub-* 'below' + *terra* 'earth') + *-an*.

subtext *n.* an underlying theme in a piece of writing or speech.

subtilize or **subtilise** /'sʌtɪlaɪz/ *v.* archaic make more subtle; refine.

– DERIVATIVES **subtilization** *n.*

subtitle *n.* 1 (**subtitles**) captions displayed at the bottom of a cinema or television screen that translate or transcribe the dialogue or narrative. 2 a subordinate title of a published work or article. *v.* provide with a subtitle or subtitles.

subtle /sʌt(ə)l/ *adj.* (**subtler**, **subtlest**) 1 so delicate or precise as to be difficult to analyse or describe: *a subtle distinction*. > capable of making fine distinctions. > delicately complex and understated: *subtle lighting*. 2 making use of clever and indirect methods to achieve something. 3 archaic crafty; cunning.

– DERIVATIVES **subtleness** *n.* **subtlety** *n.* (pl. **subtleties**).

subtly *adv.*

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *sotil*, from L. *subtilis*.

subtonic *n.* Music the note below the tonic, the seventh note of the diatonic scale of any key.

subtopia *n.* Brit. unsightly, sprawling suburban development.

– DERIVATIVES **subtopian** *adj.*

– ORIGIN 1950s: blend of *sunna* and *Utopia*.

subtotal *n.* the total of one set of a larger group of figures to be added. *v.* (**subtotals**, **subtotalling**, **subtotalled**; US **subtotals**, **subtotalling**, **subtotalled**) add (numbers) so as to obtain a subtotal. *adj.* *Medicine* (of an injury or a surgical operation) partial; not total.

subtract *v.* take away (a number or amount) from another to calculate the difference. > remove (a part of something).

– DERIVATIVES **subtractor** (also **substractor**) *n.*

subtraction *n.* subtractive *adj.*

– ORIGIN C16 (earlier (ME) as **subtraction**): from L. *subtrahere*, *subtrahere* 'draw away'.

subtrahend /səb'traɦend/ *n.* Mathematics a quantity or number to be subtracted from another.

– ORIGIN C17: from L. *subtrahendus* 'to be taken away', gerundive of *subtrahere* (see **SUBTRACT**).

subtropics *n.* pl. the regions adjacent to or bordering on the tropics.

– DERIVATIVES **subtropical** *adj.*

subtype *n.* a secondary or subordinate type.

Subud /sʊ'bʊd/ *n.* a movement based on a system of exercises by which the individual seeks to approach a state of perfection through divine power.

– ORIGIN CONTR. of Javanese *susila budhi dharma*, from Sanskrit *susila* 'good disposition' + *budhi* 'understanding' + *dharma* 'religious duty'.

subulate /sʊ'bju:leɪt, -lət/ *adj.* Botany & Zoology slender and tapering to a point; awl-shaped.

– ORIGIN C18: from L. *subula* 'awl' + *-ate*.

subunit *n.* a distinct component of something.

suburb *n.* an outlying district of a city, especially a