
The New Oxford American Dictionary

SECOND EDITION

FIRST EDITION

Elizabeth J. Jewell
Frank Abate

SECOND EDITION

Erin McKean

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

2005

S&N 1010

OXFORD

UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford University Press, Inc., publishes works that further Oxford University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education.

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The first edition of the *New Oxford American Dictionary* was based on *The New Oxford Dictionary of English*, published in the United Kingdom in 1998.

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Published by Oxford University Press, Inc.
198 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, 10016
www.oup.com/us
www.askoxford.com

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The new Oxford American dictionary.-- 2nd ed.
p. cm.
ISBN 0-19-517077-6
1. English language--United States--Dictionaries. 2.
Americanisms--Dictionaries.
PE1628.N429 2005
423'.1--dc22

2005000941

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Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper

oting or relating to or being an associate justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

of a woman or : actively curved

the fact of being curved : it has a diameter the degree of curvature

it gradually deviated from all of its length : a place path: the following contour of a graph

her mouth is with long curved retched, curve the : from Latin curvare

a ball that is a strong downward drop suddenly in plate.

ing) [intrans.] rare rgetically. >late imitative of curvo, from Latin curvus

ontained by or these designs em-18th cent.: from the pattern of with a curved

rv-i-est) having informal (esp. of ptuous. —cusp-

re-dwelling marshensile tail, Australia. • Fear several species. cuspis maculatus) (ntalis). See also ench and Dutch lands.

(esp. of water) d. >early 20th cent. est son of Ham 2 the southern ed in Egyptian ie Bible it is the

otish a wood gin. ishaw squaw / with a curved origin. -cush yam) es a number PEE. • Discor edible tuber ate 19th cent.

be nominated by President Washington to serve as an associate justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Cushing's disease /'kʊʃɪŋz/ ▶ n. Cushing's syndrome as caused by a tumor of the pituitary gland.

Cushing's syndrome ▶ n. Medicine a metabolic disorder caused by overproduction of corticosteroid hormones by the adrenal cortex and often involving obesity and high blood pressure. ▶1930s: named after Harvey W. Cushing (1869–1939), American surgeon.

cush-ion /'kʊʃən/ ▶ n. a pillow or pad stuffed with a mass of soft material, used as a comfortable support for sitting or leaning on. ■ something providing support or protection against impact: the pad forms a cushion between carpet and floor | figurative a poll showed the candidate with a 14-point cushion. ■ the elastic lining of the sides of a billiard table, from which the ball rebounds. ■ the layer of air supporting a hovercraft or similar vehicle.

▶ v. [trans.] soften the effect of an impact on: the bag cushions equipment from inevitable knocks. ■ figurative mitigate the adverse effects of: he called for federal assistance to cushion the blow for farmers. ▶Middle English: from Old French cussin, based on a Latin word meaning 'cushion for the hip,' from coxa 'hip, thigh'. —cush-ioned adj. —cush-ion-y adj.

cush-ion cap-i-tal ▶ n. Architecture a capital resembling a cushion pressed down by a weight, seen particularly in Romanesque churches.

Cush-it-ic /kʊʃɪ'tɪk; kʊʃ- / ▶ n. a group of East African languages of the Afro-Asiatic family spoken mainly in Ethiopia and Somalia, including Somali and Oromo.

▶ adj. of or relating to this group of languages. ▶early 20th cent.: from CUSH + -ITIC.

cush-y /'kʊʃi- / ▶ adj. (cush-i-er, cush-i-est) informal 1 (of a job, task, or situation) undemanding, easy, or secure: cushy jobs that pay you to ski. 2 (of furniture) comfortable. ▶World War I (originally Anglo-Indian): from Urdu kushi 'pleasure,' from Persian kush. —cush-i-ness n.

cusk /kʌsk/ ▶ n. another term for TORSK. ▶early 17th cent.: of unknown origin.

cusk-eel ▶ n. a small, eel-like fish with a tapering body and fins that form a pointed tail, typically found in deep water. • Family Ophidiidae: numerous genera.

cusp /kʌsp/ ▶ n. 1 a pointed end where two curves meet, in particular: ■ Architecture a projecting point between small arcs in Gothic tracery. ■ a cone-shaped prominence on the surface of a tooth, esp. of a molar or premolar. ■ Anatomy a pocket or fold in the wall of the heart or a major blood vessel that fills and distends if the blood flows backward, so forming part of a valve. ■ Mathematics a point at which the direction of a curve is abruptly reversed. ■ each of the pointed ends of a crescent, esp. of the moon. 2 Astrology the initial point of an astrological sign or house: he was Aries on the cusp with Taurus. ■ figurative a point between two different situations or states, when a person or thing is poised between the two or just about to move from one to the other: those on the cusp of adulthood. ▶late 16th cent. (sense 2): from Latin cuspis 'point or apex'. —cus-pate /'kʌspət; -pət/ adj. —cusp-ed adj. —cus-pi-date /'kʌspə,dæt/ adj.

cuspid /'kʌspɪd/ ▶ n. a tooth with a single cusp or point: a canine tooth. ▶mid 18th cent.: from Latin cuspis, cuspid- 'point or apex.'

cuspidor /'kʌspə,dɔr/ ▶ n. a spittoon. ▶mid 18th cent.: from Portuguese, literally 'spitter'.

cusping /'kʌspɪŋ/ ▶ n. 1 formation of a cusp or cusps: if you use the incorrect pressure there will be serious cusping and uneven wear on the tire. 2 Architecture a decorative feature consisting of cusps.

cuss /kʌs/ informal ▶ n. 1 an annoying or stubborn person or animal: he was certainly an unsociable cuss. 2 another term for CURSE (sense 2).

▶ v. another term for CURSE (sense 2).

cuss-ed /'kʌsəd/ ▶ adj. informal stubborn; annoying: why do you have to be so cussed? ▶mid 19th cent. (originally U.S.): variant of CURSED. —cuss-ed-ly adv. —cuss-ed-ness n.

cuss word ▶ n. informal a swear word.

cus-tard /'kʌstərd/ ▶ n. a dessert or sweet sauce made with milk, eggs, and sugar. ▶late Middle English mustarde, custarde (denoting an open pie containing

SWEETSOP. 2 the tree that bears this fruit, native to Central and South America. • Genus Amnonia, family Annonaceae: several species.

Cus-ter /'kʌstər/, George (Armstrong) (1839–76), U.S. cavalry officer. He served with distinction during the Civil War. In 1876, he was killed, along with all of his men (266) in a clash (popularly known as Custer's Last Stand) with the Sioux Indians at Little Bighorn in Montana.

cus-to-dian /'kʌs'tədiən/ ▶ n. a person who has responsibility for or looks after something, such as a museum, financial assets, or a culture or tradition: the custodians of pension and insurance funds. ■ a person employed to clean and maintain a building. ▶late 18th cent.: from CUSTODY, on the pattern of guardian. —cus-to-dian-ship /-ʃɪp/ n.

cus-to-dy /'kʌstədi/ ▶ n. the protective care or guardianship of someone or something: the property was placed in the custody of a trustee. ■ imprisonment: my father was being taken into custody. ■ Law parental responsibility, esp. as allocated to one of two divorcing parents: he was trying to get custody of their child. ▶late Middle English: from Latin custodia, from custos 'guardian'. —cus-to-dial /kə'stədiəl/ adj.

cus-tom /'kʌstəm/ ▶ n. 1 a traditional and widely accepted way of behaving or doing something that is specific to a particular society, place, or time: the old English custom of dancing around the maypole | custom demanded that a person should have gifts for the child. [in sing.] a thing that one does habitually: it was my custom to nap for an hour every day. ■ Law established practice or usage having the force of law or right. 2 chiefly Brit. regular dealings with a shop or business by customers: if you keep me waiting, I will take my custom elsewhere. ▶adj. made or done to order for a particular customer: a custom guitar. ▶Middle English: from Old French coutume, based on Latin consuetudo, from consuetus, past participle of consuescere 'accustom,' from con- (expressing intensive force) + suescere 'become accustomed.'

cus-tom-er /'kʌstəmər/ ▶ n. 1 a person or organization that buys goods or services from a store or business: Mr. Harrison was a regular customer at the Golden Lion | [as adj.] customer service. 2 a person or thing of a specified kind that one has to deal with: the fish is a slippery customer and very hard to catch | Jon won over Lucie's father, but her mother is a tough customer.

cus-tom-er-ly /'kʌstəmərli/ ▶ adv. —cus-tom-er-ly-ness n.

cus-tom-built ▶ adj. another term for CUSTOM-MADE.

cus-tom-er-ly /'kʌstəmərli/ ▶ adv. —cus-tom-er-ly-ness n.

cus-tom-ize /'kʌstə,mɪz/ ▶ v. [trans.] (often be customized) modify (something) to suit a particular individual or task: the suit can be customized for every sky-diving need.

cus-tom-made ▶ adj. made to a particular customer's order.

cus-toms /'kʌstəmz/ ▶ plural n. the official department that administers and collects the duties levied by a government on imported goods: cocaine seizures by customs have risen this year | [as adj.] a customs officer. ■ the place at a port, airport, or frontier where officials check incoming goods, travelers, or luggage: arriving refugees were whisked through customs. ■ (usu. customs duties) the duties levied by a government on imported goods. ▶late Middle English: originally in the singular, denoting a customary due paid to a ruler, later duty levied on goods on their way to market.

cus-toms-union ▶ n. a group of countries that have agreed to charge the same import duties as each other and usually to allow free trade between themselves.

customale 'customs book,' neuter of customalis, from custodia 'custom.'

cut /kʌt/ ▶ v. (cutting; past and past part. cut) [trans.] 1 make an opening, incision, or wound in (something) with a sharp-edged tool or object: he cut his big toe on a sharp stone | he cut open Mackay's face with the end of his hockey stick | [intrans.] figurative his scorn cut deeper than knives. 2 remove (something) from something larger by using a sharp implement: I cut his photograph out of the paper | some prisoners had their right hands cut off. ■ informal castrate (an animal, esp. a horse). ■ remove the foreskin of a penis: circumcise. ■ (cut something out) make something by cutting: I cut out some squares of paper. ■ (cut something out) remove, exclude, or stop eating or doing something undesirable: start today by cutting out fatty foods. ■ (cut something out) separate an animal from the main herd. 3 divide into pieces with a knife or other sharp implement: cut the beef into thin slices | he cut his food up into teeny pieces. ■ make divisions in (something): land that has been cut up by streams into forested areas. ■ separate (something) into two; sever: they cut the rope before he choked. ■ (cut something down) make something, esp. a tree, fall by cutting it through at the base. ■ (cut someone down) (of a weapon, bullet, or disease) kill or injure someone: Barker had been cut down by a sniper's bullet. 4 make or form (something) by using a sharp tool to remove material: workmen cut a hole in the pipe. ■ make or design (a garment) in a particular way: [as adj.] (cut) an impeccably cut chalk-stripe suit. ■ make (a path, tunnel, or other route) by excavation, digging, or chopping: plans to cut a road through a rain forest | [intrans.] investigators called for a machete to cut through the bush | figurative a large woman with a voice that cut through crowds. 5 trim or reduce the length of (something), esp. grass or a person's hair or fingernails) by using a sharp implement: cutting the lawn | cut back all the year's growth to about four leaves. 6 reduce the amount or quantity of: buyers will bargain hard to cut the cost of the house they want | I should cut down my sugar intake | [intrans.] they've cut back on costs | the state passed a law to cut down on drunk-driving | the paper glut cuts into profits. ■ abridge (a text, movie, or performance) by removing material: he had to cut unnecessary additions made to the opening scene. ■ Computing delete (part of a text or other display) completely or so as to insert a copy of it elsewhere. See also CUT AND PASTE. ■ (in sports) remove (a player) from a team's roster. ■ end or interrupt the provision of (something, esp. power or food supplies): we resolved to cut oil supplies to territories controlled by the rebels | if the pump develops a fault, the electrical supply is immediately cut off. ■ (cut something off) block the usual means of access to a place: the caves were cut off from the outside world by a landslide. ■ absent oneself deliberately from (something one should normally attend, esp. school): Robert was cutting class. ■ switch off (an engine or a light). 7 (of a line) cross or intersect (another line): the point where the line cuts the vertical axis. ■ [intrans.] (cut across) pass or traverse, esp. so as to shorten one's route: the following aircraft cut across to join him. ■ [intrans.] (cut across) have an effect regardless of (divisions or boundaries between groups): subcultures that cut across national and political boundaries. ■ [intrans.] (cut along) informal, dated leave or move hurriedly: you can cut along now. 8 dated ignore or refuse to recognize (someone). 9 [intrans., often in imperative] stop filming or recording. ■ move to another shot in a movie: cut to a dentist's surgery. ■ [trans.] make (a movie) into a coherent whole by removing parts or placing them in a different order. 10 make (a sound recording). 11 divide (a pack of playing cards) by lifting a portion from the top, either to reveal or draw a card at random or to place the top portion under the bottom portion. 12 Golf slice (the ball). 13 adulterate (a drug) or dilute (alcohol) by mixing it with another substance: speed cut with rat poison. 14 (cut it) informal come up to expectations; meet requirements: this CD player doesn't quite cut it. [shortened form of the idiom cut the mustard.] ▶phrasal v. n cut in 1 interrupt someone while they are speaking: 'It's urgent,' Raoul cut in. ■ dated interrupt a dancing couple to take over from one partner. 2 pull in too closely in front of another vehicle after having overtaken it: she cut in on a station wagon, forcing the driver to brake. 3 (of a motor or other mechanical device) begin operating, esp. when