

Oxford

Compact

English Dictionary

► **Over 145,000 words phrases and definition**

FOR REFERENCE

Do Not Take From This Room

**Completely
new edition**

The World's Most Trusted Dictionaries

Simpson Strong-Tie Company Inc. EX1037
Simpson Strong-Tie Co. v. Columbia Insurance Co.

U.S. Patent No. 11,649,626

The Oxford Compact English Dictionary

SECOND EDITION

Edited by
Catherine Soanes

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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

Athens Auckland Bangkok Bogotá Buenos Aires Calcutta
Cape Town Chennai Dar es Salaam Delhi Florence Hong Kong Istanbul
Karachi Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Mumbai
Nairobi Paris São Paulo Shanghai Singapore Taipei Tokyo Toronto Warsaw
with associated companies in Berlin Ibadan

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

© Oxford University Press 2000

First published 2000

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
The Oxford Compact English Dictionary—2nd ed./edited by Catherine Soanes.

1. English language—21st century—Dictionaries.
2. English language—New words—Dictionaries.

I. Soanes, Catherine I.

PE1628.08634 1996 423—dc20 96-24623

ISBN 0-19-860334-7

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Typeset in Arial and Nimrod
by Interactive Sciences Ltd, Gloucester
Printed in Great Britain by
Mackays of Chatham plc

Contents

Preface	iv
Guide to the use of the dictionary	v
Abbreviations used in the dictionary	xi
Note on trademarks and proprietary status	xi
The Oxford Compact English Dictionary	1

Preface

The *Oxford Compact English Dictionary* is a compact edition of the renowned *Concise Oxford Dictionary* (10th edition). It aims to provide comprehensive, up-to-date, and accessible information on the vocabulary of contemporary English in a single conveniently sized volume.

The second edition of the *Oxford Compact English Dictionary* is part of the range of new generation dictionaries based on the *New Oxford Dictionary of English*. The text is directly informed by the evidence of how the language is actually used today, drawing on the analysis of hundreds of millions of words of real English carried out for *NODE*. This information is presented in a clear, concise, and accessible way; definitions focus on the core meanings of words and avoid technical terms and multiple sense divisions. An open layout, with each new section of an entry (parts of speech, phrases, derivatives, usage notes, and etymologies) on a new line, ensures that finding individual sections, senses, and entries is easy to do.

The dictionary covers a broad range of vocabulary, concentrating on the standard core of English as an international language, but also including a wide selection of terms used in technical, specialist, and literary contexts, making it particularly useful for study as well as general use.

Pronunciations are given using a simple respelling system rather than the International Phonetic Alphabet, making them more readily comprehensible to the non-linguist. Greater clarity has also been introduced into etymologies, which highlight sense development and root words. Language names and other abbreviations are written out in full and technical vocabulary has been simplified and kept to a minimum.

The dictionary provides over two hundred usage notes within the text, giving clear guidance on difficult and controversial points of grammar and usage.

The editor is grateful to Richard Jones for his work as an editorial assistant and to Susan Wilkin, who provided pronunciations.

woman or girl) not beautiful or attractive. **7** sheer; simple: *plain stupidity*. **8** (of a knitting stitch) made by putting the needle through the front of the stitch from left to right. Compare with **PURL**.

● **adverb** informal **1** simply: *that's plain stupid*. **2** clearly; unequivocally.

● **noun** a large area of flat land with few trees.

— **DERIVATIVES** **plainly** *adverb* **plainness** *noun*.

— **ORIGIN** Latin *planus* 'flat, plain'.

plain chocolate ● **noun** Brit. dark, slightly bitter, chocolate without added milk.

plain clothes ● **plural noun** ordinary clothes rather than uniform, especially when worn by police officers.

plain flour ● **noun** Brit. flour that does not contain a raising agent.

plain sailing ● **noun** smooth and easy progress.

— **ORIGIN** probably from *plane sailing*, denoting the practice of determining a ship's position on the theory that it is moving on a plane.

plainsong (also **plainchant**) ● **noun** unaccompanied medieval church music sung in free rhythm corresponding to the accentuation of the words.

plaint ● **noun** **1** Law, Brit. an accusation; a charge. **2** chiefly literary a complaint or lamentation.

— **ORIGIN** Old French *plainte*, from *plaindre* 'complain'.

plaintiff ● **noun** Law a person who brings a case against another in a court of law. Compare with **DEFENDANT**.

— **ORIGIN** Old French *plaintif* 'plaintive'.

plaintive ● **adjective** sounding sad and mournful.

— **DERIVATIVES** **plaintively** *adverb* **plaintiveness** *noun*.

— **ORIGIN** Old French, from *plaindre* 'complain'.

plain weave ● **noun** a style of weave in which the weft alternates over and under the warp.

plait ● **noun** Brit. a single length of hair, rope, or other material made up of three or more interlaced strands.

● **verb** form into a plait or plaits.

— **ORIGIN** Old French *pleit* 'a fold', from Latin *plicare* 'to fold'.

plan ● **noun** **1** a detailed proposal for doing or achieving something. **2** an intention or decision about what one is going to do. **3** a scheme for the regular payment of contributions towards a pension, insurance policy, etc. **4** a map or diagram. **5** a scale drawing of a horizontal section of a building.

● **verb** (**planned**, **planning**) **1** decide on and arrange in advance. **2** (**plan for**) make preparations for. **3** make a plan of (something to be made or built).

— **DERIVATIVES** **planner** *noun*.

— **ORIGIN** French, from earlier *plant* 'ground plan, plane surface'.

planar /playnər/ ● **adjective** Mathematics relating to or in the form of a plane.

planchette /plənsʃet/ ● **noun** a small board supported on castors and fitted with a vertical pencil, used for automatic writing and in sciences.

— **ORIGIN** French, 'small plank'.

plane ● **noun** **1** a flat surface on which a straight line joining any two points would

wholly lie. **2** a level of existence or thought.

● **adjective** **1** completely level or flat. **2** relating to two-dimensional surfaces or magnitudes.

● **verb** **1** soar without moving the wings; glide. **2** (of a boat, surfboard, etc.) skim over the surface of water.

— **ORIGIN** Latin *planum* 'flat surface', from *planus* 'plain'.

plane² ● **noun** an aeroplane.

plane³ (also **planer**) ● **noun** a tool consisting of a block with a projecting steel blade, used to smooth a wooden surface by paring shavings from it.

● **verb** smooth with a plane.

— **ORIGIN** Latin *plana*, from *planare* 'make level'.

plane⁴ (also **plane tree**) ● **noun** a tall spreading tree with maple-like leaves and a peeling bark.

— **ORIGIN** Old French, from Greek *platanos*, from *platus* 'broad'.

planet ● **noun** **1** a celestial body moving in an elliptical orbit round a star. **2** (the **planet**) the earth. **3** chiefly Astrology & historical a celestial body distinguished from the fixed stars by having an apparent motion of its own (including the moon and sun).

— **DERIVATIVES** **planetary** *adjective* **planetology** *noun*.

— **ORIGIN** Greek *planētēs* 'wanderer, planet', from *planan* 'wander'.

planetarium /plannitairiəm/ ● **noun** (pl. **planetariums** or **planetaria** /plannitairia/) a building in which images of stars, planets, and constellations are projected onto a domed ceiling.

— **ORIGIN** Latin, from *planetarius* 'relating to the planets'.

planetary nebula ● **noun** Astronomy a ring-shaped nebula formed by an expanding shell of gas round an ageing star.

planetesimal /plannitessim'l/ ● **noun** Astronomy

● **noun** a minute planet; a body which could come together with many others under gravitation to form a planet.

● **adjective** relating to such bodies.

— **ORIGIN** from **PLANET**, on the pattern of *infinitesimal*.

planetoid ● **noun** another term for **ASTEROID**.

plangent /planjənt/ ● **adjective** chiefly literary (of a sound) loud and resonant, with a mournful tone.

— **DERIVATIVES** **plangency** *noun* **plangently** *adverb*.

— **ORIGIN** from Latin *plangere* 'to lament'.

planimeter /planimmitər/ ● **noun** an instrument for measuring the area of a plane figure.

— **DERIVATIVES** **planimetric** *adjective* **planimetry** *noun*.

planisphere /plannisfeər/ ● **noun** a map formed by the projection of a sphere, especially a star map that can be adjusted to show the constellations at a specific time and place.

— **DERIVATIVES** **planispheric** *adjective*.

— **ORIGIN** from Latin *planus* 'level' + *sphaera* 'sphere'.

plank ● **noun** **1** a long, flat piece of timber, used in flooring. **2** a fundamental part of a political or other programme.

— **PHRASES** **walk the plank** (formerly) be forced by pirates to walk blindfold along a plank over