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Oxford



DICTIONARY OF

Word Origins

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How to search for terms in *Oxford Dictionary of Word Origins*

To find an entry in this e-book you can:

- Browse the [Alphabetical List of Entries](#) and select the entry you would like to view

or

- Use your Search function to be taken to a complete list of references to your search term in the *Dictionary*
 - If your search term has its own entry, it will usually be listed at the top of your results
 - In cases where your search term appears in more than one entry heading, the results will be listed alphabetically

A note on special characters

While most e-readers can display special characters (such as é and â), many cannot search for words containing them unless the special characters themselves are typed into the search box. If you are unable to type these characters, please browse for your term using the [Alphabetical List of Entries](#).

Alphabetical List of Entries

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z

aardvark

abacus

abalone

abandon

abase

abate

abbot

abbreviate

abdicate

abduct

aberrant

abet

abject

able

abominable

aborigine

abortive

abound

abracadabra

abrupt

abscess

abseil

absinthe

absolve

absotively

abstract

absurd

abuse

abysmal

academy

a cappella

acceleration

accent

accept

access

accident

acclaim

accolade

accommodate

accompany

accord

account

accrue

accumulate

accurate

ace

acerbic

ache

achieve

acid

acme

acolyte

acorn

acquaint

acquiesce

acquire

acquit

acre

acrid

acrobat

across

acrostic

actor

actuary

acumen

acute

ad

Ada

adamant

adder

addict

addle

address

adequate

ad hoc

adjacent

adjourn

adjust

adjutant

administer

admiral

admiration

admit

admonish

ad nauseum

ado

adolescent

adoption

adore

adroit

adult

adventure

adverse

advertisement

advertorial

advice

advocaat

advocate

aegis

aeon

aerial

aeronaut

aeroplane

aesthetic

affair

affidavit

affiliate

afflict

affluent

affluenza

afford

affray

affront

aficionado

afraid

aftermath

agar

age

agenda

agglomerate

agglutinate

aggregate

aggression

aghast

agile

agnostic

agog

agony

agoraphobia

agree

aid

aikido

aim

air

aisle

ajar

akimbo

à la carte

alack

alarm

alas

albatross

album

alchemy

ale

alert

algebra

alias

alibi

alien

alimony

alive

alkali

all

allegory

allergy

alleviate

alley

alligator

alliteration

allocation

allow

alloy

allude

ally

alma mater

alms

aloe

aloft

aloha

aloof

alopecia

alphabet

already

altar

alter

altitude

alto

altruism

alumnus

Alzheimer's

amass

amateur

amaze

Amazon

ambassador

amber

ambidextrous

ambient

ambiguous

ambisexual

ambition

amble

ambrosia

ambulance

ambush

amen

amend

amenity

amethyst

amicable

ammunition

amnesty

amok

amount

Amp

ampersand

amphibian

ample

amputate

amuse

amuse-bouche

anachronism

anaconda

anagram

analgesia

analysis

anarchy

anathema

anatomy

ancestor

ancillary

Andalusia

anecdote

anemone

angel

anger

angina

angle

Anglophile

angora

angst

anguish

animal

anime

ankle

annals

annex

annihilate

anniversary

announce

annoy

annual

annul

annunciation

anodyne

anoint

anorak

anorexia

answer

ant

antagonist

ante

antecedent

antediluvian

antelope

antenatal

antenna

ante-room

anthology

anthracite

anthropology

antibiotic

anticipation

antics

antidote

antipodes

antiquity

antirrhinum

anti-Semitic

anvil

anxiety

Anzac

aorta

apart

apathy

ape

aperture

apex

aphrodisiac

apiarist

aplomb

apology

apoplexy

apostle