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THE OXFORD

Essential  
Dictionary

AMERICAN EDITION



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### THE OXFORD ESSENTIAL DICTIONARY

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limiting freedom and responsibility by well-meaning regulations. **on** *paternalistic* *adv.*

**paternalism** /pə'tɜːnəlɪzəm/ *n.* policy of governing or behaving in a paternal way. **on** *paternalist* *n.* **paternalistic** /pə'tɜːnəlɪstɪk/ *adj.* **paternalistically** *adv.*

**paternity** /pə'tɜːnɪteɪ/ *n.* 1 fatherhood. 2 one's paternal origin. 3 the source or authorship of a thing.

**path** /pæθ/ *n.* (*pl.* *paths* /pæθz/) 1 way or track made for or by walking. 2 line along which a person or thing moves (*flight path*). 3 course of action. **on** *pathless* *adj.*

**pathetic** /pə'tetɪk/ *adj.* 1 arousing pity, sadness, or contempt. 2 *coll.* miserably inadequate. **on** *pathetic* *adv.*

**pathogen** /pə'tɒdʒən/ *n.* agent causing disease. **on** *pathogenic* /-dʒenɪk/ *adj.*

**pathological** /pə'tɒlədʒɪkəl/ *adj.* 1 of pathology. 2 of or caused by a physical or mental disorder (*a pathological fear of spiders*). **on** *pathological* *adv.*

**pathology** /pə'tɒlədʒi/ *n.* 1 science of bodily diseases. 2 symptoms of a disease. **on** *pathologist* *n.*

**pathos** /pə'thɒs, -θɒs, -θɪs/ *n.* quality in speech, writing, events, etc., that evokes pity or sadness.

**pathway** /pə'tweɪ/ *n.* path or its course.

**pathy** /pæθi/ *comb. form* forming nouns denoting 1 curative treatment (*allopathy*; *homoeopathy*). 2 feeling (*sympathy*).

**patience** /paɪəns/ *n.* perseverance; ability to endure; forbearance.

**patient** /paɪənt/ *n.* *adj.* having or showing patience. *n.* person receiving medical treatment. **on** *patiently* *adv.*

**patina** /pə'tiːnə, pə'tɪnə/ *n.* (*pl.* *patinas*) 1 film, usu. green, formed on old bronze. 2 similar film or gloss on other surfaces. **on** *patinated* /pə'tɪnətɪd/ *adj.* **patination** *n.*

**patio** /pə'teɪoʊ/ *n.* paved usu. roofless area adjoining and belonging to a house. 2 roofless inner court.

**patrol** /pə'trɒl/ *n.* (*pl.* same, *patrols* /-tɹəʊls/) regional dialect of the common people.

**patriarch** /pə'trɪərɪəʃ/ *n.* 1 male head of a family or tribe. 2 *Ecol.* a chief bishop in the Orthodox Church. 3 (in the Roman Catholic Church) bishop ranking immediately below the pope. 3 venerable old man. **on** *patriarchal* *adj.* **patriarchally** *adv.*

**patriarchate** /pə'trɪərɪərɪət/ *n.* office, rank, see, or residence of an patriarch.

**patriarchy** /pə'trɪərɪərɪki/ *n.* (*pl.* *-archies*) system of society, government, etc., ruled by a man or men and with descent through the male line.

**patriarchal** /pə'trɪərɪəl/ *n.* 1 *hist.* member of the ancient Roman nobility. 2 aristocrat. *adj.* aristocratic; well-bred.

**patriarchy** /pə'trɪərɪərɪki/ *n.* (*pl.* *-ies*) property inherited from one's father or ancestor. **on** *patriarchal* *adj.*

**patriot** /pə'trɪət/ *n.* person who is devoted to and ready to support or defend his or her country. **on** *patriotic* /-reɪtɪk/ *adj.* **patriotically** *adv.* **patriotism** *n.*

**patrol** /pə'trɒl/ *n.* 1 act of walking or travel-

ing around an area in order to protect or supervise it. 2 guards, police, troops, etc., sent out to watch or protect. *n.* (*pl.* *patrols*, *patrols*) 1 *tr.* carry out a patrol of. 2 *intr.* act as a patrol. *n.* **patrol car** police car used in patrolling roads and streets. **on** *patrol* *tr.* *n.*

**patrolman** /pə'trɒlmən/ *n.* (*pl.* *-men*) police officer assigned to or patrolling a specific route.

**patron** /pə'trɒn/ *n.* (*fm.* *patroness*) 1 person who gives financial or other support to a person, cause, work of art, etc. 2 habitual customer. **patron saint** protecting or guiding saint of a person, place, etc.

**patronage** /pə'trɒnɪdʒ/ *n.* 1 patron's or customer's support. 2 a power to appoint others to government jobs. 3 distribution of such jobs.

**patronize** /pə'trɒnaɪz, pə'trɒn-ɪz/ *v. tr.* 1 treat condescendingly. 2 act as a patron toward (a person, cause, artist, etc.); support; encourage. 3 be a customer of. **on** *patronizing* *tr.* *n.* **patronizingly** *adv.*

**patronymic** /pə'trɒnɪmɪk/ *n.* name derived from the name of a father or ancestor, e.g., *Johnson, O'Brien, Ivanovich*.

**patsey** /pə'tseɪ/ *n.* (*pl.* *-sies*) person who is derisively ridiculed, tricked, etc.

**pattee** /pə'teɪ/ *n.* *intr.* make a rapid succession of steps. *n.* rapid succession of taps, short light steps, etc.

**pattee** /pə'teɪ/ *n.* rapid speech used by a comedian or salesperson. *n.* *intr.* talk glibly or mechanically.

**pattem** /pə'tem/ *n.* 1 decorative design. 2 regular or logical form, order, etc. 3 model or design, e.g., of a garment, from which copies can be made. 4 example of excellence; ideal; model (*a pattern of elegance*). *n.* *tr.* 1 model (a thing) on a design, etc. 2 decorate with a pattern.

**patty** /pæti/ *n.* (*pl.* *-ties*) small flat cake of food.

**paucity** /pəʊsɪteɪ/ *n.* smallness of number or quantity.

**paunch** /pɔːnʃ/ *n.* 1 belly or stomach, esp. when protruding. 2 ruminant's first stomach; rumen. **on** *paunchy* *adj.* (*paunchier*, *paunchiest*). **paunchiness** *n.*

**pauper** /pəʊpə/ *n.* person without means; beggar. **on** *pauperism* /-rɪzəm/ *n.* **pauperize** *v. tr.* **pauperization** /-rɪzəʃn/ *n.*

**pause** /pɔːz/ *n.* temporary stop; silence. *n.* *intr.* 1 make a pause; wait. 2 linger over (a word, etc.).

**pave** /peɪv/ *v. tr.* cover (a street, floor, etc.) with paving, etc. *v.* *tr.* **pave the way** for prepare for. **on** *paver* *n.* **paving *n.***

**pavement** /pə'veɪmənt/ *n.* paved path, roadway, etc.

**pavilion** /pə'veɪljən/ *n.* 1 tent, esp. a large one at a show, fair, etc. 2 building or stand used for entertainments, exhibits, etc. 3 detached building that is part of a connected set of buildings, as at a hospital.

**Pavlovian** /pə'vlɒvɪən/ *adj.* of or relating to I. P. Pavlov or his works, esp. on conditioned reflexes.

**paw** /pɔː/ *n.* 1 foot of an animal having claws or nails. 2 *coll.* person's hand. *n.* 1 *tr.* strike or scrape with a paw or foot. 2 *intr.* scrape the ground with a paw or hoof. 3 *tr.* *coll.* fondle awkwardly or indecently.

**pawf** /pɔːf/ *n.* lever with a catch for the teeth of a wheel or bar.

**pawn** /pɔːn/ *n.* 1 Chess piece of the smallest size and value. 2 person used by others for their own purposes.

**pawn** /pɔːn/ *v. tr.* 1 deposit an object, esp. with a pawnbroker, as security for money lent. 2 pledge or wager, *n.* object left as security for money, etc., lent.

**pawnbroker** /pɔːnbroʊkə/ *n.* person who lends money at interest on the security of personal property pawned. **on** *pawnbroking* *n.*

**Pawnee** /pɔːneɪ, pɔː- / *n.* 1 a N. American people native to Kansas and Nebraska. 2 member of this people. 3 language of this people.

**pawnshop** /pɔːnʃɒp/ *n.* pawnbroker's shop.

**pawpaw** /pɔːpwɔː/ *n.* (also *pa'paw*) *N.* American tree with purple flowers and edible fruit.

**pay** /peɪ/ *v. tr.* (*past* and *past part.* *paid* /peɪd/) 1 (also *absol.*) give (a person, etc.) what is due for services done, goods received, debts incurred, etc. 2 give (a sum) for work done, a debt, etc. 3 give, bestow, or express; make (a visit). 4 (also *absol.*) be profitable or advantageous. 5 reward or punish. 6 let out (a rope) by slackening it. *n.* wages. *n.* *adj.* requiring payment of a coin, a set fee, etc., for use. *n.* *tr.* the pay of employed by **pay back** 1 repay. 2 punish or be revenged on. **pay dirt** 1 *Mineral.* ground worth working for ore. 2 financially promising situation. **pay off** 1 dismiss (workers) with a final payment. 2 *coll.* yield good results; succeed. 3 pay (a debt) in full. **pay phone** coin-operated telephone. **on** *payee* /peɪˈiː/ *n.* **payer** *n.*

**pay** Middle English (in the sense 'pacify'): from Old French *paier* (noun), *paier* (verb), from Latin *pacare* 'appease'; from *pax*, *pac-* 'peace'. The notion of 'payment' arose from the sense of 'pacifying' a creditor.

**pay-a-blo** /peɪəbəl/ *adj.* that must or may be paid; due.

**pay-day** /peɪdeɪ/ *n.* day on which salary or wages are paid.

**pay-load** /peɪləʊd/ *n.* 1 part of an aircraft's load from which revenue is derived, as paying passengers. 2 explosive warhead carried by an aircraft or rocket.

**pay-mas-ter** /peɪmɑːstə/ *n.* official who pays troops, workers, etc.

**pay-ment** /peɪmənt/ *n.* 1 act or an instance of paying. 2 amount paid. 3 reward; recompense.

**pay-off** /peɪəv/ *n.* 1 act of payment. 2 climax. 3 final reckoning. 4 *coll.* bribe; bribery.

**pay-o-la** /peɪələ/ *n.* bribe offered in return for unofficial promotion of a product, etc., in the media.

**payroll** /peɪrɒl/ *n.* list of employees receiving regular pay.

**Pb** *synb.* Chem. lead.

**PBS** *abbr.* Public Broadcasting Service.

**PC** *abbr.* 1 personal computer. 2 politically correct.

**PCB** *abbr.* 1 Computing printed circuit board. 2 Chem. polychlorinated biphenyl, any of several toxic aromatic compounds formed as waste in industrial processes.

**PCP** *n.* 1 *sl.* illicit hallucinogenic drug, phenylcyclohexidine hydrochloride (phenylcyclohexyl piperidine). 2 pneumocystis carinii pneumonia.

**pd** *abbr.* percent.

**PD** *abbr.* Police Department.

**pd** *synb.* Chem. palladium.

**pd** *abbr.* paid.

**PDY** *abbr.* Pacific Daylight Time.

**PE** *abbr.* physical education.

**pea** /peɪ/ *n.* 1 a hardy climbing plant, with seeds growing in pods and used for food. 2 its seed.

**peace** /piːs/ *n.* 1 a quiet; tranquillity. 2 mental calm; serenity (*peace of mind*). 3 freedom from or the cessation of war. 4 freedom from civil disorder. *n.* **hold one's peace** keep silent. **peace pipe** tobacco pipe smoked as a token of peace among some Native Americans.

**peace-able** /piːsəbəl/ *adj.* 1 disposed to peace. 2 tranquil; peaceful. **on** *peace-ableness* *n.* **peace-ably** *adv.*

**peace-ful** /piːsɪfəl/ *adj.* 1 characterized by peace; tranquil. 2 not infringing peace. **on** *peace-fully* *adv.* **peace-fulness** *n.*

**peace-maker** /piːsməɪkə/ *n.* person who brings about peace. **on** *peace-making* *n.* & *adj.*

**peace-time** /piːsɪm/ *n.* period when a country is not at war.

**peach** /piːtʃ/ *n.* 1 a round juicy fruit with downy cream or yellow skin flushed with red. 2 tree bearing it. 3 yellowish pink color of. 3 *coll.* a person or thing of superlative quality. 4 often *offens.* attractive young woman. **on** *peachy* *adj.* (*peachier*, *peachiest*). **peachiness** *n.*

**peacock** /ˈpiːkɒk/ *n.* male peafowl, having brilliant plumage and an erectile fanlike tail (with eye-like markings).

**peafowl** /ˈpiːfəʊl/ *n.* peacock or peahen.

**peahen** /ˈpiːhɛn/ *n.* female peafowl.

**pea-jack-coat** /ˈpiːdʒæk/ *n.* sailor's short double-breasted woolen overcoat.

**peak** /piːk/ *n.* 1 projecting usu. pointed part, esp.: a the pointed top of a mountain. b a mountain with a peak. c stiff brim at the front of a cap. 2 a highest point. b time of greatest success. *n.* *intr.* reach the highest value, quality, etc. **on** *peaked* *adj.* **peakiness** *n.*

**peak** /piːk/ *n.* 1 waste away. 2 (as *peaked* /peɪkɪd/ *adj.*) pale; sickly.

**peal** /piːl/ *n.* 1 a loud ringing of a bell or bells, esp. a series of changes. 2 set of bells. 2 loud repeated sound, esp. of thunder, laughter, etc. *n.* 1 *intr.* sound forth in a peal. 2 *tr.* utter sonorously. 3 *n.* ring (bells) in peals.

**peanut** /ˈpiːnʌt/ *n.* 1 leguminous plant, bearing pods that ripen underground and contain seeds used as food and yielding oil. 2 seed of this plant. 3 (in *pl.*) *coll.* paltry or trivial thing or amount, esp. of money. *n.* **peanut butter** paste of ground roasted peanuts.

**pear** /peɪə/ *n.* 1 yellowish or brownish green fleshy fruit, tapering toward the stalk. 2 tree bearing it.

**pearl** /pɔːl/ *n.* 1 a (often *attrib.*) usu. white or bluish gray hard mass formed within the shell of certain oysters highly prized as a gem for its luster (*pearl necklace*). 2 imitation of this. 2 precious thing; finest example. 3 anything resembling a pearl, e.g., a dewdrop, tear, etc. *n.* *intr.* fish for pearl oysters. **on** *pearler* *n.* **pearly** *adj.*