

Collins

175 YEARS OF DICTIONARY PUBLISHING

Dictionary



HarperCollins Publishers

Westerhill Road
Bishopbriggs
Glasgow
G64 2QT

Tenth edition 2009

REISSUED WITH REVISED SUPPLEMENT 2010

Reprint 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

© William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd 1979, 1986

© HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994 (Third updated edition), 1998,
2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010

UK QUARTERBOUND EDITION

ISBN 978-0-00-738233-0

UK STANDARD EDITION

ISBN 978-0-00-732119-3

AUSTRALIAN QUARTERBOUND EDITION

ISBN 978-0-7322-9009-2

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD EDITION

ISBN 978-0-7322-9008-5

NEW ZEALAND QUARTERBOUND EDITION

ISBN 978-0-00-732114-8

NEW ZEALAND STANDARD EDITION

ISBN 978-0-00-732115-5

Collins® is a registered trademark of
HarperCollins Publishers Limited

www.collinslanguage.com

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library

Designed by Wolfgang Homola

Typeset by Davidson Pre-Press, Glasgow

Printed in India by Gopsons Papers Ltd

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank those authors and publishers who gave permission for copyright material to be used in this corpus. We would also like to thank Times Newspapers for providing valuable data.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission in writing of the Publisher. This book is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

Entered words that we have reason to believe constitute trademarks have been designated as such. However, neither the presence nor absence of such designation should be regarded as affecting the legal status of any trademark.

When you buy a Collins dictionary or thesaurus and register on www.collinslanguage.com for the free online and digital services, you will not be charged by HarperCollins for access to Collins free Online Dictionary content on that website. However, your operator's charges for using the internet on your computer will apply. Costs vary from operator to operator. HarperCollins is not responsible for any charges levied by online service providers for accessing Collins free Online Dictionary on www.collinslanguage.com using these services.

HarperCollins does not warrant that the functions contained in www.collinslanguage.com content will be uninterrupted or error free, that defects will be corrected, or that www.collinslanguage.com or the server that makes it available are free of viruses or bugs. HarperCollins is not responsible for any access difficulties that may be experienced due to problems with network, web, online or mobile phone connections.

About the type

This dictionary is typeset in CollinsFedra, a special version of the Fedra family of types designed by Peter Bil'ak. CollinsFedra has been customized especially for Collins dictionaries; it includes both sans serif (for headwords) and serif (entries) versions, in several different weights. Its large x-height, its open 'eye', and its basis in the tradition of humanist letterforms make CollinsFedra both familiar and easy to read at small sizes. It has been designed to use the minimum space without sacrificing legibility, as well as including a number of characters and signs that are specific to dictionary typography. Its companion phonetic type is the first of its kind to be drawn according to the same principles as the regular typeface, rather than assembled from rotated and reflected characters from other types. Peter Bil'ak (born 1973, Slovakia) is a graphic and type designer living in the Netherlands. He is the author of two books, *Illegibility* and *Transparency*. As well as the Fedra family, he has designed several other typefaces including Eureka. His typotheque.com website has become a focal point for research and debate around contemporary type design.

longcloth ('lɒŋ,klɒθ) *n* 1 a fine plain-weave cotton cloth made in long strips 2 US a light soft muslin

long-coats *pl n* dress-like garments formerly worn by a baby. Archaic name: long clothes

long-dated *adj* (of a gilt-edged security) having more than 15 years to run before redemption. Compare medium-dated, short-dated

long-day *adj* (of certain plants) able to mature and flower only if exposed to long periods of daylight (more than 12 hours), each followed by a shorter period of darkness. Compare short-day

long-distance *n* 1 (*modifier*) covering relatively long distances: a long-distance driver 2 (*modifier*) (of telephone calls, lines, etc) connecting points a relatively long way apart 3 chiefly US and Canadian a long-distance telephone call 4 a long-distance telephone system or its operator 5 *adv* 5 by a long-distance telephone line: he phoned long-distance

long-drawn-out *adj* over-prolonged or extended

longe ('lɒŋdʒ, lɒndʒ) *n* an older variant of lunge²

● **ETYMOLOGY** c17: via Old French from Latin *longus* LONG¹

long-eared owl *n* a slender European owl, *Asio otus*, with long ear tufts: most common in coniferous forests

Long Eaton ('li:tən) *n* a town in N central England, in SE Derbyshire. Pop: 46 490 (2001)

longeron ('lɒŋdʒərən) *n* a main longitudinal structural member of an aircraft

● **ETYMOLOGY** c20: from French: side support, ultimately from Latin *longus* LONG¹

longevity ('lɒŋdʒevɪti) *n* 1 long life 2 relatively long duration of employment, service, etc > longevous ('lɒŋdʒi:vəs) *adj*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c17: from Late Latin *longaevitas*, from Latin *longaevus* long-lived, from *longus* LONG¹ + *aevum* age

long face *n* a disappointed, solemn, or miserable facial expression > long-faced *adj*

long finger *n* put something on the long finger Irish to postpone something for a long time

Longford ('lɒŋfəd) *n* 1 a county of N Republic of Ireland, in Leinster province. County town: Longford. Pop: 31 068 (2002). Area: 1043 sq km (403 sq miles) 2 a town in N Republic of Ireland, county town of Co Longford. Pop: 7557 (2002)

longhand ('lɒŋ,hænd) *n* ordinary handwriting, in which letters, words, etc, are set down in full, as opposed to shorthand or to typing

long haul *n* 1 a journey over a long distance, esp one involving the transport of goods 2 a lengthy job

long-headed *adj* astute; shrewd; sagacious > long-headedly *adv* > long-headedness *n*

long hop *n* cricket a short-pitched ball, which can easily be hit

longhorn ('lɒŋ,hɔ:n) *n* 1 Also called: Texas longhorn a long-horned breed of beef cattle, usually red or variegated, formerly common in SW US 2 a now rare British breed of beef cattle with long curved horns

long-horned beetle *n* the longicorn beetle. See longicorn (sense 1)

long house *n* 1 a long communal dwelling of the Iroquois and other North American Indian peoples. It often served as a council house as well 2 a long dwelling found in other parts of the world, such as Borneo

long hundredweight *n* the full name for hundredweight (sense 1)

longicorn ('lɒŋdʒɪ,kɔ:n) *n* 1 Also called: longicorn beetle, long-horned beetle any beetle of the family *Cerambycidae*, having a long narrow body, long legs, and long antennae > *adj* 2 zoology having or designating long antennae

● **ETYMOLOGY** c19: from New Latin *longicornis* long-horned

longing ('lɒŋɪŋ) *n* 1 a prolonged unfulfilled desire or need > *adj* 2 having or showing desire or need: a longing look > longingly *adv*

longipennate ('lɒŋdʒɪ'penɪt) *adj* (of birds) having long slender wings or feathers

longirostral ('lɒŋdʒɪ'rɒstrəl) *adj* (of birds) having a long beak

longish ('lɒŋɪʃ) *adj* rather long

Long Island *n* an island in SE New York State, separated from the S shore of Connecticut by Long Island Sound (an arm of the Atlantic): contains the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens in the west, many resorts (notably Coney Island), and two large airports (La Guardia and John F. Kennedy). Area: 4462 sq km (1723 sq miles)

longitude ('lɒŋdʒɪ,tʃu:d, 'lɒŋg-) *n* 1 distance in degrees east or west of the prime meridian at 0° measured by the angle between the plane of the prime meridian and that of the meridian through the point in question, or by the corresponding time difference. See latitude (sense 1) 2 astronomy short for celestial longitude

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: from Latin *longitūdō* length, from *longus* LONG¹

longitudinal ('lɒŋdʒɪ'tʃu:dɪnəl, 'lɒŋg-) *adj* 1 of or relating to longitude or length 2 placed or extended lengthways. Compare transverse (sense 1) 3 psychol (of a study of behaviour) carried on over a protracted period of time > longitudinally *adv*

longitudinal wave *n* a wave that is propagated in the same direction as the displacement of the transmitting medium. Compare transverse wave

long jenny *n* billiards an in-off up the cushion into a far pocket. Compare short jenny

● **ETYMOLOGY** *n* from Jenny, pet form of Janet

long Johns *pl n* informal underpants with long legs

long jump *n* an athletic contest in which competitors try to cover the farthest distance possible with a running jump from a fixed board or mark. Former Austral, US, and Canadian equivalent: broad jump > long jumping *n*

longleaf pine ('lɒŋ,lɪf) *n* a North American pine tree, *Pinus palustris*, with long needle-like leaves and orange-brown bark: the most important timber tree of the southeastern US

long lease *n* (in England and Wales) a lease, originally for a period of over 21 years, on a whole house of low rent and ratable value, which is the occupants' only or main residence. The leaseholder is entitled to buy the freehold, claim an extension of 50 years, or become a statutory tenant

Longleat House ('lɒŋli:t) *n* an Elizabethan mansion near Warminster in Wiltshire, built (from 1568) by Robert Smythson for Sir John Thynne; the grounds, landscaped by Capability Brown, now contain a famous safari park

long leg *n* cricket a a fielding position on the leg side near the boundary almost directly behind the batsman's wicket b a fielder in this position

long-legged ('lɒŋ,legd-, 'legɪd) *adj* 1 having long legs 2 informal (of a person or animal) able to run fast

long list chiefly Brit > *n* 1 a list of suitable applicants for a job, post, etc, from which a short list will be selected > *vb* long-list 2 (tr) to put (someone) on a long list

long-lived *adj* having long life, existence, or currency > long-livedness *n*

Long March *n* the Long March a journey of about 10 000 km (6000 miles) undertaken (1934–35) by some 100 000 Chinese Communists when they were forced out of their base in Kiangsi in SE China. They made their way to Shensi in NW China; only about 8000 survived the rigours of the journey

long mark *n* another name for macron

long measure *n* another name for linear measure

long metre *n* a stanzaic form consisting of four octosyllabic lines, used esp for hymns

long moss *n* another name for Spanish moss

longneck ('lɒŋ,nek) *n* US, Canadian, and Austral a a 330-ml beer bottle with a long narrow neck b (as modifier): a longneck bottle

Longobard ('lɒŋgə,bɑ:d) *n*, *pl* -bards or -bardi (> -bɑ:di) a rare name for an ancient Lombard > Longobardian or Longobardic *adj*

long-off *n* cricket a a fielding position on the off side near the boundary almost directly behind the bowler b a fielder in this position

long-on *n* cricket a a fielding position on the leg side near the boundary almost directly behind the bowler b a fielder in this position

Long Parliament *n* English history 1 the Parliament summoned by Charles I that assembled on Nov 3, 1640, was expelled by Cromwell in 1653, and was finally dissolved in 1660. See also Rump Parliament 2 the Cavalier Parliament of 1661–79 3 the Parliament called in Henry IV's reign that met from March 1 to Dec 22, 1406

long pig *n* obsolete human flesh eaten by cannibals

● **ETYMOLOGY** translation of a Māori and Polynesian term

long-playing *adj* of or relating to an LP (long-playing record)

long primer *n* (formerly) a size of printer's type, approximately equal to 10 point

long purse *n* informal wealth; riches

long-range *adj* 1 of or extending into the future: a long-range weather forecast 2 (of vehicles, aircraft, etc) capable of covering great distances without refuelling 3 (of weapons) made to be fired at a distant target

longs ('lɒŋz) *pl n* 1 full-length trousers 2 long-dated gilt-edged securities 3 finance unsold securities or commodities held in anticipation of rising prices

long s *n* a lower-case s, printed f, formerly used in handwriting and printing. Also called: long ess

longship ('lɒŋ,ʃɪp) *n* a narrow open vessel with oars and a square sail, used esp by the Vikings during medieval times

longshore ('lɒŋ,ʃɔ:) *adj* situated on, relating to, or along the shore

● **ETYMOLOGY** c19: shortened form of *alongshore*

longshore drift *n* the process whereby beach material is gradually shifted laterally as a result of waves meeting the shore at an oblique angle

longshoreman ('lɒŋ,ʃɔ:mən) *n*, *pl* -men US and Canadian a man employed in the loading or unloading of ships. Also called (in Britain and certain other countries): docker

long shot *n* 1 a competitor, as in a race, considered to be unlikely to win 2 a bet against heavy odds 3 an undertaking, guess, or possibility with little chance of success 4 films, television a shot where the camera is or appears to be distant from the object to be photographed 5 by a long shot by any means: he still hasn't finished by a long shot

long-sighted *adj* 1 related to or suffering from hyperopia 2 able to see distant objects in focus 3 having foresight > long-sightedly *adv* > long-sightedness *n*

Longs Peak *n* a mountain in N Colorado, in the Front Range of the Rockies: the highest peak in the Rocky Mountain National Park. Height: 4345 m (14255 ft)

longspur ('lɒŋ,spɜ:) *n* any of various Arctic and North American buntings of the genera *Calcarius* and *Rhynchophanes*, all of which have a long claw on the hind toe

long-standing *adj* existing or in effect for a long time

long-suffering *adj* 1 enduring pain, unhappiness, etc, without complaint > *n* also long-sufferance 2 long and patient endurance > long-sufferingly *adv*

long suit *n* 1 a the longest suit in a hand of cards b a holding of four or more cards of a suit 2 informal an outstanding advantage, personal quality, or talent

long tail *n* commerce the segment of a market representing the large number of products that sell in small quantities, considered by some to be of greater financial value than the few products that sell in very large quantities

● **ETYMOLOGY** c21: from the appearance of typical sales patterns on a graph

long-tailed cuckoo *n* another name for koekoea

long-tailed tit *n* a small European songbird, *Aegithalos caudatus*, with a black, white, and pink plumage and a very long tail: family Paridae (tits)

long-term *adj* 1 lasting, staying, or extending over a long time: long-term prospects 2 finance maturing after a long period of time: a long-term bond

long-termism *n* the tendency to focus attention on long-term gains

long-term memory *n* psychol that section of the memory storage system in which experiences are stored on a semipermanent basis. Compare short-term memory