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# The Concise Oxford Dictionary

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TENTH EDITION

*Edited by*  
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- [*Salmo trutta*.]
- browse** /braʊz/ *v.* **1** survey goods or text in a leisurely and superficial fashion. **2** (of an animal) feed on leaves, twigs, etc. *n.* **1** an act of browsing. **2** vegetation eaten by animals.  
 - DERIVATIVES **browsable** *adj.*  
 - ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *broster*, from *brost* 'young shoot', prob. of Gmc origin.
- browser** *n.* **1** a person or animal that browses. **2** Computing a program with a graphical user interface for displaying HTML files, used to navigate the World Wide Web.
- brrr** *exclam.* used to express a reaction to feeling cold.
- BRU** *abbr.* Brunei (international vehicle registration).
- brucellosis** /brʊːsɛˈleʊsɪs/ *n.* a bacterial disease chiefly affecting cattle and causing undulant fever in humans.  
 - ORIGIN 1930s: from mod. L. *Brucella*, genus name of the bacterium responsible (named after the Sc. physician Sir David Bruce) + *-osis*.
- brucite** /brʊːsaɪt/ *n.* a white, grey, or greenish mineral consisting of hydrated magnesium hydroxide.  
 - ORIGIN C19: named after the Amer. mineralogist Archibald Bruce.
- bruise** *n.* an injury appearing as an area of discoloured skin on the body, caused by a blow or impact rupturing underlying blood vessels. **2** a similar area of damage on a fruit, vegetable, or plant. *v.* **1** inflict a bruise on. **2** be susceptible to bruising. **3** crush or pound (food).  
 - ORIGIN OE *brysan* 'crush, injure or damage with a blow', reinforced in ME by OFr. *bruissier* 'break'.
- bruiser** *n.* informal, derogatory a tough, aggressive person.
- bruising** *adj.* (of a contest) aggressively conducted and likely to be damaging. *n.* bruises on the skin.
- bruit** /brʊɪt/ *v.* spread (a report or rumour) widely. *n.* **1** archaic a report or rumour. **2** Medicine a sound, especially an abnormal one, heard through a stethoscope.  
 - ORIGIN ME (as *n.*): from OFr. *bruit* 'noise', from *bruire* 'to roar'.
- brumby** /brʌmbi/ *n.* (pl. *-ies*) (in Australia) a wild or unbroken horse.  
 - ORIGIN C19: of unknown origin.
- brume** /brʊm/ *n.* poetic/literary mist or fog.  
 - DERIVATIVES **brumous** *adj.*  
 - ORIGIN C18: from Fr., from L. *bruma* 'winter'.
- Brummagent** /brʌmɒdʒ(ə)m/ *adj.* informal of or relating to Birmingham.  
 - ORIGIN C17: dial. form.
- Brummie** (also **Brummy**) *n.* (pl. *-ies*) Brit. informal a person from Birmingham. *adj.* informal **1** Brit. of, from, or relating to Birmingham. **2** (**brummy**) Austral./NZ counterfeit, showy, or cheaply made.
- brunch** *n.* a late morning meal eaten instead of breakfast and lunch.
- Bruneian** /brʊːˈneɪən/ *n.* a native or inhabitant of the sultanate of Brunei on the NW coast of Borneo. *adj.* of or relating to Brunei.
- brunette** /brʊːˈnet, brʊ-/ (US also **brunet**) *n.* a woman or girl with dark brown hair.  
 - ORIGIN C16: from Fr., fem. of *brunet*, dimin. of *brun* 'brown'.
- brung** dialect past and past participle of **bring**.
- Brunswick stew** *n.* US a stew of chicken and vegetables.  
 - ORIGIN from *Brunswick* county in Virginia, US.
- brunt** /brʌnt/ *n.* (usu. in phr. **bear the brunt**) the chief impact of something bad.  
 - ORIGIN ME (denoting a blow or attack, also the force or shock of something); of unknown origin.
- bruschetta** /brʊˈskɛtə/ *n.* toasted Italian bread drenched in olive oil, usually served with garlic or tomatoes.  
 - ORIGIN from Ital.
- brush** *n.* **1** an implement with a handle and a block of bristles, hair, or wire, used especially for cleaning, smoothing, or painting. **2** an act of brushing. **3** a slight and fleeting touch. **4** a brief encounter with something bad or unwelcome: *a brush with death*. **5** a piece of carbon or metal serving as an electrical contact with a moving part in a motor or alternator. **6** a drumstick with long wire bristles, used to make a soft hissing sound. **7** the bushy tail of a fox. **8** Austral./NZ informal girls or women regarded sexually. *v.* **1** clean, smooth, or apply with a brush. **2** touch or push lightly and gently. **3** (**brush someone/thing off**) dismiss someone or something in an abrupt, contemptuous way. **4** (**brush up on** or **brush something up**) work to regain a previously learned skill.  
 - DERIVATIVES **brushless** *adj.* (chiefly technical) **brushy** *adj.*  
 - ORIGIN ME: noun from OFr. *broisse*; verb partly from OFr. *brosser* 'to sweep'.
- brush** *n.* chiefly N. Amer. & Austral./NZ undergrowth, small trees, and shrubs. **2** N. Amer. cut brushwood. **3** Austral./NZ dense forest.  
 - ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *broce*, perh. based on L. *bruscum*, denoting an excrescence on a maple.
- brushback** *n.* Baseball a pitch aimed close to the body so that the batter must step back to avoid it.
- brush discharge** *n.* a broad electrical discharge from a conductor occurring when the potential difference is high but not sufficient for a spark or arc.
- brushed** *adj.* **1** (of fabric) having a soft raised nap. **2** (of metal) finished with a non-reflective surface.
- brushtail** *n.* a mainly tree-dwelling nocturnal Australian marsupial with a pointed muzzle and a furred tail with a naked tip. [*Trichosurus vulpecula* and related species.]
- brush-turkey** *n.* a large mound-building bird resembling a turkey, found mainly in New Guinea. [Family Megapodiidae: several species.]
- brush wolf** *n.* North American term for **coyote**.
- brushwood** *n.* undergrowth, twigs, and small branches.
- brusque** /brʊsk, brʊsk/ *adj.* abrupt or offhand.  
 - DERIVATIVES **brusquely** *adv.* **brusqueness** *n.* **brusquerie** /brʊsk(ə)riː, 'brʊː-/ *n.* (archaic).  
 - ORIGIN C17: from Fr., 'lively, fierce', from Ital. *brusco* 'sour'.
- Brussels carpet** *n.* a carpet with a heavy woollen pile and a strong linen back.
- Brussels lace** *n.* an elaborate kind of lace, typically with a raised design, made using a needle or lace pillow.
- Brussels sprout** (also **Brussel sprout**) *n.* a vegetable consisting of the small compact bud of a variety of cabbage which bears many such buds along a tall single stem.
- brut** /brʊt, French bry/ *adj.* (of sparkling wine) very dry.  
 - ORIGIN Fr., lit. 'raw, rough'.
- brutal** *adj.* **1** savagely violent. **2** without any attempt to disguise unpleasantness: *brutal honesty*.  
 - DERIVATIVES **brutality** /-tɪlɪti/ *n.* **brutally** *adv.*  
 - ORIGIN C15 (in the sense 'relating to the lower animals'): from OFr., or from med. L. *brutalis*, from *brutus* (see **brute**).
- brutalism** *n.* **1** cruelty and savageness. **2** a stark style of functionalist architecture that makes use of steel and concrete in massive blocks.  
 - DERIVATIVES **brutalist** *n.* & *adj.*
- brutalize** (also **-ise**) *v.* **1** make brutal by repeated exposure to violence. **2** treat brutally.  
 - DERIVATIVES **brutalization** *n.*
- brute** *n.* **1** a violent or savage person or animal. **2** informal a cruel or insensitive person. **3** an animal as opposed to a human being. *adj.* **1** unreasoning and animal-like. **2** merely physical: *brute force*. **3** harsh or inescapable: *brute necessity*.  
 - DERIVATIVES **brutish** *adj.* **brutishly** *adv.* **brutishness** *n.*  
 - ORIGIN ME (as *adj.*): from OFr. *brute*), from L. *brutus* 'dull, stupid'.
- bruxism** /brʊksɪz(ə)m/ *n.* Medicine involuntary habitual grinding of the teeth, typically during sleep.  
 - ORIGIN 1930s: from Gk *brukhein* 'gnash the teeth' +

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