

---

# The New Oxford American Dictionary

---

SECOND EDITION

FIRST EDITION

Elizabeth J. Jewell  
Frank Abate

SECOND EDITION

Erin McKean

**OXFORD**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

2005

# OXFORD

UNIVERSITY PRESS

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

Oxford New York  
Auckland Cape Town Dar es Salaam Hong Kong Karachi  
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Nairobi  
New Delhi Shanghai Taipei Toronto

With offices in  
Argentina Austria Brazil Chile Czech Republic France Greece  
Guatemala Hungary Italy Japan Poland Portugal Singapore  
South Korea Switzerland Thailand Turkey Ukraine Vietnam

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.

Copyright © 2005 by Oxford University Press, Inc.

Published by Oxford University Press, Inc.  
198 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, 10016  
[www.oup.com/us](http://www.oup.com/us)  
[www.askoxford.com](http://www.askoxford.com)

Oxford is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press

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, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission of Oxford University Press

## 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

This book includes some words that are, or are asserted to be, proprietary names or trademarks. Their inclusion does not imply that they have acquired for legal purposes a nonproprietary or general significance, nor is any other judgment implied concerning their legal status. In cases where the editor has some evidence that a word is used as a proprietary name or trademark, this is indicated by the designation trademark, but no judgment concerning the legal status of such words is made or implied thereby.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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

oting or relating to or resembling a consul and praetor

of a woman or actively curved

the fact of being curved

it gradually deviates from all of its length

her mouth is with long curved

a ball that is a strong downward drop suddenly

ing) [intrans.] rare

with a curved

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

re-dwelling marsh-hensile tail, Australia. • Fear several species

(esp. of water) d. >early 20th

British a wood-pigeon.

ishaw squash with a curved origin.

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

Cushing's disease /'kooʃɪŋz/ ▶ 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.

cush-ion /'kooʃən/ ▶ n. a pillow or pad stuffed with a mass of soft material, used as a comfortable support for sitting or leaning on.

▶ v. [trans.] soften the effect of an impact on: the bag cushions equipment from inevitable knocks.

Cush-it-ic /kooʃɪ'tɪk; kəʃ- / ▶ 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.

cushy /'kooʃi/ ▶ adj. (cush-ier, cush-i-est) informal 1 (of a job, task, or situation) undemanding, easy, or secure.

cus-k /kʌsk/ ▶ n. another term for TORSK.

cus-k-eel ▶ n. a small, eel-like fish with a tapering body and fins that form a pointed tail.

cus-p /kʌsp/ ▶ n. 1 a pointed end where two curves meet, in particular: Architecture a projecting point between small arcs in Gothic tracery.

cus-pid /'kʌspɪd/ ▶ n. a tooth with a single cusp or point; a canine tooth.

cus-pi-dor /'kʌspɪdɔr/ ▶ n. a spittoon.

cus-ping /'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.

cus-s /kʌs/ informal ▶ n. 1 an annoying or stubborn person or animal: he was certainly an unsociable cuss.

cuss-ed /'kʌsɪd/ ▶ adj. informal stubborn; annoying: why do you have to be so cussed?

cus-sard /'kʌstərd/ ▶ n. a dessert or sweet sauce made with milk, eggs, and sugar.

SWEETSOP. 2 the tree that bears this fruit, native to Central and South America.

Cus-ter /'kʌstər/ George (Armstrong) (1839–76), U.S. cavalry officer. He served with distinction during the Civil War.

cus-to-dian /'kʌs'təʊdiən/ ▶ n. a person who has responsibility for or looks after something, such as a museum, financial assets, or a culture or tradition.

cus-to-dy /'kʌstədi/ ▶ n. the protective care or guardianship of someone or something: the property was placed in the custody of a trustee.

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.

cus-tomal ▶ n. variant spelling of CUSTUMAL.

cus-tom-er /'kʌstəmər/ ▶ n. 1 a person or organization that buys goods or services from a store or business.

cus-tom-ize /'kʌstə'maɪz/ ▶ v. [trans.] (often be customized) modify (something) to suit a particular individual or task.

cus-toms /'kʌstəmz/ ▶ plural n. the official department that administers and collects the duties levied by a government on imported goods.

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.

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.

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.

4 make or form (something) by using a sharp tool to remove material: workmen cut a hole in the pipe.

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.

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.

8 dated ignore or refuse to recognize (someone). 9 [intrans., often in imperative] stop filming or recording.

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.

