# The New Oxford American Dictionary 

FIRST EDITION
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SECOND EDITION
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## OXFORD <br> UNIVERSITY press

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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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198 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, 10016
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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
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of a womanos. actively curve
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gradually dem. all of its lengt: darve a place ht path: the wot ing contour of raph (whethet equantity varies ion curve a sys 0 students based her students, in of the subject all another tem
trans.) her moult Is with long aum retched, curve the from Latin cur The noun date
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be nominated by President Washington to serve as an associate justice on the U.S. Supreme Court Cushing's disease /'köoshingz/ n. Cushing's symdrome as caused by a tumor of the pituitary gland. Cushing's syndrome b $n$. Medicine a metabolic disorder caused by overproduction of corticosteroid hormones by the adrenal cortex and often involving obesity and high blood pressure. 01930 s: named after Harvey W. Cushing (1869-1939), American sur geon.
cushion /könshon/ $\operatorname{n}$ n a pillow or pad stuffed with a mass of soft material, used as a comfortable sup port for sitting or leaning on, womething providing support or protection against impact: the pad orms a cushion between capet and floor \& figurative a poll howed the candidate with a 14 -point cushion. $⿴$ the elasic lining of the sides of a billiard table, from which he ball rebounds. w the layer of air supporting a hovercraft or similar vehicle
$\rightarrow$ |trans. $\mid$ soften the effect of an impact on: the bag cushions equipment from inevitable knocks. migurative miligate the adverse effects of he called for federal as sistance to cushion the blow for farmers. BMiddle Eng ish: from Old French cuissin, based on a Latin word meaning 'cushion for the hip. from coxa 'hip. thigh'. cushioned adj-cushion-y adj.
ushion capital on. Architecture a capital resent bling a cushion pressed down by a weight, seen par ticularly in Romanesque churches.
Cushit-ic /Koosh'itik; kash-/ nn. a group of East African languages of the Afro-Asiatic family spoken mainly in Ethiopia and Somalia, including Somal and Oromo.
adj. of or relating to this group of languages. Dearly 20 h cent: from Cush +-1 TIc.
cushy /Köoshë/ Padj (cushier, cushiest) informal 1 (of a job, task, or situation) undemanding, easy, or secure: cushy jobs that pay you to ski. 2 (of furniture comfortable. DWorld War 1 (originally Anglo-Indi an). from Urdu kushi pleasure, from Persian kus -cushimess $n$
cusk/kesk/ P n another term for TORSk. Dearly 17th cent, of unknown origin.
cuskeel th, a small, eellike fish with a tapering body and fins that form a pointed tail, typically found in deep water, Family Ophididae: numer ous genera.
cusp /kasp/ $n$. 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 corming 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. - ligurative 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: thost on the cusp of adulthood. Dlate 16 th cent. (sense 2): from Latin cuspis "point or apex.' -cuspate /kospet; ;pal/ adj. -cusped adj. -cus-pi-date /'kospa,dāt/adj.
cuspid /'kespid/ $n$, a tooth with a single cusp or point: a canine tooth Dmid 18 th cent.: from latin auspis, cuspid- 'point or apex.'
Cuspipi-dor f'kespe, dôr Pn a spittoon. Dmid 18th cent.: from Portuguese, literally 'spitter".
cusping //kasping/ ?n. 1 formation of a cusp or cusps: if you use the incorrect pressure there will be serious usping and uneven wear on the tire. 2 Architecture a decorative feature consisting of cusps.
cuss /kas/ informal $>n .1$ an annoying or stubborn person or animal, he was certainly an unsociable cuss. 2 another term for cunse (sense 2). $v$, another term for CURSE (sense 2
cusseed / kesad/ radj informal stubbom; annoying: Wy do you have to be so cussed? Dmid 19th cent. (orig inally U.S.): variant of cunsed. cussedly adv cussedness $n$
ass word $n$ n. informala swear word.
wistard /kosterd/ $>n$ a dessert or sweet sauce made
with milk, eggs, and sugar. Dlate Middle English mustarde, custarde (denoting an open pie containing

SWEETSOP. 2 the tree that bears this frut, native to Central and South America. - Genus Annona, family Annonaceae: several species.
Cus-ter/kastar/, 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 Bighom in Montana.
cus-to-di-an $/ k e s$ todeon $/>n$. a person who has re sponsibility for or looks after something, such as museum financial assets or a culture or tradition the custodians of pension and insurance funds. a person employed to clean and maintain a building. olate employed to clean and mantain a bullding. 18 cent: from custod, on the pattern of 18 th cent:- from custody, on the
us-tody /kastadë/ Bn. the protective care or guardianship of someone or something the property was placed in the custody of a trustee m imprisonment: my father was being token into custody. Law parental responsibility, esp. as allocated to one of two divorcing parents he was trying to get custody of their child. Dlate Middle English: from Latin custodia; from custos 'guardian' cus to di-al/ko'stödēol/adf us-tom / kestem/ 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 win sing.) a thing that one does habitually: it was my custom to nap for an hour eveny day m Law established practice or usage having the force of law or right. 2 chielly Brit regular dealings with a shop or business by castomers: 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 coustume, based on Latin consuetudo, from consuetus, past participle of consuescere accustom, from con (expressing intensive force) t suescere become accustomed.

## cus tomal tn variant spelling of custumal

cus-tom-ary /'kesto, mere/' adj, according to the customs or usual practices associated with a particular society, place, or set of circumstances it is customary to mark an occasion like this with a toast E according to a person's habitual practice: I put the kettle on for our customary cup of tea. Law established by or based on custom rather than common law or statute.
n. (pl, aries) historical another term for custumal. Dlate Middle English (as a noun) from medieval Latin custumarius from custuma, from Anglonorman French custume (see custom) -custom-araly $/$, kestorme $^{\neq}$)role/ adv, customariness $n$.
cus-tom-built tadj another term for custommade. cus tomer /tkestomar/ en, 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 withs the fish is a slippery customer and very hard to catch | Jon won over Lucie's fother, but her mother is a tough customer.
custom house (also customs house) n chiefly historical the office at a port or frontier where customs duty is collected.
customize /keste, miz $\mid>v$. $\mid$ trans, $\mid$ (often be customized) modify (something) to suit a particular individual or task: the suit can be customized for every skydiving need.
cus-tom-made adj made to a particular customer's order.
cus.toms /'kastomz/ pplural n. the official department that administers and collects the duties levied by a govemment on imported goods: cocaine seizures by customs have risen this year 1 [as adj. a customs officer. the place at a port, airport, or frontier where offcials check incoming goods, travelers, or luggage: arriving refugees were whisked through customs, (usu. customs duities) the duties levied by a government on imported goods. $\Delta$ 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.
customs union t $n$ a group of countries that have agreed to charge the same import duties as each other and usually to allow free trade between themselves.
custumale 'customs book, neuter of custumalis, from custuma 'custom
cut $/ k o t />v$. (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 shary stone I he cut open MacKay's face with the end of his hockey stick $\mid$ Intrans. $\mid$ figuralive his scom cut deeper than knives. 2 remove (something) from some thing larger by using a sharp implement: I cut his photocreph out of the paper some prisoners had the right hands cut off informal castrate (an anmal, esp horse) Eremove the foreskin of a penis, circum cise, (cut something out) make something by cut ting. I cut out some squares of paper.m (cut something out) remove, exclude, or stop eating or comg some thing undesirable: start today by cutting out fatty foods (cut something out) separate an animal from the nain herd, 3 divide into pleces with a knife or ther sharp mplement: cut the beefinto thin slices |he cut his food up into teeny pieces. make divisions in (something): land that has been cut up by streams itito forested areos separate (something) into two; sever they out the rope before he choked. (cut something down) make something, esp. a ree, fall by cutting it hrough 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 I (intrans] investiators 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-ariving 1 the paper glut cuts into profits, a abridge (a text, movie or performance) by removing material, he had to cut unnecessary additions made to the opening scenc. © Compuling 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, wend or interfupt the provision of /something esp. power or food supplies): we resolved to cut oil supplies to terri tories controlled by the rebels I f the pump develops a fault, the electrical supply is immediately cat off, (cut some thing off) block the usual means of access to a place: the caves were cut off from the outside world by a land slide 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 poin where the line cuts the vertical axis. - lintrans.) (cut across) pass or traverse, esp. so as to shorten one's route; the following aircraft cut across to join him. $[$ in trans.] (cut across) have an effect regardless of (divi sions or boundaries between groups): subcultures tha at across national and political boundaries. = lintrans. (cut along) informal, dated leave or move hurriedly you can cut along now. 8 dated ignore or refuse to rec ognize (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 move into a coherent whole by removing parts or placing them in a different order. 10 make (a ound recording). 11 divide (a pack of playing cards) by lifting a portion from the top, either to re veal or draw a card at random or to place the top portion under the bottom portion. 12 Golfslice (the all). 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; neet requirements: this CD player doesn't quite cut it, (shortened form of the idiom cut the mustard.) phrasal v o cut in 1 intermpt someone while they are speaking. "It's urgent," Raoul at 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 cur in on a station wagon, forcing the driver to brake. 3 (of a motor or other mechanical device) begin operating, esp. When

