

---

# Shorter Oxford English Dictionary

ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

*Fifth edition*

VOLUME 1 • A–M

**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

Auckland Bangkok Buenos Aires Cape Town Chennai  
Dar es Salaam Delhi Hong Kong Istanbul Karachi Kolkata  
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Mumbai Nairobi  
São Paulo Shanghai Taipei Tokyo Toronto

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

Published in the United States  
by Oxford University Press Inc., New York

© Oxford University Press 1973, 1993, 2002

Database right Oxford University Press (makers)

First edition 1933

Second edition 1936

Third edition 1944

Reprinted with revised etymologies and enlarged addenda 1973

Fourth edition published 1993 as the *New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*

Fifth edition 2002

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 Cataloguing in Publication Data

Data available

ISBN 0-19-860575-7

ISBN 0-19-860457-2 (thumb index)

10 9 8 7 6 5

Typeset in OUP Swift, OUP Argo, and Coranto  
by Interactive Sciences Ltd, Gloucester  
Printed in the United States of America

adjacent teeth **119**. **interpubic** *adjective* situated between the right and left pubic bones **119**. **interpulse** *adjective & noun* (a) *adjective* existing or occurring between one pulse and the next; (b) *noun* (ASTRONOMY) a weaker pulse occurring between the main pulses of radiation from some pulsars: **M20**. **interpupillary** *adjective* existing between the pupils of the eyes **20**. **interquartile** *adjective* (STATISTICS) situated between the first and third quartiles of a distribution **119**. **interradial** *adjective & noun* (ZOOLOGY) (a part or structure) situated between rays or radii, as of an echinoderm **119**. **interradius** *noun* (ZOOLOGY) an interradial part or axis **119**. **interrenal** *adjective* situated between the kidneys; *spec.* (ZOOLOGY) designating the steroid-producing tissue of fish: **119**. **interscapular** *adjective* (ANATOMY & ZOOLOGY) situated between the scapulae **118**. **interscholastic** *adjective* occurring between schools **20**. **intersegment** *noun* (MATH.) an intercept; (b) *ZOOLOGY* in certain segmented animals, the part of the body between two segments; **117**. **intersensory** *adjective* registered by two or more senses **M20**. **intersentential** *adjective* (LINGUISTICS) existing, or pertaining to the relationship, between sentences **M20**. **interseptal** *adjective* (ANATOMY & ZOOLOGY) situated between septa **119**. **inter-service** *adjective* existing between, formed from, or common to the armed services **M20**. **inter-shoot** *verb trans. & intrans.* (ARCH.) shoot or dart between or among (things) **M19**. **intersideral** *adjective* situated or occurring between the stars **M17**. **intersocial** *adjective* existing between associates **M19**. **intersow** *verb trans. & noun* (now rare) intersperse **E17**. **interspecific** *adjective* formed or obtained from (individuals of) different species; occurring among individuals of different species: **119**. **intersphere** *verb trans.* (ARCH.) bring within another's sphere **119**. **interspinal**, **interspinous** *adjectives* (ANATOMY) situated between the spines or spinous processes of the vertebrae **M19**. **interstadial** *adjective & noun* (GEOLOGY) (pertaining to, characteristic of, or designating) a minor period of ice retreat during a glacial period **E20**. **interstage** *adjective* situated or occurring between successive stages of an apparatus **E20**. **inter-station** *adjective* occurring between two stations or tuning positions on a radio **M20**. **interstellar** *adjective* situated between stars; of or relating to the regions of space between the stars: **E17**. **inter-strain** *adjective* (BIOLOGY) existing or occurring between (genetic) strains; formed by crossing two strains: **M20**. **intersyllabic** *adjective* occurring between syllables **M20**. **intersystem** *adjective* existing or occurring between systems; **intersystem crossing** (PHYSICS), radiationless transition of an excited molecule to a state of different multiplicity: **E20**. **interterritorial** *adjective* existing between or involving different territories **119**. **intertestimonial** *adjective* designating or pertaining to Jewish writings composed approximately between 200 BC and AD 100 (after the latest Old Testament book and before the beginning (or the end) of the New Testament period), and regarded as non-canonical **M20**. **intertidal** *adjective* occurring or living between the limits of low and high tides **119**. **intertillage** *noun* (US) intercropping **E20**. **intertilled** *adjective* (US) that has been intercropped **E20**. **inter-tonic** *adjective* (LINGUISTICS) occurring between tones or stresses **E20**. **intertranslatable** *adjective* *noun* the property of being intertranslatable **M20**. **intertranslatable** *adjective* able to be translated from one language to another and vice versa **M19**. **intertransverse** *adjective* (ANATOMY) situated between the transverse processes of the vertebrae **M19**. **intertrochlear** *adjective* (ANATOMY) situated in the trochlear surface of a joint **119**. **intertubercular** *adjective* (ANATOMY) situated or existing between tubercles **119**. **inter-tubular** *adjective* situated between tubes or tubules **M19**. **interunion** *noun & adjective* (a) *noun* mutual or reciprocal union; interblending; (b) *adjective* occurring between trade unions: **E19**. **interuniversity** *adjective* existing or occurring between universities; involving (members of) different universities: **119**. **intervarietal** *adjective* formed from or occurring between (members of) different plant varieties **E20**. **interveinal** *adjective* situated or occurring between the veins of a leaf **M20**. **intervertebral** *adjective* situated or existing between vertebrae **118**. **interventricular** *adjective* (ANATOMY) situated between the ventricles (of the heart or brain) **M19**. **intervital** *adjective* (rare) existing between two lives or two stages of existence **M19**. **interwar** *adjective* existing in the period between two wars, *spec.* the period 1919–39 **M20**. **interweft** *noun* (rare) interweaving; interwoven work: **E20**. **interxylary** *adjective* (BOTANY) (of phloem) situated within the secondary xylem **119**. **interzonal** *adjective* existing or carried on between zones **119**.

**inter.** *abbreviation.*  
Intermediate.

**interact** /'ɪntərækt/ *noun*. **M18**.  
[from INTER-2 + ACT *noun*, after French ENTR'ACTE.]  
= ENTR'ACTE.

**interact** /'ɪntər'ækt/ *verb intrans.* **M19**.  
[from INTER-1 + ACT *verb*.]  
Act reciprocally, act on each other; behave in a way that influences and responds to another. (Foll. by *with*.)

DD. A. ATTENBOROUGH The molecules began to interact with one another to form even more complex compounds.  
R. BUSH Two streams of modernism grew, interacted and diverged in Eliot's poetry.

■ **interactant** *noun* a person who or thing which interacts **M20**.  
**interactor** *noun* a person who interacts with others **M20**.

**interaction** /'ɪntər'ækʃ(ə)n/ *noun*. **M19**.  
[from INTERACT *verb* + -ION.]  
1 Reciprocal action; action or influence of persons or things on each other. **M19**.  
2 **PHYSICS**. A particular way in which matter, particles, and fields affect one another, e.g. through gravitation or electromagnetism. **M20**.  
2 **strong interaction, weak interaction, etc.**  
■ **interactional** *adjective* **119**. **interactionally** *adverb* **M20**.

**interactionism** /'ɪntər'ækʃ(ə)nɪz(ə)m/ *noun*. **E20**.  
[from prec. + -ISM.]  
**PHILOSOPHY**. The theory that there are two entities, mind and body, each of which can have an effect on the other.

¶ See also **SYMBOLIC interactionism**.

**interactionist** /'ɪntər'ækʃ(ə)nɪst/ *noun & adjective*. **E20**.  
[formed as prec. + -IST.]  
▶ **A noun**. A person who advocates interactionism or interaction, esp. as an explanation of something. **E20**.  
▶ **B adjective**. Of or pertaining to interactionism or interactionists. **E20**.

DD. Nature Piaget rejects both extremes of the heredity-environment controversy without lapsing into an interactionist stance.

**interactive** /'ɪntər'æktɪv/ *adjective*. **M19**.  
[from INTERACT *verb* + -IVE.]  
1 Reciprocally active; acting upon or influencing each other. **M19**.  
2 Designating or pertaining to a computer terminal or system that allows a two-way flow of information between it and a user; responding to input from a user. **M20**.  
■ **interactively** *adverb* **120**. **interactivity** *noun* (a) an activity that involves interaction; (b) the property of being interactive: **M20**.

**inter-agency** /'ɪntər'eɪdʒ(ə)nəsi/ *noun & adjective*. **M18**.  
[from INTER-1,2 + AGENCY.]  
▶ **A noun**. The fact of being an inter-agent. **M18**.  
▶ **B adjective**. Occurring between different agencies; constituted from more than one agency. **M20**.

**inter-agent** /'ɪntər'eɪdʒ(ə)n(ə)nt/ *noun*. **M18**.  
[from INTER-1 + AGENT.]  
An intermediate agent; an intermediary.

**inter alia** /'ɪntər'eɪliə, 'al-/ *adverbial phr.* **M17**.  
[Latin, from *inter* among + *alia* accus. neut. pl. of *alius* another.]  
Among other things.

**inter alios** /'ɪntər'eɪliəs, 'al-/ *adverbial phr.* **M17**.  
[Latin, from *inter* among + *alios* accus. masc. pl. of *alius* another.]  
Among other people.

**interamnian** /'ɪntər'æmniən/ *adjective*. **118**.  
[from Latin *interamnus*, formed as INTER- + *amnus* river, + -IAN.]  
Lying between two rivers; enclosed by rivers.

**interbed** /'ɪntər'bed/ *verb trans.* *Infl.* -dd-. **E19**.  
[from INTER-1 + BED *verb*.]  
**GEOLOGY**. Embed (esp. a stratum) among others; interstratify. Chiefly as **interbedded** *ppl adjective*.

**interblend** /'ɪntər'blend/ *verb*. **L16**.  
[from INTER-1 + BLEND *verb*.]  
† **1 verb trans.** Interpose. *rare*. Only in **L16**.  
† **2 verb trans. & intrans.** Blend intimately; intermingle. **L16**.

**interbreed** /'ɪntər'brɪd/ *verb*. Pa. t. & pple **-bred** /-'brɪd/. **M19**.  
[from INTER-1 + BREED *verb*.]  
† **1 verb intrans.** Of animals of different races or stocks, or of a single population: breed with each other. **M19**.  
† **2 verb intrans.** Cause animals to interbreed; practise breeding between the members of two stocks. **M19**.  
† **3 verb trans.** Breed (offspring) from individuals of different races or species; produce by crossbreeding. **M19**.

**intercalarium** /'ɪntəkə'leəriəm/ *noun*. Pl. **-ia** /-iə/. **119**.  
[mod. Latin *intercalarium* neut. sing. of *intercalarius* INTERCALARY *adjective*.]  
**ZOOLOGY**. 1 An element between adjacent neural arches in the vertebral column of elasmobranchs and some other fishes. **119**.  
2 In cyprinoid fishes, an ossicle forming part of the Weberian apparatus linking the inner ear with the swim-bladder. **119**.

**intercalary** /'ɪntəkə'leəri/ *adjective & noun*. **E17**.  
[Latin *intercalari*(us), from *intercalare*: see INTERCALATE, -RY.]  
▶ **A adjective**. 1 Of a day or month: inserted at intervals in a calendar in order to harmonize with the solar year. **E17**.  
2 Of a year: having an intercalated day or month. **M17**.

† **3** Of a line or stanza: inserted at intervals in a composition; of the nature of a refrain. **M17–E19**.  
4 Of the nature of an insertion between the members of a series or the parts of a whole; intervening. **M18**.  
▶ **B noun**. = INTERCALARIUM 1. **E20**.

**intercalate** /'ɪntəkə'leɪt; as *noun* also 'ɪntəkə'leɪt/ *verb & noun*. **E17**.  
[Latin *intercalat*-pa. ppl stem of *intercalare* proclaim the insertion of a day etc. in the calendar, formed as INTER- + *calare* proclaim solemnly: see -ATE\*.]  
▶ **A verb**. 1 **verb trans.** Insert into the calendar as an intercalary day or month. **E17**.  
2 **verb trans.** Insert or interpose as an additional or extraneous item; **GEOLOGY** interbed; **CHEMISTRY** introduce an extra-

neous atom, molecule, etc., between the layers of a crystal lattice. Chiefly as **intercalated** *ppl adjective*. **E19**.  
3 **verb intrans.** Become part of a sequence etc. as an extraneous item; become intercalated in or inserted into. **M20**.  
▶ **B noun**. **CHEMISTRY**. An atom, molecule, etc., that enters between the layers of a crystal lattice; a compound formed in this way. **M20**.  
■ **intercalative** *adjective* characterized by intercalation **119**.  
**intercalator** *noun* a molecule which is inserted into another, larger molecule, esp. of a nucleic acid **120**. **intercalatory** *adjective* (rare) = INTERCALARY **E17**.

**intercalation** /'ɪntəkə'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun*. **L16**.  
[French, or Latin *intercalatio*(n), formed as prec.: see -ATION.]  
1 The insertion of an additional day or month into the calendar in a particular year; an intercalated day or space of time. **L16**.  
2 *gen.* The action of intercalating something; (an) interpolation. **M17**.

† **intercale** *verb trans.* **E17–E19**.  
[French *intercaler* or its source Latin *intercalare*: see INTERCALATE.]  
= INTERCALATE *verb* 1, 2.

**intercameral** /'ɪntəkə'm(ə)r(ə)l/ *adjective*. **E20**.  
[from INTER-2 + Latin *camera* chamber + -AL.]  
Involving or occurring between the two chambers of a legislature; situated between or separating two chambers of an organism.

**intercede** /'ɪntəsɪ'd/ *verb*. **L16**.  
[Old & mod. French *intercéder* or Latin *intercedere*, formed as INTER- + *cedere* go.]  
1 **verb intrans.** **ROMAN HISTORY**. Interpose a veto. **L16**.  
2 **verb intrans.** Interpose on behalf of another; plead (with a person, for, on behalf of another). **L16**.  
† **3 verb trans. & intrans.** Come between or between; intervene (between). **L16–L18**.  
† **4 verb intrans.** Intervene by obstruction or prevention. Only in **M17**.

DD. N. MONSARRAT He prayed to the saint to intercede on his behalf.

■ **interceder** *noun* **M17**.  
**intercept** /'ɪntəsɛpt/ *noun*. **E19**.  
[from the verb.]  
1 An interception, esp. of a ball passed or thrown towards an opponent. **E19**.  
2 **MATH**. The part of a coordinate axis between the origin and the point where a line etc. cuts the axis. **M19**.  
3 A message, signal, etc., intended for someone else and obtained by covert means, esp. in espionage or warfare. **E20**.  
4 The difference between the observed altitude of a celestial object and the calculated one. **E20**.

**intercept** /'ɪntəsɛpt/ *verb*. **LME**.  
[Latin *intercept*-pa. ppl stem of *intercipere*, formed as INTER- + *capere* take, seize.]  
1 **verb trans.** Mark off or include (a certain length or line) between two points or lines; contain between limits. **LME**.  
2 **verb trans.** Put an end to, check, (an action, effect, etc.). **LME**.  
▶ **† b** Prevent, hinder, (a person or thing). **L16–L18**.  
3 **verb trans.** Obstruct so as to prevent from continuing to a destination; stop in the course of a journey; obtain covertly (a message etc. meant for another); obstruct the passage of (light, heat, etc.). **M16**.  
▶ **b** Stop (passage, motion through space). **L16**.  
† **4 verb trans.** Interrupt, break in on, (esp. a narrative or a person speaking). **L16–M18**.  
† **5 verb intrans.** Intervene. Only in **17**.  
6 **verb trans.** Cut off (a thing) from another thing; cut off from sight, access, etc. **M17**.

DD. M. MEYER A shortage of letters led him to suspect that his mail was being intercepted. R. V. JONES They were detected by our radar, and intercepted by two Spitfires.  
M. DRABBLE Hilda intercepted her gaze. F. NOLAN Are you suggesting... that the Russian messages intercepted at Bletchley are not genuine?

■ **interceptable** *adjective* **120**. **interceptor** *noun* (rare) **E17–L19**.  
**interceptible** *adjective* **120**.

**interception** /'ɪntəsɛpʃ(ə)n/ *noun*. **LME**.  
[Latin *interceptio*(n), formed as prec.: see -ION.]  
† **1 MEDICINE**. The interruption of the motion or passage of bodily humours. **LME–M17**.  
2 The action or an act of intercepting; the fact of being intercepted. **L16**.  
▶ **b** *spec.* The action of closing in on and trying to destroy an enemy aircraft or missile. **M20**.  
3 The fact of containing or enclosing between points, lines, or boundaries. *rare*. **M17**.

**interceptive** /'ɪntəsɛptɪv/ *adjective*. **LME**.  
[from Latin *intercept*- (see INTERCEPT *verb*) + -IVE.]  
Having the quality of intercepting.  
¶ *rare* before **E19**.

For other words beginning with *inter-* see the entry for **inter-**