



## Oxford English Dictionary (OED)

### Gamble Guides

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#### Where to access the OED

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

The screenshot shows the 'Student Information Hub' interface. At the top, there are navigation links: 'Dashboard', 'My courses', and 'Student Information Hub' (which is highlighted). To the right of these links is a 'Continue Course' button. Below the navigation bar is a list of menu items, each with a dropdown arrow. The items are: 'Announcements', 'General College Resources', 'Other Useful Resources', 'College Timetable Spring 2026', 'Hidden unit: Exam Timetables for BA students', 'Hidden unit: Exam Guidance for BA students', and 'Library Resources' (which is expanded). The expanded 'Library Resources' section contains the following text: '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.' Below this text are three hyperlinked images: 'Atlas PLUS by atla', 'Early English Books Online', 'Oxford DNB', and 'OED Oxford English Dictionary The definitive record of the English language'.



# Reformation History (CTM207/PTF207)

[Dashboard](#)[My courses](#)[Reformation History \(CTM207/PTF207\)](#)[Module resources, assignments and discussion boards](#)[CTM207 Reformation History Assessments](#)[PTF207 Reformation History Assessments](#)[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.

**Atlas**  
**PLUS** by atla





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 and their usage traced through quotations from classic literature, newspapers and a range of other sources. You also have the option to search the historical thesaurus using the dropdown menu on the homepage. The historical thesaurus groups senses and words into categories and orders them by the date of first use. It is like an index of language history – you would use it to explore the different words used for a particular concept or meaning over time. The three big categories in the thesaurus are: the world; the mind and society.

## Quick (simple) search

The quick search is in the centre of the landing page. Just enter keyword(s) in the box and click the magnifying glass to search for their definition. The autocomplete function will try to predict the word you want to find as you type.

Click on 'View entry' (in blue) below one of the headwords on the results page to view further information.

'Meaning & use' lists all meanings for your search term. Quotations are given showing how the word was used. You can tick the box on the left beside 'Show all quotations' to see all quotations, or 'Hide all quotations' to hide them. 'Meaning & use' is the default tab.



Information about a word or phrase is spread across several tabs. The default tab you see first is 'Meaning & use.' This lists the various meanings of a word and quotations demonstrating its use over time. The Contents on the left will stay still as you scroll down the page. This helps with navigation as each heading is hyperlinked.

**OED** | Oxford English Dictionary

Dictionary

Advanced search

AI Search Assistant

Sign in as Union Theological...

Revised 2014 (entry history) More entries for *godly* Nearby entries

Share Cite Contribute

Single page Tabbed

**godly**  
ADJECTIVE & NOUN

Factsheet Etymology **Meaning & use** Pronunciation Forms Frequency List of compounds & derived words

**QUOTATIONS**  
☐ Hide all quotations

**CONTENTS**  
A. ADJECTIVE  
1. Of or relating to God; coming from God; divine; spiritual...  
▼ 2. Devoutly observant of the laws of God; religious, pious.  
2.a. Of conduct, speech, etc. Now somewhat archaic.  
▼ 2.b. Of a person.  
2.b.i. In general use.  
2.b.ii. spec. Designating puritan supporters, typically...

**A. ADJECTIVE**  
1. Of or relating to God; coming from God; divine; spiritual. Now somewhat archaic. **Old English-**  
In quot. *a1425*: = **theological** *adj.* **A.1.**

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

**(a1398)** A ierarchie is a **godly** [*MS* *godly*; Latin *diuinus*] ordre, konnyng, and worke, iliche God [*Latin* *deiforme*] as it is possible.  
J. Trevisa, translation of Bartholomaeus Anglicus, *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (MS BL Add. 27944) (1975) vol. I. ii. vii. 68  
[Composed *a1398*]

**a1425** **(?c1384)** Þes two **godliche** virtues [sc. faith and hope].  
J. Wyclif, *Select English Works* (1871) vol. III. 340  
[Composed ?c1384]

At the end of the quotations is an 'AI Quotations Finder' which is able to retrieve historical examples from the EarlyPrint corpus, in the first instance, and then uses AI to identify which examples match a specific OED sense. A thousand concordance lines which contain the headword, or an historical variant, are then returned from the corpus. These are sorted by their relevance to the original sense. AI then chooses the 10 most relevant concordances, and returns those it deems to match the OED sense definition as 'candidate quotations.' This usually takes 50 seconds. 'AI reasoning' shows how it came to the quotations chosen. Be aware these quotations have not been verified by OED editors and therefore may not accurately reflect the OED definition. There is a link to the EarlyPrint corpus so you can check it yourself.

The quotations in the main entry are the best examples of the word's usage over time and have been verified so are reliable. This facility is not available for every word.

#### AI Quotations Finder

Quotations will be extracted verbatim from the EarlyPrint corpus (1473-1800) and then matched to this sense by an LLM. Results may be inaccurate, and are not verified by the OED. [See guidelines for use.](#)

From 1473

To 1800

Get quotations

At the bottom of each meaning is a 'Cite' button:



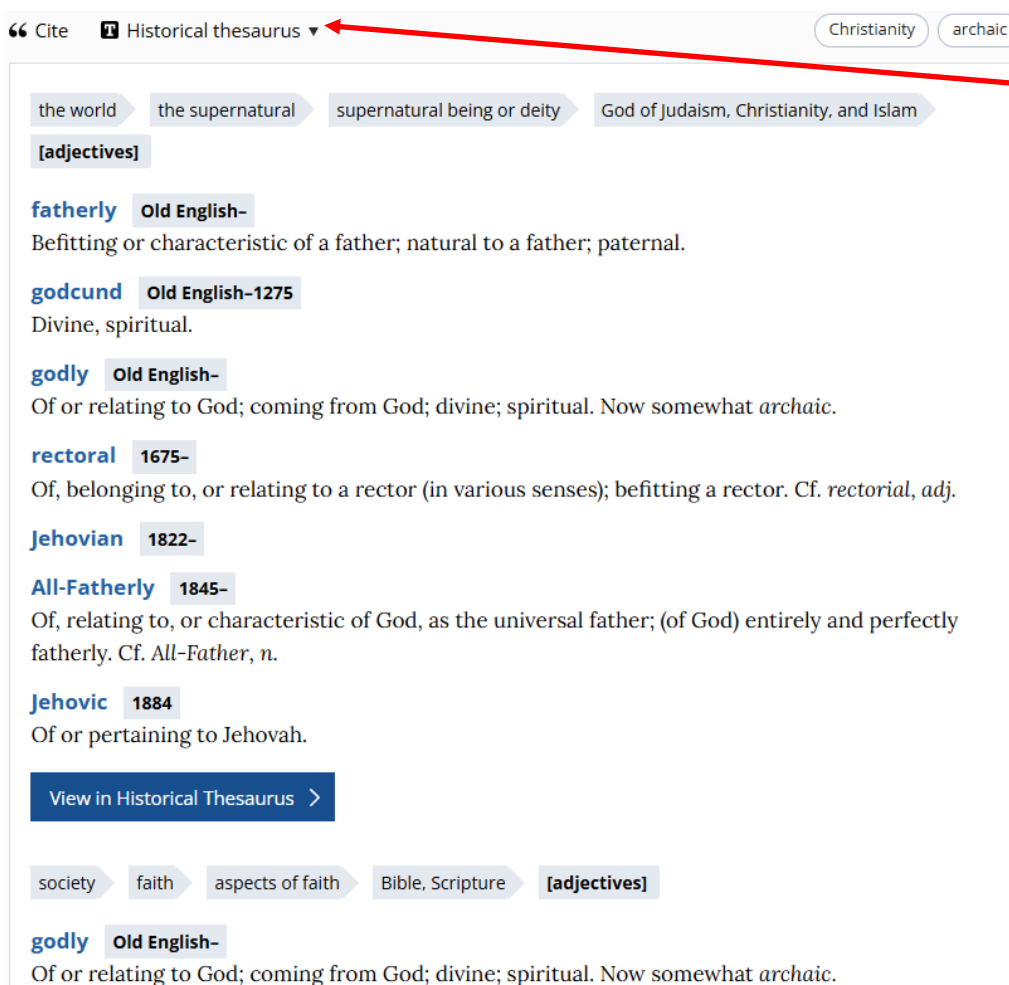
**1955** Every utterance of Josef Stalin was held to be of **godly** infallibility.  
*Catholic Times* 27 May 6/1 ...

**1994** Terrible brightness and he had to shield his own cause of it, like they were **godly** figures and the light coming from them was **godly** or something.  
J. Kelman, *How Late it Was* 2 ...

AI Quotations Finder ▾

“ Cite T Historical thesaurus ▾ Christianity archaic

Clicking this reveals references for the meaning in Chicago 18, MLA 9 and APA 7 referencing styles. These can be copied and pasted into a Word document. The reference contains a DOI which is unique to that meaning and can be used as a permanent URL link to a meaning. Putting this URL into your browser will take you straight to the meaning.



“ Cite T Historical thesaurus ▾ Christianity archaic

the world the supernatural supernatural being or deity God of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

[adjectives]

**fatherly** Old English-  
Befitting or characteristic of a father; natural to a father; paternal.

**godcund** Old English-1275  
Divine, spiritual.

**godly** Old English-  
Of or relating to God; coming from God; divine; spiritual. Now somewhat *archaic*.

**rectoral** 1675-  
Of, belonging to, or relating to a rector (in various senses); befitting a rector. Cf. *rectorial*, *adj.*

**Jehovian** 1822-  
**All-Fatherly** 1845-  
Of, relating to, or characteristic of God, as the universal father; (of God) entirely and perfectly fatherly. Cf. *All-Father*, *n.*

**Jehovic** 1884  
Of or pertaining to Jehovah.

View in Historical Thesaurus >

society faith aspects of faith Bible, Scripture [adjectives]

**godly** Old English-  
Of or relating to God; coming from God; divine; spiritual. Now somewhat *archaic*.

Clicking the down arrow beside 'Historical thesaurus' will reveal categories and words linked to the search term.

The 'Factsheet' tab gives an overview of the word and links to find out more:

# godly

ADJECTIVE & NOUN

[Factsheet](#) [Meaning & use](#) [Etymology](#) [Pronunciation](#) [Forms](#) [Frequency](#) [Compounds & derived words](#)

### What does the word *godly* mean?

There are **six** meanings listed in OED's entry for the word *godly*. See 'Meaning & use' for definitions, usage, and quotation evidence.

*godly* has developed meanings and uses in subjects including

Christianity (Old English)
religion (Middle English)
parliament (mid 1600s)

[See meaning & use >](#)

### How is the word *godly* pronounced?

**BRITISH ENGLISH**

**/ˈɡɒdli/**

GOD-lee

**U.S. ENGLISH**

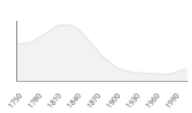
**/ˈɡɑdli/**

GAHD-lee

[See pronunciation >](#)

### How common is the word *godly*?

About **1** occurrence per million words in modern written English



[See frequency >](#)

### Where does the word *godly* come from?

EARLIEST  
KNOWN USE

Old  
English

The earliest known use of the word *godly* is in the Old English period (pre-1150).

*godly* is a word inherited from Germanic.

[See etymology >](#)

'Etymology' gives details of the origin of the word:

# godly

ADJECTIVE & NOUN

[Factsheet](#) [Meaning & use](#) [Etymology](#) [Pronunciation](#) [Forms](#) [Frequency](#) [Compounds & derived words](#)

### Summary

A word inherited from Germanic.

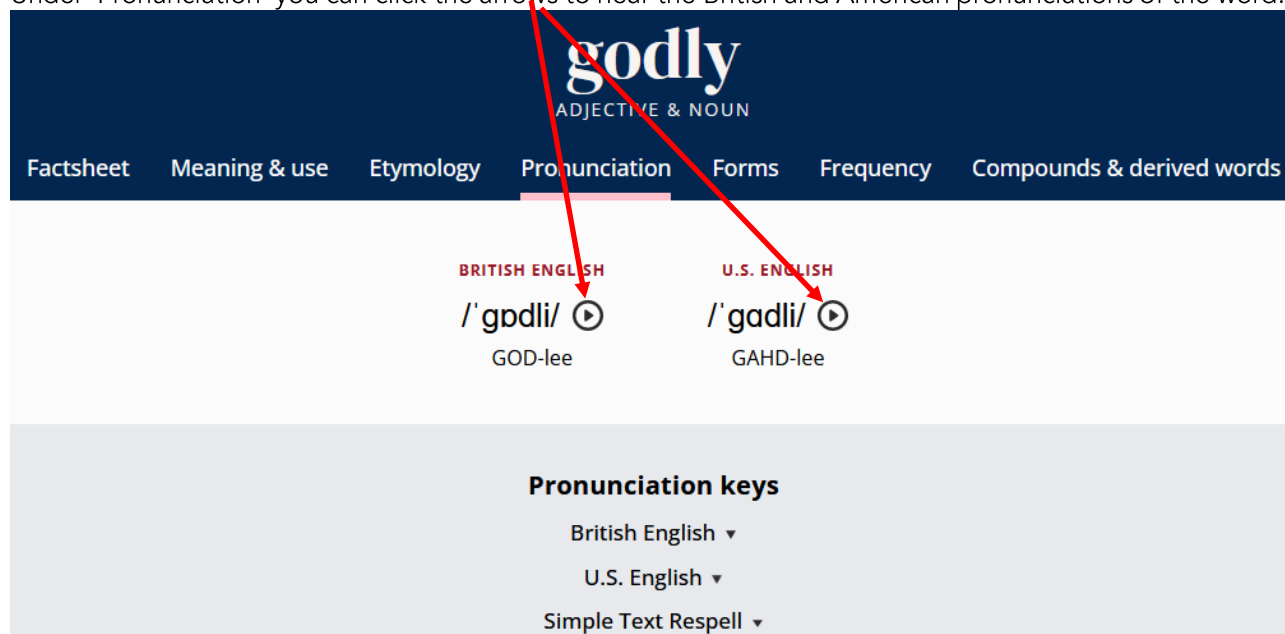
Cognate with or formed similarly to **Old Frisian** *godelik*, *godilik*, *godlik*, **Old Dutch** *godalik* (**Middle Dutch** *godelijc*, *godlijc*, **Dutch** *goddelijk*, *godlijk*), **Middle Low German** *gōdelik*, **Old High German** *gotalih*, *gotlih* (**Middle High German** *gotelich*, *gotlich*, *gōtelich*, *gōtlich*, **German** *göttlich*), **Old Icelandic** *guðligr*, **Old Swedish** *gupliker*, *gudhliker* (**Swedish** *gudlig*), **Old Danish** *gudelig* (**Danish** *gudelig*) < the **Germanic** base of **god** n. + the **Germanic** base of **-ly** suffix<sup>1</sup>.

### Notes

In early use sometimes difficult to distinguish from **goodly** *adj.* and in **β** forms apparently influenced by **goodly** *adj.* Compare discussion at **god** n. & **int**.

“ Cite

Under 'Pronunciation' you can click the arrows to hear the British and American pronunciations of the word:



**godly**  
ADJECTIVE & NOUN

Factsheet Meaning & use Etymology **Pronunciation** Forms Frequency Compounds & derived words

**BRITISH ENGLISH**  
/'ɡɒdli/   
GOD-lee

**U.S. ENGLISH**  
/'ɡɑdli/   
GAHD-lee

**Pronunciation keys**  
British English ▾  
U.S. English ▾  
Simple Text Respell ▾

'Forms' details the different forms, i.e., spellings, the word has had since it began to be used:



**godly**  
ADJECTIVE & NOUN

Factsheet Etymology Meaning & use Pronunciation **Forms** Frequency List of compounds & derived words

**CONTENTS**  
α. See *god* and *-ly*.  
β. goodely, goodliche, goodly

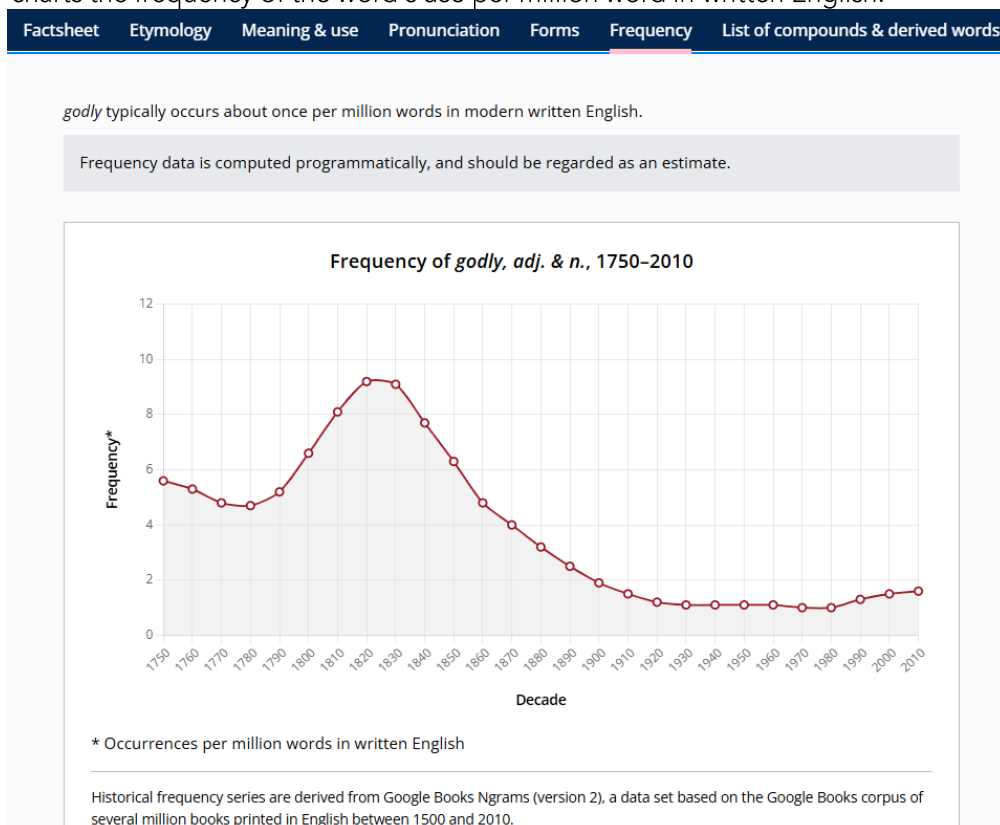
**DATE OF USE**  
From Old English ▾  
To 2000s ▾

**Variant forms**  
α. See *god n. & int. and -ly suffix*<sup>1</sup>.  
β.  
Middle English **goodely, goodliche, goodly**

“ Cite



'Frequency' charts the frequency of the word's use per million word in written English:



Further down the page there is a graph and table showing more recent usage of the word over time. 'List of compounds & derived words' lists all words which use the word you searched for:

**Factsheet Etymology Meaning & use Pronunciation Forms Frequency List of compounds & derived words**

See also *godly* as a modifier

Sort by

- godliness, n.** **a1460–**  
The quality of being godly; devout observance of...
- godly sorrow, n.** **1526–**  
Sorrow according to God's will; sorrow on account...
- ungodly, adj.** **1526–**  
Of persons: Not fearing or reverencing God...
- godlily, adv.** **1548–**  
In a godly manner; = godly, adv.
- godly mother, n.** **1594–1602**  
= pia mater, n. 1.
- over-godly, adj.** **a1613–1717**





Along the top of the webpage there are a number of hyperlinks. 'Entry history' brings up the history of how the word has been updated over the years. 'More entries for...' takes you back to the results page. 'Nearby entries' gives a hyperlinked list of words near your keyword. Clicking on the hyperlink will take you to the entry for that word. If you have your own personal account you can 'Contribute' information to particular meanings. 'Single page. Tabbed' allows you to change the layout of the page. 'Single page' presents all the information on one page rather than spread across tabs.

The screenshot shows the OED homepage for the word 'godly'. The header includes the OED logo, the word 'godly' in a large font, and the definition 'ADJECTIVE & NOUN'. Below the header are several tabs: 'Factsheet', 'Etymology', 'Meaning & use' (which is highlighted), 'Pronunciation', 'Forms', 'Frequency', and 'List of compounds & derived words'. At the top right, there are links for 'Advanced search', 'AI Search Assistant', and 'Signed in as Union Theological...'. Below the header, there are links for 'Revised 2014 (entry history)', 'More entries for godly', and 'Nearby entries'. On the right side, there are links for 'Share', 'Cite', 'Contribute', and 'Single page' (which is highlighted) and 'Tabbed'.

## An advanced search follow up to a quick search

Once you do a quick search an 'Advanced search' link will show in the results:

The screenshot shows the OED search results for the word 'napkin'. The header includes the OED logo, the word 'napkin' in a large font, and the definition 'ADJECTIVE & NOUN'. Below the header are several tabs: 'Factsheet', 'Etymology', 'Meaning & use' (which is highlighted), 'Pronunciation', 'Forms', 'Frequency', and 'List of compounds & derived words'. At the top right, there are links for 'Advanced search', 'AI Search Assistant', and 'Signed in as Union Theological...'. Below the header, there are links for 'Revised 2014 (entry history)', 'More entries for godly', and 'Nearby entries'. On the right side, there are links for 'Share', 'Cite', 'Contribute', and 'Single page' (which is highlighted) and 'Tabbed'. The main content area shows two results for 'napkin': 'napkin, n.' and 'napkin, v.'. The 'napkin, n.' entry is highlighted. To the right of the results, there is a section titled 'Results for "napkin" in:' which lists various links: 'Quotation work title (11)', 'Quotation text (240)', 'Meanings (23)', 'Definitions (53)', 'Etymologies (19)', and 'Historical Thesaurus (20)'. At the bottom left, there is a link for 'Advanced search'.

Other results for the word you searched for not in the entry headword are given on the right. Clicking the 'Advanced search' will allow you to refine or expand your search using the links on the left:



**OED** | Oxford English Dictionary Dictionary  Advanced search AI Search Assistant Info Signed in as Union Theological...

**Entries (14)**   Meanings (23)   Quotations (113)   Historical Thesaurus (20)

**SEARCH TERMS**

☒ Headword   ☐ Quotation text  
☐ Definition   ☐ Quotation author  
☐ Etymology   ☐ Quotation work  
☐ Forms

☐ Exact match

**DATE OF USE**

☒ Use   ☐ First use

From

To

**PART OF SPEECH**

☐ Noun (12)  
☐ Adjective (1)  
☐ Verb (1)

**TYPE OF FORMATION**

☐ Compound (12)

1 to 14 of 14 results  1

Sort by  [Export results \(.csv\)](#)

|       |                                                                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1384- | <b>napkin, n.</b><br>A usually square piece of cloth, paper, etc...                   |
| 1847- | <b>paper napkin, n.</b><br>A disposable table <b>napkin</b> made of paper.            |
| 1883- | <b>sanitary napkin, n.</b><br>An absorbent pad designed to be worn during...          |
| 1686- | <b>napkin ring, n.</b><br>A ring of silver, wood, plastic, etc., used to...           |
| 1913- | <b>cocktail napkin, n.</b><br>A small <b>napkin</b> (originally made of linen, now... |
| 1564- | <b>table napkin, n.</b><br>A usually square piece of cloth, paper, etc...             |
| 1627- | <b>napkin, v.</b><br>transitive. To wipe or dab with a <b>napkin</b> . rare.          |

For example, you can refine results by the date of use, part of speech, usage, subject etc. You can expand your search by adding in another term using AND OR NOT (Boolean operators). Click 'Add term' to do so. The 'Save search' option should be at the top of this search. If you click this option you can create your own account, name and save the search to your personal folder. You can then run the search again, at a later date. The tabs listed in the results are different than previously. 'Entries' lists all entries with the keyword you searched for in it. 'Meanings' returns all meanings of the submitted search term and all sense level lemmas containing the search term. The list is sorted alphabetically by default but this can be changed using the dropdown menu:

Entries (14)

Meanings (23)

Quotations (113)

Historical Thesaurus (20)

SEARCH TERMS

☒ Lemma
 ☐ Quotation author
 ☐ Definition
 ☐ Quotation work
 ☐ Quotation text

☐ Exact match

Add term

Update

DATE OF USE

☒ Use
 ☐ First use

From

Year (YYYY)

1 to 23 of 23 results

Save search

1

Sort by

A-Z

Jump to

Go

Export results (.csv)

|       |                                                                                      |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1913- | <div>kin, n.</div> <div>(originally made of linen, now...</div>                      |
| 1384- | <div>napkin, n.</div> <div>A usually square piece of cloth, paper, etc...</div>      |
| 1591- | <div>napkin, n.</div> <div>A similar piece of cloth used for other purposes...</div> |

'Quotations' searches OED's 3.5 million quotations for the keyword. As with the other tabs, results can be refined or expanded on the left.

Entries (173)

Meanings (176)

Quotations (240)

Historical Thesaurus (827,750)

SEARCH TERMS

☐ Lemma
 ☐ Quotation work
 ☒ Quotation text
 ☐ Quotation author

Add term

Update

AUTHOR

☐ William Shakespeare (5)
 ☐ Charles Dickens (4)
 ☐ Walter Scott (4)
 ☐ Ben Jonson (3)
 ☐ Edward Lane (3)
 ☐ William Patten (3)
 ☐ Alfred Tennyson (2)
 ☐ Archibald Lovell (2)
 ☐ Edward Howard (2)
 ☐ Horace Walpole (2)
 ☐ John Galt (2)
 ☐ John Morley (2)
 [See more](#)

1 to 50 of 240 results

Save search

1 2 Next >>

Sort by

A-Z

Jump to

Go

Export results (.csv)

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1999 | <div>Abraham's Bosom is usually shown very literally in English art of this period as a <b>napkin</b> full of souls held against the breast of a patriarchal figure by two angels.</div> <div>R. Horrox, <i>Purgatory, Prayer &amp; Plague</i></div> <div>Abraham's bosom, in Abraham, n.</div> |
| 1813 | <div>The milk flowed up to her breasts, and came through her gown... She threw a <b>napkin</b> over herself..and adjusted herself to prevent its being observed.</div> <div>Monthly Magazine</div> <div>adjust, v.<sup>2</sup></div>                                                            |
| 1992 | <div>Scarlet agitated herself only about the nutritional content of food and held in contempt the misplaced aestheticism of the lily-contoured table <b>napkin</b>.</div> <div>'A. T. Ellis', <i>Pillars of Gold</i></div> <div>aestheticism, n.</div>                                          |
| 2018 | <div>My dad is so annihilated he thought a screwed up <b>napkin</b> was sour cream and tried to dip a nacho in it.</div> <div>@PrettyTrashtho in <i>twitter.com</i></div> <div>annihilated, adj.</div>                                                                                          |

The 'Historical thesaurus' gives the keyword searched for, its meaning and on the right side the categories in the hierarchy.

**SEARCH TERMS**

napkin

☐ Exact match

**Update**

**DATE OF USE**

☒ Use ☐ First use

From

To

**Update**

**CATEGORY**

**Select category**

1 to 20 of 20 results **Save search** **1**

Sort by **A-Z** Jump to  **Go** [Export results \(.csv\)](#)

|                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>napkin 1591-</b></p> <p>A similar piece of cloth used for other purposes; a small towel.</p>                       | <p>the world physical sensation cleanness and dirtiness</p> <p>cleaning washing washing oneself or body [nouns]</p> <p>rubbing with towel towel <b>small towel</b></p> <p><i>napkin, towelette, guest-towel</i></p> <p><a href="#">View in Historical Thesaurus</a></p>                          |
| <p><b>napkin 1436-</b></p> <p>A handkerchief. Also figurative. Now chiefly Scottish and English regional (northern).</p> | <p>the world physical sensation cleanness and dirtiness</p> <p>cleaning cleaning or cleanliness of the person [nouns]</p> <p>cleaning the nose <b>handkerchief</b></p> <p><i>muckender, napkin, handkerchief, handkercher, wiper,...</i></p> <p><a href="#">View in Historical Thesaurus</a></p> |

Terms can be filtered on the left, e.g., you can search for obsolete terms only.

'View in Historical Thesaurus' to see all the historical synonyms and explore them further by clicking on different parts of the hierarchy. Terms are sorted chronologically by default but can also be sorted alphabetically using the dropdown menu.

## **T Historical Thesaurus**

**Select category**

**Browse categories**

- ▶ the world
  - ▶ the universe
  - ▶ the earth
  - ▶ life
  - ▶ health
  - ▶ people
  - ▶ animals
  - ▶ plants
  - ▶ food and drink
  - ▶ textiles and clothing
- ▶ physical sensation
  - ▶ physical sensibility
  - ▶ sleeping and waking
  - ▶ sexual relations
  - ▶ use of drugs and poison
  - ▶ touch and feeling
  - ▶ taste and flavour
  - ▶ smell and odour
  - ▶ sight and vision
  - ▶ hearing and noise
- ▶ cleanness and dirtiness

the world physical sensation cleanness and dirtiness cleaning

cleaning or cleanliness of the person [nouns] cleaning the nose handkerchief

### cleaning or cleanliness of the person NOUNS

(141 terms)

“ Cite Sort by **Date**  **Date**  **A-Z**

**personal hygiene 1859-**

The action, habit, or practice of keeping oneself clean, esp. as a means of maintaining good health.

**sex hygiene 1899-**

The set of behaviours intended to reduce the risk of sexually transmitted disease; (also more widely) sex education.

**Expand all categories** **Collapse all categories**

- ▶ **cleaning the teeth** (38 terms)
- ▶ **spittoon** (5 terms)
- ▶ **implement for cleaning ears** (6 terms)
- ▼ **cleaning the nose** (39 terms)
  - sniting Old English-**
  - The action of the verb; a blowing or wiping of the nose or beak; the snuffing of a candle.

The left side is the navigation tree to reach any section of the thesaurus. You can also 'Select category' and type in a word to go to its definition.

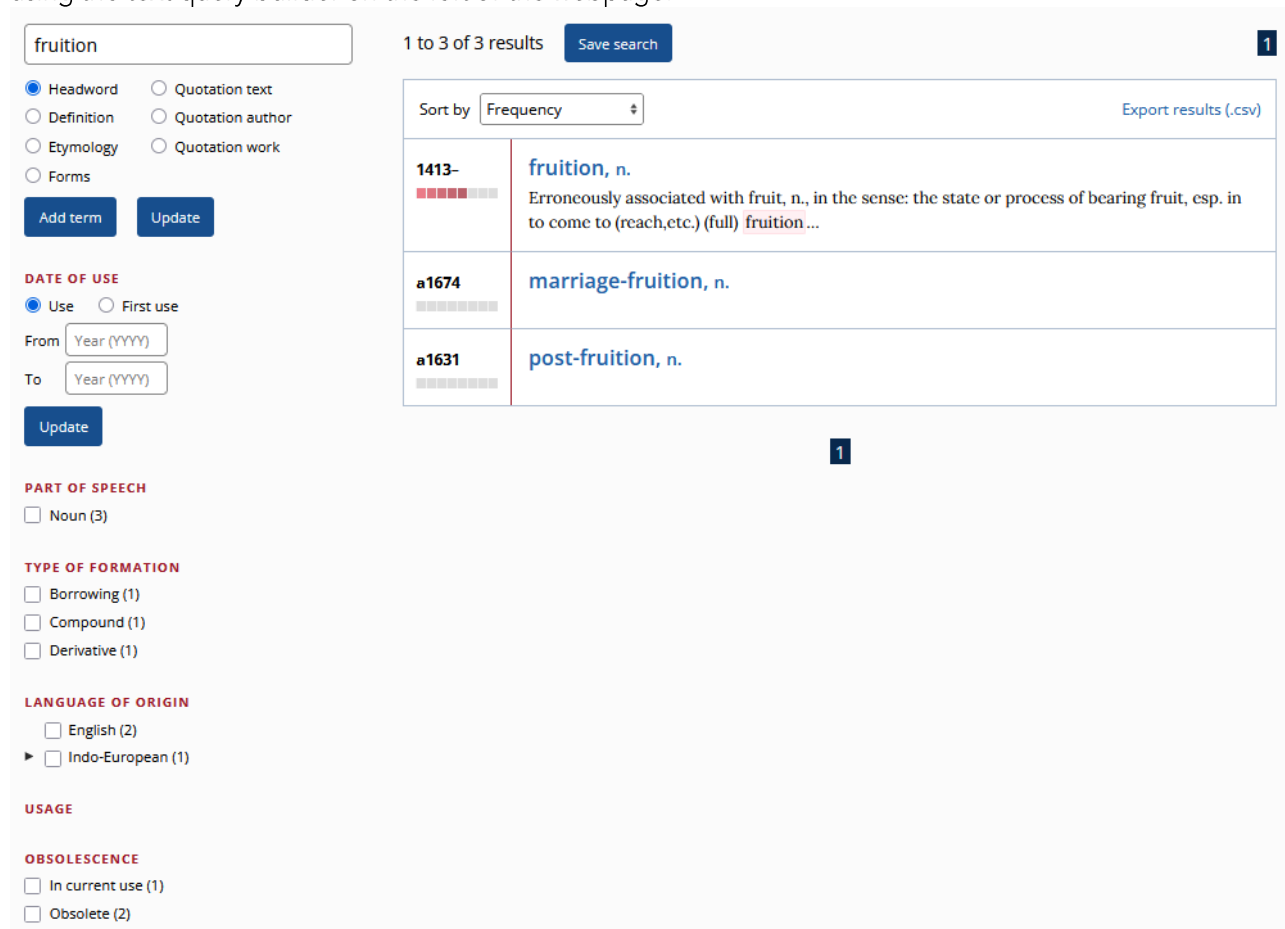
## An advanced search

Click on 'Advanced search' in the top right of the screen to start an advanced search:



The homepage of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) features a dark blue header with the 'OXFORD' logo on the left. On the right, there are links for 'Signed in as Union Theological...', 'Advanced search' (highlighted with a red arrow), and 'AI Search Assistant'. The main title 'OED | Oxford English Dictionary' is prominently displayed, followed by a search bar with a dropdown menu set to 'Dictionary'. Below this, the text 'The historical English dictionary' is shown, along with a description: 'An unsurpassed guide for researchers in any discipline to the meaning, history, and usage of over 500,000 words and phrases across the English-speaking world.' A button labeled 'Find out more about OED >' is located at the bottom right of the main content area.

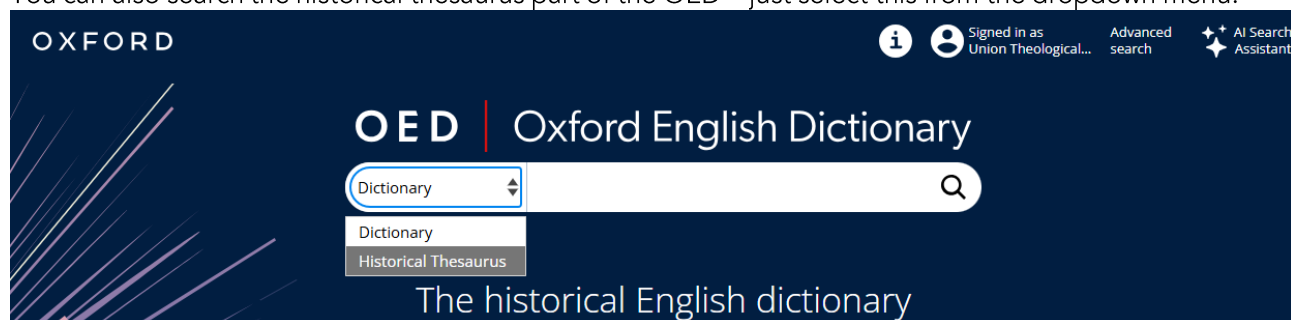
When you click on 'Advanced search' all meanings in the dictionary are returned. Search for specific words using the text query builder on the left of the webpage:



The Advanced Search interface shows a search for 'fruition'. On the left, a text query builder allows filtering by various criteria: Headword (selected), Definition, Etymology, Forms, Quotation text, Quotation author, and Quotation work. Below these are buttons for 'Add term' and 'Update'. Further down, the 'DATE OF USE' section includes radio buttons for 'Use' (selected) and 'First use', with input fields for 'From' and 'To' years. The 'PART OF SPEECH' section has a checkbox for 'Noun (3)'. The 'TYPE OF FORMATION' section includes checkboxes for 'Borrowing (1)', 'Compound (1)', and 'Derivative (1)'. The 'LANGUAGE OF ORIGIN' section has checkboxes for 'English (2)' and 'Indo-European (1)'. The 'USAGE' and 'OBsolescence' sections are also present. On the right, the search results are displayed, showing '1 to 3 of 3 results'. A 'Save search' button is located above the results. The results are sorted by 'Frequency' and can be exported as a CSV file. The first result is 'fruition, n.', dated 1413-, with a description: 'Erroneously associated with fruit, n., in the sense: the state or process of bearing fruit, esp. in to come to (reach, etc.) (full) fruition...'. The second result is 'marriage-fruition, n.', dated a1674. The third result is 'post-fruition, n.', dated a1631.

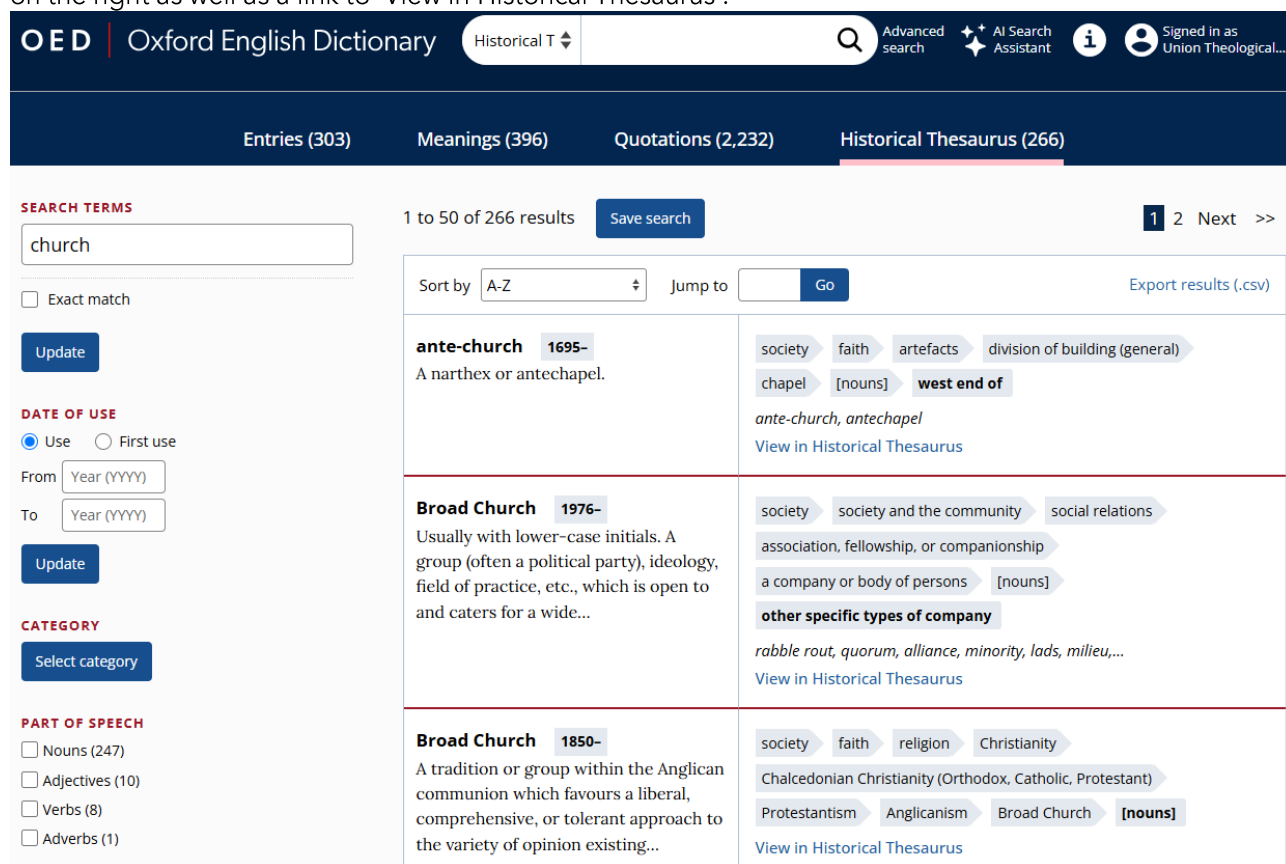
## \*\*Historical thesaurus

You can also search the historical thesaurus part of the OED – just select this from the dropdown menu:



The historical thesaurus gives synonyms for words and how these have been used over time arranged chronologically. It also gives taxonomic classifications with words arranged in a structured hierarchy.

If you search for 'Church' you will see all related meanings arranged in alphabetical order with the hierarchy on the right as well as a link to 'View in Historical Thesaurus':



**SEARCH TERMS**

church

☐ Exact match

**DATE OF USE**

☒ Use ☐ First use

From Year (YYYY)

To Year (YYYY)

**CATEGORY**

Select category

**PART OF SPEECH**

☐ Nouns (247)

☐ Adjectives (10)

☐ Verbs (8)

☐ Adverbs (1)

1 to 50 of 266 results

Save search

Sort by A-Z

Jump to Go

Export results (.csv)

|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>ante-church</b> 1695-</p> <p>A narthex or antechapel.</p>                                                                                                                               | <p>society faith artefacts division of building (general)</p> <p>chapel [nouns] west end of</p> <p>ante-church, antechapel</p> <p><a href="#">View in Historical Thesaurus</a></p>                                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Broad Church</b> 1976-</p> <p>Usually with lower-case initials. A group (often a political party), ideology, field of practice, etc., which is open to and caters for a wide...</p>     | <p>society society and the community social relations</p> <p>association, fellowship, or companionship</p> <p>a company or body of persons [nouns]</p> <p>other specific types of company</p> <p>rabble rout, quorum, alliance, minority, lads, milieu,...</p> <p><a href="#">View in Historical Thesaurus</a></p> |
| <p><b>Broad Church</b> 1850-</p> <p>A tradition or group within the Anglican communion which favours a liberal, comprehensive, or tolerant approach to the variety of opinion existing...</p> | <p>society faith religion Christianity</p> <p>Chalcedonian Christianity (Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant)</p> <p>Protestantism Anglicanism Broad Church [nouns]</p> <p><a href="#">View in Historical Thesaurus</a></p>                                                                                             |

You can filter your search on the left of the screen.

Here is what you see if you click on 'View Historical Thesaurus' for one meaning of 'Church' (there are many entries for 'Church'):

**church** **Old English-**  
A building for public Christian worship or rites such as baptism, marriage, etc., traditionally cruciform in shape, and typically having a tower...

society faith artefacts sanctuary or holy place church  
**[nouns]**  
*church, temple, God's house, kirk, church building...*  
[View in Historical Thesaurus](#)

You see other words which mean the same thing. You can click on these blue headwords to see their meanings and use etc.

Select category

**Browse categories**  

- the world
- the mind
- society**
  - [nouns]
  - [adjectives]
  - [adverbs]
  - [transitive verbs]
  - society and the community
  - inhabiting and dwelling
  - armed hostility
  - authority
  - law
  - morality
  - education
- faith**
  - aspects of faith
  - religion
  - administration and structure of religious organizations
  - religious practice, duty, or worship
- artefacts**

society faith artefacts sanctuary or holy place church

**church** NOUNS (36 terms)  
Cite Sort by Date

**church** **Old English-**  
A building for public Christian worship or rites such as baptism, marriage, etc., traditionally cruciform in shape, and typically having a tower...

**God's house** **Old English-**  
A place of worship; = *house of God* at *house*, n.<sup>1</sup> A.I.2.

**temple** **Old English-**  
A building dedicated to public Christian worship; a church.

**kirk** **c1175-**  
= *church*, n.<sup>1</sup> A.I. Chiefly *northern*. (See etymological note.) Now *rare*.

**mother** **c1300-**  
A quality, institution, place, etc., that produces, protects, nurtures, or sustains people, ideas, etc. The Christian Church; (hence) any...

**steeple** **1555-1641**  
Used by metonymy for church. In nonce-phrases: **the sign of the steeple** (referring to monastic hospitality); **bigamy of steeples**, plurality of...

**church building** **1605-**  
A building constructed for public Christian worship; = *church*, n.<sup>1</sup> A.I.1a.

On the left are the categories which make up the hierarchy which this word is found in. You can browse these and see other related words.

'Select category' allows you to search for a category, see the different hierarchies it is mentioned in, and go straight to anyone of them:



**Select category**
X

Q

society faith religion a religion or belief system [intransitive verbs]

society faith religion a religion or belief system [transitive verbs]

the mind mental capacity psychology social psychology psychology in relation to morality [nouns] in relation to religion

the mind mental capacity knowledge conformity with what is known, truth deceit, deception, trickery dissimulation, pretence insincerity [nouns] in religion

the mind attention and judgement contempt derision, ridicule, or mockery [nouns] one who derides or ridicules one who derides morality or religion

the mind attention and judgement contempt disrepute damage to reputation [nouns] of religion

the mind attention and judgement contempt disrepute damage to reputation [nouns] source of discredit or discrediting circumstance to religion

the mind mental capacity philosophy rationalism [nouns] rationalist who denies a need for religion

society inhabiting and dwelling inhabited place dwelling place or abode [phrases] for or on behalf of religion and home

## AI Search Assistant

The AI Search Assistant, in the top right of the screen, can be used to submit 10 questions a day to. In response to a question it will give a URL to a prefiltered results page. Clicking the URL takes you to the prefiltered results page. An example question could be: Which words in English are borrowed from French?

**Which words in English are borrowed from French?**

1 answer generated

I have constructed an Advanced Search for you. Here is the link to the results: [OED Advanced Search](#)

This URL will search within entries.

It will restrict the results using the following filters:

\* the parameter 'languageOfOrigin' should match 'french'

The results page contains additional filters - try experimenting with these to further narrow or broaden your search results.



SEARCH TERMS

☒ Headword

☐ Quotation text

☐ Definition

☐ Quotation author

☐ Etymology

☐ Quotation work

☐ Forms

☐ Exact match

Add term

Update

DATE OF USE

☒ Use

☐ First use

From

To

Update

PART OF SPEECH

1 to 50 of 25,215 results

Save search

1 2 Next >>

Sort by

[Export results \(.csv\)](#)

|                    |                                                                                                           |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a1250-<br>■■■■■■■■ | <b>use, v.</b><br>transitive. To put to practical or effective use...                                     |
| c1580-<br>■■■■■■■  | <b>system, n.</b><br>A group or set of related or associated things...                                    |
| a1300-<br>■■■■■■■  | <b>people, n.</b><br>In singular. With plural agreement. Men or women...                                  |
| c1250-<br>■■■■■■■  | <b>very, adj., adv., &amp; n.<sup>1</sup></b><br>Used (after the, this, that, etc.)... Of points of time. |
| 1668-<br>■■■■■■■   | <b>group, n.</b><br>With less or no implication of... A number of...                                      |

Results can be further refined on the left of the page.

You can also use the AI Search Assistant to find out more about the OED itself. For example, how do words get entered in the Oxford English Dictionary?

The AI Search Assistant is only trained to provide URL links to OED's search results. It cannot summarise or interpret OED content or search the wider web or other Oxford University Press products.

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