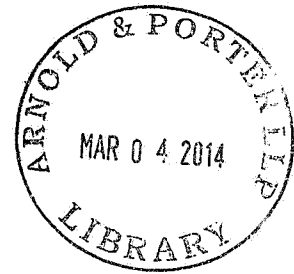


The New Oxford American Dictionary



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in the United States of America on acid-free paper

3 of or relating to the lowest US government grade of beef.

4 (of domestic animals) raised for potential profit and not for show or as pets.

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *utilite*, from Latin *utilitas*, from *utilis* 'useful.'

utility function *n*. Economics a mathematical function that ranks alternatives according to their utility to an individual.

utility knife *n*. a knife with a small sharp blade, often retractable, designed to cut wood, cardboard, and other materials.

utility pole *n*. another term for TELEPHONE POLE.

utility program *n*. Computing a program for carrying out a routine function.

utility room *n*. a room equipped with appliances for washing and other domestic work.

utility vehicle (also **utility truck**) *n*. a truck with low sides designed for carrying small loads.

utilize [*'yʊtɪl,ɪz*] *v*. [trans.] make practical and effective use of: *vitamin C helps your body utilize the iron present in your diet.*

-DERIVATIVES **utilizable** [*'yʊtɪlɪzəbəl*; *'yʊtɪl,ɪ-*] *adj*; **utilization** [*'yʊtɪl-ə'zəʃən*] *n*; **utilizer** *n*.

-ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from French *utiliser*, from Italian *utilizzare*, from *utile* (see **UTILE**).

USAGE: *Utilize*, borrowed in the 19th century from the French *utiliser*, means 'to make practical or effective use of.' Because it is a more formal word than *use* and is often used in contexts (as in business writing) where the ordinary verb *use* would be simpler and more direct, *utilize* may strike readers as pretentious jargon and should therefore be used sparingly. See also **usage** at **USAGE**.

-ution *n*. suffix (forming nouns) equivalent to -ATION (as in *solution*).

-ORIGIN via French from Latin *-utio* (*n*).

utmost [*'ʊt,məʊst*] *adj*. [attrib.] most extreme; greatest: *a matter of the utmost importance.*

n. (the **utmost**) the greatest or most extreme extent or amount: *a plot that stretches credulity to the utmost.*

-PHRASES *do one's utmost* do the most that one is able: *Dan was doing his utmost to be helpful.*

-ORIGIN Old English *ūt(e)mest* 'outermost' (see **OUT**, -**MOST**).

Uto-Aztecan [*'yʊtəʊ'æz,tekən*] *n*. a language family of Central America and western North America including Comanche, Hopi, Nahuatl (the language of the Aztecs), Paiute, Pima, and Shoshone.

adj. of, relating to, or denoting this language family.

Utopia [*yʊ'təpiə*] (also **utopia**) *n*. an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect. The word was first used in the book *Utopia* (1516) by Sir Thomas More. The opposite of **DYSTOPIA**.

-ORIGIN based on Greek *ou* 'not' + *topos* 'place.'

Utopian [*yʊ'təpiən*] (also **utopian**) *adj*. modeled on or aiming for a state in which everything is perfect; idealistic.

n. an idealistic reformer.

-DERIVATIVES **Utopianism** [*-nɪzəm*] *n*.

utopian socialism *n*. socialism achieved by the moral persuasion of capitalists to surrender the means of production peacefully to the people.

Utrecht [*'yʊt,trekt*; *'y,trekt*] a city in the central Netherlands, capital of a province of the same name; pop. 231,000.

Utrecht velvet *n*. a strong, thick plush velvet, used in upholstery.

utricle [*'yʊtrɪkəl*] *n*. a small cell, sac, or bladder-like protuberance in an animal or plant.

■ (also **utricle** [*yʊ'trɪkyləs*]) the larger of the two fluid-filled cavities forming part of the labyrinth of the inner ear (the other being the sacculus). It contains hair cells and otoliths which send signals to the brain concerning the orientation of the head.

-DERIVATIVES **utricular** [*yʊ'trɪkylər*] *adj*.

-ORIGIN mid 18th cent.: from French *utricule* or Latin *utriculus*, diminutive of *uter* 'leather bag.'

Utrillo [*'ʊt'rɪlə*; *yʊ'trɪlə*], Maurice (1883-1955), French painter, chiefly known for his depictions of Paris street scenes, esp. of the Montmartre district.

Uttar Pradesh [*'ʊtər prə'dəʃ*; *-desh*] a state in northern India that borders on Tibet and Nepal; capital, Lucknow. It was formed in 1950 from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.

utter [*'ʊtər*] *adj*. [attrib.] complete; absolute: *Charles stared at her in utter amazement.*

-DERIVATIVES **utterly** *adv*. [as submodifier] *he looked utterly ridiculous.*

-ORIGIN Old English *ūtera*, *ūttra* 'outer,' comparative of *ūt* 'out'; compare with **OUTER**.

utter *v*. [trans.] 1 make (a sound) with one's voice: *he uttered an exasperated snort.*

■ say (something) aloud: *they are busily scribbling down every word she utters.*

2 Law put (forged money) into circulation.

-DERIVATIVES **utterable** *adj*; **utterer** *n*.

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from Middle Dutch *ūteren* 'speak, make known, give currency to (coins).'

utterance [*'ʊtərəns*] *n*. a spoken word, statement, or vocal sound.

■ the action of saying or expressing something aloud: *the simple utterance of a few platitudes.* ■ Linguistics an uninterrupted chain of spoken or written language.

uttermost [*'ʊtər,məʊst*] *adj*. & *n*. another term for **UTMOST**.

U-turn *n*. the turning of a vehicle in a U-shaped course so as to face in the opposite direction.

■ figurative a change of plan, esp. a reversal of political policy: *another U-turn by the government.*

UV *abbr*. ultraviolet.

UVA *abbr*. ultraviolet radiation of relatively long wavelengths.

Uva-rovite [*(y)ʊvə'rə,vɪt*] *n*. an emerald green variety of garnet, containing chromium.

-ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from the name of Count Sergei S. Uvarov (1785-1855), Russian statesman, + **-ITE**.

UVB *abbr*. ultraviolet radiation of relatively short wavelengths.

uvea [*'yʊvə*] *n*. the pigmented layer of the eye, lying beneath the sclera and cornea, and comprising the iris, choroid, and ciliary body.

-DERIVATIVES **uveal** *adj*.

-ORIGIN late Middle English (denoting the choroid layer of the eye): from medieval Latin, from Latin *uva* 'grape.'

uveitis [*'yʊv'eɪtɪs*] *n*. Medicine inflammation of the uvea.

uvula [*'yʊvylə*] *n*. (pl. *uvulae* [-lɛ; -lɪ]) Anatomy (also **palatine uvula**) a fleshy extension at the back of the soft palate that hangs above the throat.

■ a similar fleshy hanging structure in any organ of the body, particularly one at the opening of the bladder.

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from late Latin, diminutive of Latin *uva* 'grape.'

uvular [*'yʊvylər*] *adj*. 1 Phonetics (of a sound) articulated with the back of the tongue and the uvula, as *r* in French and *q* in Arabic.

2 Anatomy of or relating to the uvula.

n. Phonetics a uvular consonant.

uxoriate [*'ʊk'sɔːrɪəl*; *əg'zɔːr-*] *adj*. of or relating to a wife.

-ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from Latin *uxor* 'wife' + **-IAL**.

uxoricide [*'ʊk'sɔːrɪsɪd*; *əg'zɔːr-*] *n*. the killing of one's wife.

■ a man who kills his wife.

-DERIVATIVES **uxoricideal** [*'ʊk'sɔːrɪsɪdl*; *əg'zɔːr-*] *adj*.

-ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from Latin *uxor* 'wife' + **-CIDE**.

uxorious [*'ʊk'sɔːrɪəs*; *əg'zɔːr-*] *adj*. having or showing an excessive or submissive fondness for one's wife.

-DERIVATIVES **uxoriously** *adv*; **uxoriousness** *n*.

-ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Latin *uxoriosus*, from *uxor* 'wife.'

Uygur *n*. & *adj*. variant spelling of **UIGHUR**.

Uzbek [*'ʊz,bek*; *'əz-; ʊz'bek*] *n*. 1 a member of a Turkic people living mainly in the republic of Uzbekistan and elsewhere in southwestern Asia.

■ a native or national of Uzbekistan.

2 the Turkic language of Uzbekistan.

adj. of or relating to Uzbekistan, the Uzbeks, or their language.

-ORIGIN the name in Uzbek.

Uzbekistan [*'ʊz,bekə'stæn*; *'əz-; -stæn*] an independent republic in central Asia that lies south and southeast of the Aral Sea; pop. 20,955,000; capital, Tashkent; language, Uzbek (official).

Uzbekistan was formerly a constituent republic of the Soviet Union. It became independent within the Commonwealth of Independent States when the Soviet Union broke up in 1991.



Uzi [*'ʊzɪ*] *n*. a type of submachine gun of Israeli design.

-ORIGIN 1950s: from *Uziel* Gal, the Israeli army officer who designed it.