



Oxford English Dictionary (OED)

Gamble Guides

Where to access the OED

The OED can be accessed in the 'Student Resources'/'Library Resources' section of the VLE or in the 'Digital Resources from the Gamble Library' section of each shell:

Student Resources

Dashboard > My courses > Student Resources [Continue Course](#)

- Announcements
- General College Resources
- College Timetable Spring 2023
- Library Resources
 - The Gamble Library's electronic resources.**
 - To access our electronic resources click on any of the hyperlinked pictures below. You will be redirected to the Union Theological College email login page. Once you type in your email address and password you will be redirected to the landing page of the resource.
 -



Apologetics (CTM/DTP 208)

Dashboard > My courses > Apologetics (CTM/DTP 208) Continue Course

Module resources, assignments and discussion forum

Digital Resources from the Gamble Library

To access our electronic resources click on any of the hyperlinked pictures below. You will be redirected to the Union Theological College email login page. Once you type in your email address and password you will be redirected to the landing page of the resource.

You can also access the OED using the PDF Gamble Guide listing all electronic resources which is emailed out by the Librarian.

Once you click on the 'OED' icon you will be prompted to enter your Union Theological College email address and password. You will then be redirected to the OED landing page.

The OED gives present-day meanings as well as being a historical dictionary, giving the history of individual words traced through quotations from classic literature, newspapers and a range of other sources.

Quick (simple) search

The quick search is on the landing page. Just enter keywords in the box and click 'go' to search for their definition.

Quick search: GO

Lost for Words? | Advanced search | Help

Browse Dictionary

My entries (0)

My searches (0)

OED Appeals

Can you help us to find earlier evidence for some of our dictionary entries?

Find out more about our OED antedatings appeal

Click one of the entries on the results page to view it.



Quick search results

Showing 1-2 of 2 results in 2 entries

Widen search? Find 'godly' in: » phrases (7) » definitions (18) » etymologies (9) » quotations (1948) » full text (1655)

View as: List | [Timeline](#)

Sort by: Entry | [Frequency](#) | [Date](#)

1. [godly, adj. and n.](#) [View full entry](#)

OE

...In general use....

2. [godly, adv.](#) [View full entry](#)

c1425

...In a godly manner. Formerly also: †by God; divinely (*obsolete*)....

godly, adj. and n.

Text size: [A](#) [A](#)

View as: Outline | [Full entry](#)

Quotations: Show all | [Hide all](#) Keywords: On | [Off](#)

Pronunciation: Brit. /ˈɡɒdli/, U.S. /ˈɡɑdli/

Forms:

α. See [GOD n. and int.](#) and [-LY suffix](#).

... [\(Show More\)](#)

Frequency (in current use): ●●●●●●●●

Origin: A word inherited from Germanic.

Etymology: Cognate with or formed similarly to Old Frisian *godelik*, *godilik*, *godlik* ... [\(Show More\)](#)

A. adj.

1. Of or relating to God; coming from God; divine; spiritual. Now somewhat *archaic*.

In quot. c1425; = [THEOLOGICAL adj.](#) 1.

OE *Harley Gloss.* (1966) 131 *Dealibus*, *i. deificis*, *godlicum*.

• c1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) I. ii. vii. 68 A ierarchie is a godly [*MS goodly*; L. *diuinus*] ordre, konnyng, and worke, iliche God [L. *deiforme*] as it is possible.

[Thesaurus »](#)
[Categories »](#)

You can also do an Advanced search.

Advanced search

Click on 'Advanced search' under the quick search box to begin an advanced search.

OED | Oxford English Dictionary
The definitive record of the English language

Welcome
to the definitive record of the English language.

Quick search:
 GO

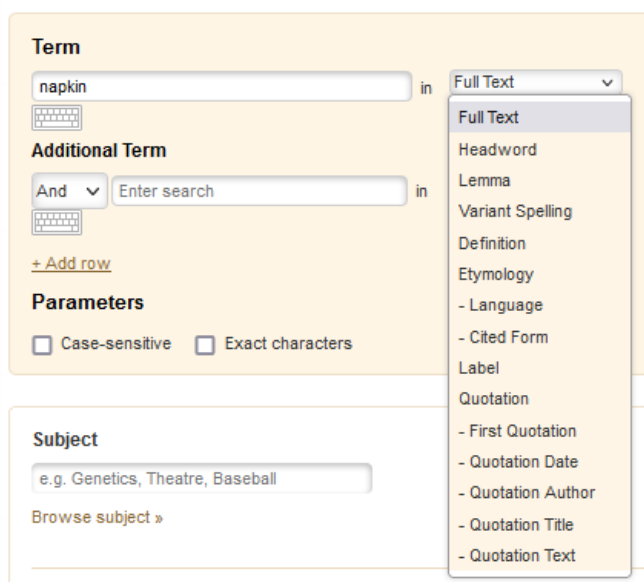
Lost for Words? **Advanced search** Help

If you have already done a search you can find the search box on the top right of the screen with the advanced search link under it.

The advanced search allows you to search within entries, senses and quotations (see the tabs across the top) and find specific word meanings based on their subject, language of origin, date of entry, region, part of speech or usage.

You are most likely to be searching within the 'Entries' tab. There are a range of places where you can search for terms – see the dropdown menu:

Search the text of OED entries:



The screenshot shows the 'Search the text of OED entries' section. It includes a 'Term' field with 'napkin' entered, an 'Additional Term' field with 'And' selected, and a 'Parameters' section with checkboxes for 'Case-sensitive' and 'Exact characters'. A 'Subject' field contains 'e.g. Genetics, Theatre, Baseball'. A dropdown menu is open, showing options: Full Text, Headword, Lemma, Variant Spelling, Definition, Etymology, - Language, - Cited Form, Label, Quotation, - First Quotation, - Quotation Date, - Quotation Author, - Quotation Title, and - Quotation Text.

Headword is the main title of an entry and a headword search looks through all these titles.

Lemma limits your search to compounds and phrases which appear within entries.

Variant spelling searches the dictionary's variant spellings for your term, e.g., 'color' returns colour, hypercolour, versicolour.

Definition searches all the text of the meanings and senses of the entry.

Etymology searches the text which contains information on the origin of the word.

-Language searches language names only, e.g. Low German, Dutch.

-Cited form searches the cited word form only, e.g. brein.

Label. Labels are used to give brief information, usually abbreviated, on the context in which that term is used.

Quotations are examples from various print sources which illustrate each sense of an entry.

-**First quotation** is the earliest recorded evidence for the use of a word.

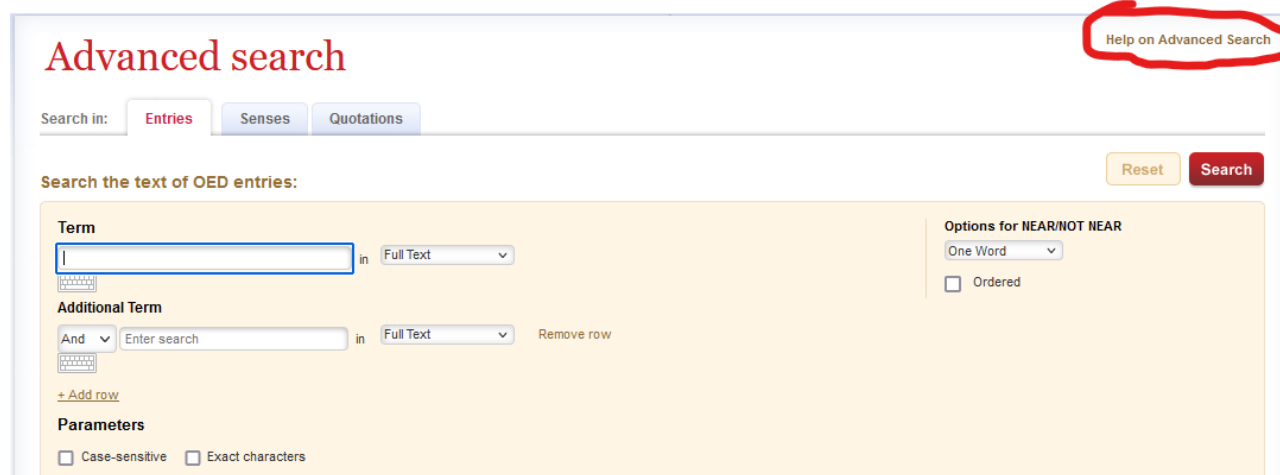
-**Quotation date** – you can refine your search to a particular date which the quote was used.

-**Quotation author** – you can refine your search to a particular author.

-**Quotation title** – you can search for the title of a particular quoted work.

-**Quotation text** - you can search for the text of quotations.

See 'Help on Advanced Search' in the top right for more information.



The screenshot shows the 'Advanced search' page. It has tabs for 'Entries', 'Senses', and 'Quotations'. The 'Entries' tab is selected. There are 'Reset' and 'Search' buttons. The search form includes a 'Term' field, an 'Additional Term' field, and a 'Parameters' section. A dropdown menu for 'Options for NEAR/NOT NEAR' is visible, with 'One Word' selected and an 'Ordered' checkbox.

You are most likely to do a Headword search. For example:



Advanced search

Search in:

Entries

Senses

Quotations

Search the text of OED entries:

Term

napkin

in

Headword



Additional Term

And



Enter search

in

Full Text

Remove row



[+ Add row](#)

Parameters



Case-sensitive



Exact characters

You can further refine your search at the bottom of the page:

Subject

e.g. Genetics, Theatre, Baseball

[Browse subject »](#)

Language of Origin

e.g. French, Japanese, Bantu

[Browse origin »](#)

Region

Britain and Ireland

[Browse region »](#)

Usage

e.g. colloquial and slang, rare, archaic

[Browse usage »](#)

Date of entry

e.g. 1750, 1750-1755, -1500, 1970-

Include entries marked as:

☒ All ☐ Current ☐ Obsolete

Part of speech

All

Restrict to entry letter or range

e.g. m*, dle*, *tical

☒ Turn on Hit Highlighting in entry content

Reset

Search

When you go into your results the outline is given – clicking 'Full entry' will give more information:

napkin, n.

View as: Outline | [Full entry](#) | Text size: [A](#) [A](#)

Quotations: Show all | [Hide all](#) | Keywords: On | [Off](#)

Pronunciation: [Brit.](#) [/ˈnæpˌkɪn/](#), [U.S.](#) [/ˈnæpˌkɪn/](#)

Forms: Middle English **nampkyn**, Middle English **napekyn**, Middle English **nappekyn** ... ([Show More](#))

Frequency (in current use): ●●●●●●●●

Origin: Probably a borrowing from French, combined with an English element. **Etymons:** French *nape*, *-KIN* suffix.

Etymology: Probably < Anglo-Norman *nape*, *nap* and Middle French *nape* *NAPE* *nl.* + *-KIN* suffix.

1.

a. A usually square piece of cloth, paper, etc., used at a meal to wipe the fingers and lips and to protect the clothes (also occasionally, to place dishes on); a table napkin.

Thesaurus [»](#)

CL. SERVETTE *nl.*

***to take (a) sheet and napkin:** to lodge as a guest (with a person) (obsolete rare). ***to stick a napkin under one's chin:** to eat, to take a meal (obsolete rare).

1384–5 in J. T. Fowler *Extracts Acct. Rolls Abbey of Durham* (1898) I. 265 (*MED*) *ij napkins*.

1420 *Inventory in Lincoln Chapter Acc. Bk. A. 2. 30 f. 69* 2 *nappekynnes* 20d.

• 1440 *Promptorium Parvulorum* (Harl. 221) 351 *Napet*, or *napekyn*, *napella*.

• c1475 in *Coll. Ordinances Royal Househ.* (Harl. 642) (1790) 83 He indenteth with the Thesaurer of the householde in the counting-house for all the..napkins.

1508 *Bk. Keruyng* (de Worde) sig. A.iii^v Laye your knyues and set your brede,..your spones and your napkyns fayre folden besyde your brede.

1555 W. WATERMAN tr. J. Boemus *Fardle of Facions* *nl.* x. 215 Thei [sc. Tartars] neither vse..table clothe ne napkin.

1617 F. MORYSON *Itinerary* III. 116 The Hostesse..is tied to dresse his meate and give him napkins with like necessities.

1655 W. MEVE in S. Hartlib *Reformed Common-wealth Bees* 42 If you please to take a sheet and napkin with me for some time, we shall discourse of this.

1697 in W. Macgill *Old Ross-shire & Scotl.* (1909) I. 129 Ane dossone damask and dornick table clothes and twelff dossone nepkines estimat to Ic. lib.

1726 W. BROOME in A. Pope et al. tr. Homer *Odyssey* V. xx. Observ. 41 They made use of no *napkins* to wipe their hands, but the soft and fine part of the bread.

This entry has been updated (OED Third Edition, June 2003; most recently modified version published online March 2023).

Entry history
[Entry profile](#)

Previous version:
OED2 (1989)

In this entry:

hide (also lay up, wrap up, etc.) one's talent in a napkin, to
napkin-cap
napkin cheese
napkin-hidden
napkin nook
napkin press
napkin rash
napkin ring
napkin-snatching
stick a napkin under one's chin, to
take (a) sheet and napkin, to

In other dictionaries:

Jump to:

Sort by: Entry | Date

napier, n.1	1880
Napier, n.2	1920
Napierian, adj.	1752
Napier's bones, n.	1647
Napier's rods, n.	1678
napifolious, adj.	1857
napiform, adj.	1833
naping, n.	1495
naping, adj.	1500
napkin, n.	1384
napkin, v.	1627
napkined, adj.	1756
napkining, n.	1604
Naples, n.	1507
napless, adj.	1596
napoh, n.	1822
Napoleon, n.1	1814
Napoleon, n.2	1821
Napoleonic, adj.	1810
Napoleonically, adv.	1851

Beside the headword the part of speech is given – n. = noun.

Click the blue buttons to hear the word pronounced in British or American English. This is available for all non-obsolete words.

Forms gives all the different forms/spellings of the words throughout the time of its existence.

Frequency gives how often the word is used. Clicking on the circles will give more information.

Definitions are listed under these and you can also see the quotations, with the headword underlined, and the dates the quotations are from.

Thesaurus gives synonyms for the word which are hyperlinked so you can click on, and go to, these entries.

The red column will allow you to see if the word has been in previous editions of the OED and you can click the link to see the previous editions.

The column on the right of the screen allows you to see words before and after the entry you are reading in the OED.

In noun entries if you scroll down the list of meanings you will see definitions are listed first, then compound forms of the word, if applicable. Derivatives are listed under these, if any exist.

COMPOUNDS

† **napkin-cap** *n.* *Obsolete* a small linen cap.

1735–1746

Thesaurus »
Categories »
(Show quotations)

napkin cheese *n.* *rare* a cream cheese that has been strained in a bag made from a napkin or similar piece of cloth.

1865–1965

Thesaurus »
Categories »
(Show quotations)

napkin-hidden *adj.* (of a talent) concealed or wasted; cf. **NAPKINED** *adj.*

Apparently an isolated use.

1993–1993

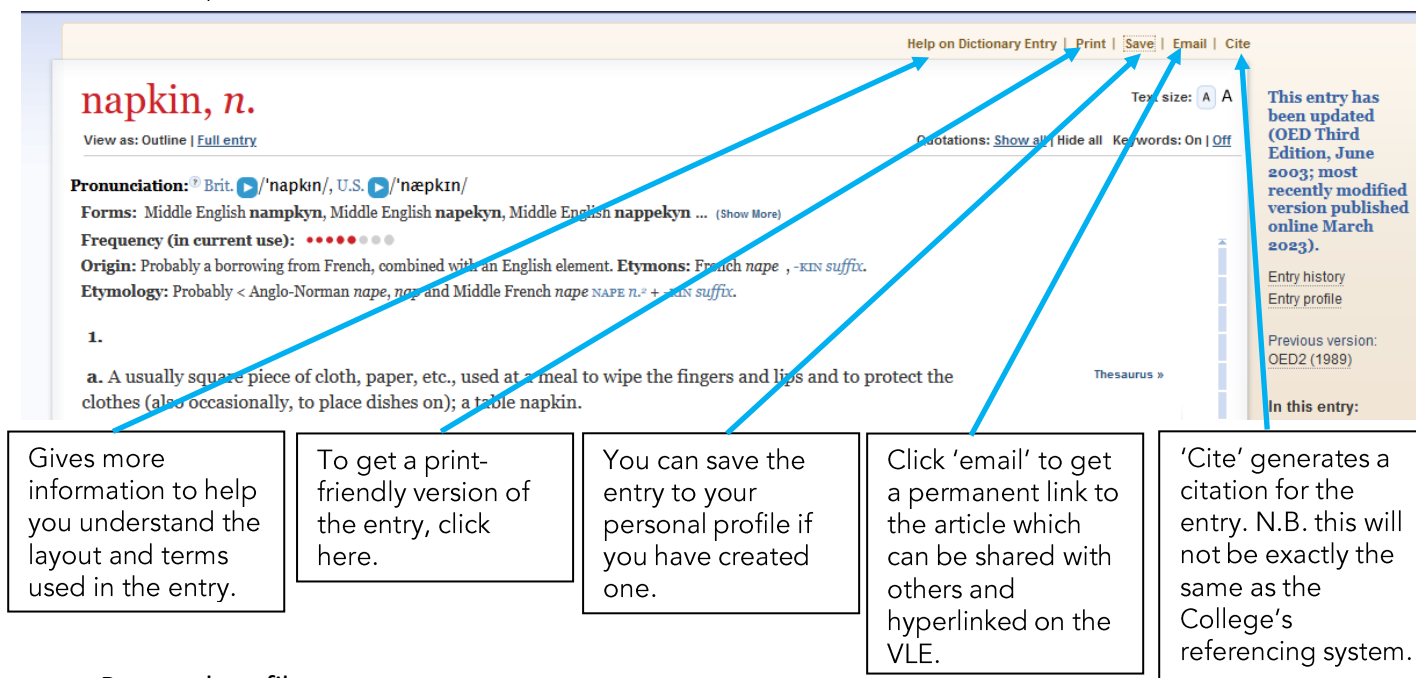
(Show quotations)

† **napkin nook** *n.* *Scottish Obsolete rare* the corner of a handkerchief.

?a1600–?a1600

Categories »
(Show quotations)

At the top of the entry there are some useful buttons:



The screenshot shows the OED entry for 'napkin, n.' with several navigation buttons at the top: 'Help on Dictionary Entry', 'Print', 'Save', 'Email', and 'Cite'. Arrows point from these buttons to explanatory boxes below the entry.

- Help on Dictionary Entry:** Gives more information to help you understand the layout and terms used in the entry.
- Print:** To get a print-friendly version of the entry, click here.
- Save:** You can save the entry to your personal profile if you have created one.
- Email:** Click 'email' to get a permanent link to the article which can be shared with others and hyperlinked on the VLE.
- Cite:** 'Cite' generates a citation for the entry. N.B. this will not be exactly the same as the College's referencing system.

The entry itself includes pronunciation, forms, frequency, origin, etymology, and a definition: 'a. A usually square piece of cloth, paper, etc., used at a meal to wipe the fingers and lips and to protect the clothes (also occasionally, to place dishes on); a table napkin.'

Personal profile

If you click on 'Save' or 'Personal profile' in the top right of the screen, you will be prompted to enter your email address and password if you already have an account. If you don't have an account, click on 'Don't have an account' and complete the form to create one:



Personal profile sign in

Your free 'My Oxford English Dictionary' personal profile allows you to save entries and searches, manage folders of saved items, and set your personal preferences.

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[Don't have an account?](#)

Email

Password

SIGN IN

[Forgot password?](#)

Create personal profile

Your free 'My Oxford English Dictionary' personal profile allows you to save entries and searches, manage folders of saved items, and set your personal preferences.

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We will only use your personal information for providing you with this service.

Already have a personal profile account? [Sign in](#)

* indicates required field

Full Name *

Email *

Password * (at least 6 characters)

Confirm Password *



I'm not a robot



CREATE PROFILE

If you create your own account, you can save entries and searches and set personal preferences.

On the homepage there are a range of useful links.

You can browse the OED and categories within it.

Timelines allows you to see bar graphs of when words were added to the OED.

Sources allows you to see key authors and sources.

The screenshot shows the Oxford English Dictionary homepage. Arrows point to the following elements:

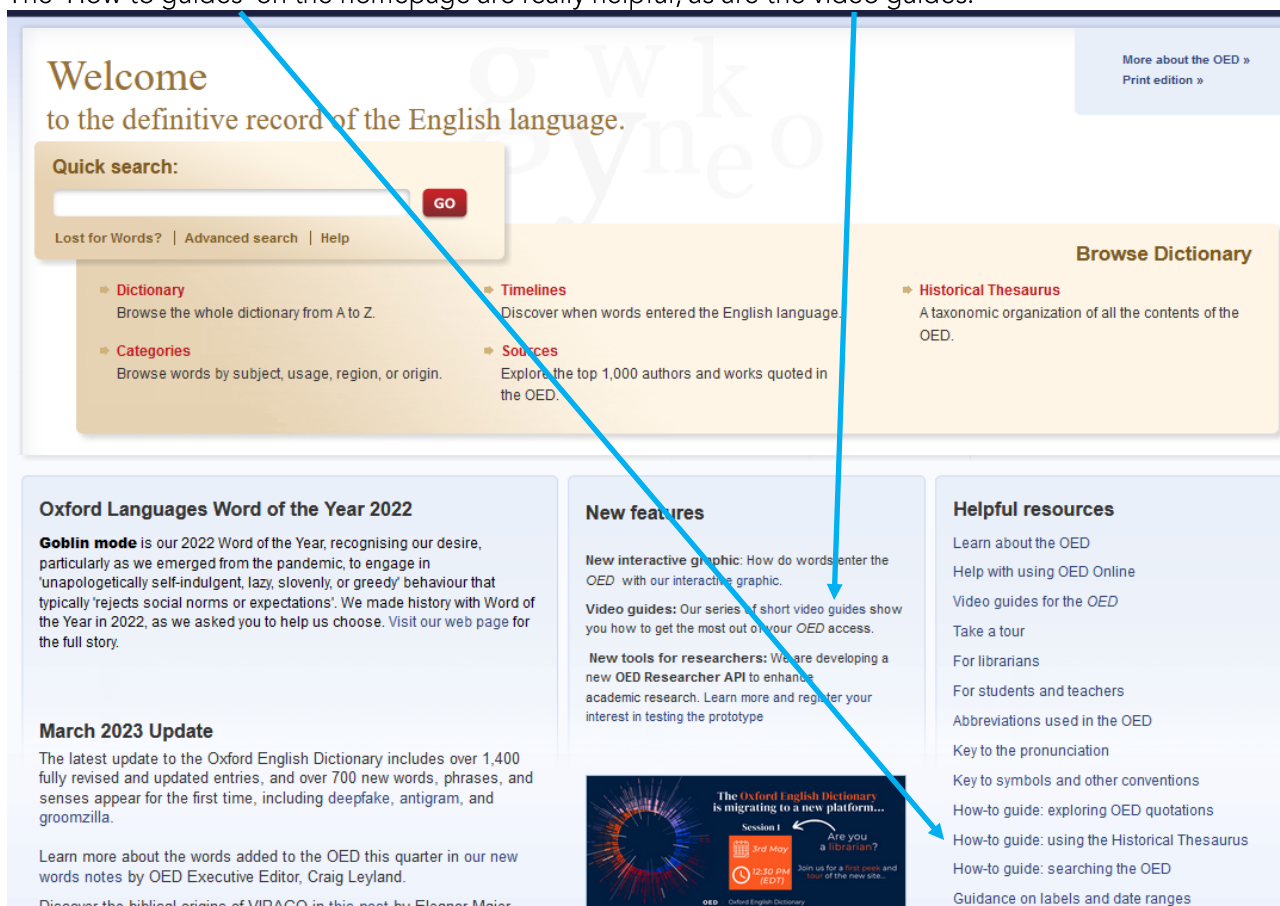
- Welcome to the definitive record of the English language.**
- Quick search:** A search bar with a 'GO' button.
- Lost for Words? | Advanced search | Help**
- Browse Dictionary** section:
 - Dictionary:** Browse the whole dictionary from A to Z.
 - Categories:** Browse words by subject, usage, region, or origin.
 - Timelines:** Discover when words entered the English language.
 - Sources:** Explore the top 1,000 authors and works quoted in the OED.
 - Historical Thesaurus:** A taxonomic organization of all the contents of the OED.
- Oxford Languages Word of the Year 2022:** A section about the 2022 Word of the Year, 'Goblin mode'.
- March 2023 Update:** A section about the latest update to the Oxford English Dictionary.
- New features:** A section about new interactive graphics, video guides, and new tools for researchers.
- Helpful resources:** A section with links to learn about the OED, help with using OED Online, video guides, and more.

The historical thesaurus groups senses and words in the OED according to their subject, and orders them by date of first use. It is like a taxonomic index of language history. Entries are grouped under three main categories: The external world, the mind, and society. You can expand each category under these main headings to find the term you are looking for.

The screenshot shows the Historical Thesaurus interface. It includes a search bar, a 'GO' button, and three main categories: 'The external world', 'The mind', and 'Society'. Each category has a list of sub-entries with a 'Go' button next to each.

Category	Sub-entry	Action
The external world	The universe	Go
	The earth	Go
	Life	Go
	Health and disease	Go
The mind	Mental capacity	Go
	Attention and judgement	Go
	Goodness and badness	Go
	Emotion	Go
Society	Society and the community	Go
	Inhabiting and dwelling	Go
	Armed hostility	Go
	Authority	Go

The 'How-to guides' on the homepage are really helpful, as are the video guides.



Welcome
to the definitive record of the English language.

Quick search:
[Search bar] **GO**
[Lost for Words?](#) | [Advanced search](#) | [Help](#)

Browse Dictionary

- **Dictionary**
Browse the whole dictionary from A to Z.
- **Categories**
Browse words by subject, usage, region, or origin.
- **Timelines**
Discover when words entered the English language.
- **Sources**
Explore the top 1,000 authors and works quoted in the OED.
- **Historical Thesaurus**
A taxonomic organization of all the contents of the OED.

Oxford Languages Word of the Year 2022
Goblin mode is our 2022 Word of the Year, recognising our desire, particularly as we emerged from the pandemic, to engage in 'unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy' behaviour that typically 'rejects social norms or expectations'. We made history with Word of the Year in 2022, as we asked you to help us choose. Visit our web page for the full story.

March 2023 Update
The latest update to the Oxford English Dictionary includes over 1,400 fully revised and updated entries, and over 700 new words, phrases, and senses appear for the first time, including deepfake, antigram, and groomzilla.
Learn more about the words added to the OED this quarter in our new words notes by OED Executive Editor, Craig Leyland.
Discover the biblical origins of VIRAGO in this post by Eleanor Maier.

New features

- New interactive graphic:** How do words enter the OED with our interactive graphic.
- Video guides:** Our series of short video guides show you how to get the most out of your OED access.
- New tools for researchers:** We are developing a new OED Researcher API to enhance academic research. Learn more and register your interest in testing the prototype

Helpful resources

- Learn about the OED
- Help with using OED Online
- Video guides for the OED
- Take a tour
- For librarians
- For students and teachers
- Abbreviations used in the OED
- Key to the pronunciation
- Key to symbols and other conventions
- How-to guide: exploring OED quotations
- How-to guide: using the Historical Thesaurus
- How-to guide: searching the OED
- Guidance on labels and date ranges

The Oxford English Dictionary is migrating to a new platform...
Session 1: 3rd May, 12:30 PM (GMT)
Are you a librarian? Join us for a first look and tour of the new site.

If you have any more questions, ask Library staff.