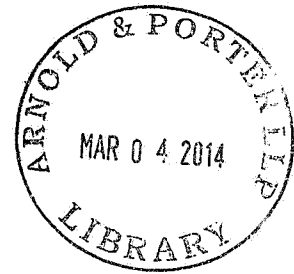


# The New Oxford American Dictionary



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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)most* '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** [*-lə*; *-li*]) 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.