

Also Available

THE OXFORD DESK DICTIONARY AND THESAURUS
THE OXFORD ESSENTIAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY
THE OXFORD ESSENTIAL DICTIONARY OF FOREIGN TERMS IN ENGLISH
THE OXFORD ESSENTIAL GEOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY
THE OXFORD ESSENTIAL QUOTATIONS DICTIONARY
THE OXFORD ESSENTIAL SPELLING DICTIONARY
THE OXFORD ESSENTIAL THESAURUS
THE OXFORD FRENCH DICTIONARY
THE OXFORD GERMAN DICTIONARY
THE OXFORD ITALIAN DICTIONARY
THE OXFORD PORTUGUESE DICTIONARY
THE OXFORD RUSSIAN DICTIONARY
THE OXFORD NEW SPANISH DICTIONARY

Most Berkley Books are available at special quantity discounts for bulk purchases for sales promotions, premiums, fund-raising or educational use. Special books, or book excerpts, can also be created to fit specific needs.

For details, write: Special Markets, The Berkley Publishing Group, 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014.

THE OXFORD

Essential Dictionary

AMERICAN EDITION



BERKLEY BOOKS, NEW YORK

If you purchased this book without a cover, you should be aware that this book is stolen property. It was reported as "unsold and destroyed" to the publisher, and neither the author nor the publisher has received any payment for this "stripped book."

THE OXFORD ESSENTIAL DICTIONARY

A Berkley Book / published in mass market paperback
by arrangement with Oxford University Press, Inc.

PRINTING HISTORY
Berkley edition / August 1998

Copyright © 1998 by Oxford University Press, Inc.
Oxford is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press, Inc.
Published by Oxford University Press, Inc., as
The Oxford American Desk Dictionary. Derived from
The Oxford Desk Dictionary and Thesaurus.

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 the prior written permission of Oxford University Press, Inc.

For information address: Oxford University Press, Inc.,
198 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016.

The Penguin Putnam Inc. World Wide Web site address is
<http://www.penguinputnam.com>

ISBN: 0-425-16420-9

BERKLEY®

Berkley Books are published by The Berkley Publishing Group,
a division of Penguin Putnam Inc.,
375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014.
BERKLEY and the "B" design
are trademarks belonging to Penguin Putnam Inc.

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

Contents

Preface	vii
How to Use the <i>Oxford Essential Dictionary: American Edition</i>	ix
Abbreviations Used in This Book	xi
Key to the Pronunciations	xvi
<i>Oxford Essential Dictionary: American Edition</i>	1-702
Biographical Entries	705
Geographical Entries	741
Special Reference Sections	
Standard Weights and Measures with Metric Equivalents	780
Conversion from Standard to Metric Measurements	781
Metric Weights and Measures with Standard Equivalents	782
Conversion from Metric to Standard Measurements	783
Signs and Symbols	784
Temperature	786
Heat Index	787
Windchill Temperatures	787
Mathematical Notation	788
Multiplication Tables	788
Arabic and Roman Numerals	790
Greek Alphabet	790
Books of the Bible	791
Terms for Groups of Animals, etc.	792
Chemical Elements	794
Presidents of the United States of America	796
Leaders and Rulers	797
States of the United States of America	798
Area Codes	800
Countries of the World	803
Time Periods	809
Wedding Anniversary Gifts	810

limiting freedom and responsibility by well-meaning regulations. **pat-ter** /nə'tɪ/ *adv.*

pa-ter-nal-ism /pɑ'tɜrnəlɪzəm/ *n.* policy of governing or behaving in a paternal way. **pa-ter-nal-ist** *n.* **pa-ter-nal-is'tic** *adj.* **pa-ter-nal-is'trically** *adv.*

pa-ter-nal-ity /pɑ'tɜrnəlɪ'ti/ *n.* 1 fatherhood. 2 one's paternal origin. 3 the source or authorship of a thing.

path /pɑθ/ *n.* (*pl.* **paths** /pɑθtɪz/) 1 way or track made for or by walking. 2 line along which a person or thing moves (*lights path*). 3 course of action. **path-less** *adj.*

pa-thetic /pəθetɪk/ *adj.* 1 arousing pity, sadness, or contempt. 2 *colloq.* miserably inadequate. **pa-thet-ic-ally** *adv.*

path-o-gen /pəθədʒən/ *n.* agent causing disease. **path-o-gen-ic** /-dʒənɪk/ *adj.*

path-o-log-i-cal /pəθə'lɒdʒɪkəl/ *adj.* 1 of pathology. 2 of or caused by a physical or mental disorder (*a pathological fear of spiders*). **path-o-log-i-cal-ly** *adv.*

pathol-o-gy /pəθə'lɒdʒi/ *n.* 1 science of bodily diseases. 2 symptoms of a disease. **pa-thol'o-gist** *n.*

pa-thos /pəθəs/ *n.* pathos, -thos, -thōs *n.* quality in speech, writing, events, etc., that evokes pity or sadness.

path-way /pəθweɪ/ *n.* path or its course.

path-ic /pəθetɪk/ *comb. form* forming nouns denoting 1 curative treatment (*allopathy*; *homoeopathy*). 2 feeling (*sadpathy*).

pa-tience /pə'tiəns/ *n.* perseverance; ability to endure; forbearance.

pa-tient /pə'tiənt/ *adj.* having or showing patience. *n.* person receiving medical treatment. **pa'tient-ly** *adv.*

pa-ti-na /pə'ti:nə/ *n.* (*pl.* **pa'tinas**) 1 film, usu. green, formed on old bronze. 2 similar film or gloss on other surfaces. **pa-ti-na-tion** /pə'ti:nə'tʃən/ *n.* 1 paved usa. roofless area adjoining and belonging to a house. 2 roofless inner court.

pa-tois /pə'twɑː/ *n.* (*pl.* same, *promanc* /-wɑːz/) regional dialect of the common people.

pa-tri-arch /pə'tri:ərk/ *n.* 1 male head of a family or tribe. 2 *Ecccl.* a chief bishop in the Orthodox Church. 3 (in the Roman Catholic Church) bishop ranking immediately below the pope. 3 venerable old man. **pa-tri-ar'chal** *adj.* **pa-tri-ar'chal-ly** *adv.*

pa-tri-arch-ate /pə'tri:ərkət/ *n.* office, rank, see, or residence of an patriarch.

pa-tri-arch-ate /pə'tri:ərkət/ *n.* (*pl.* **-chies**) system of society, government, etc., ruled by a man or men and with descent through the male line.

pa-tri-cian /pə'tri:ʃən/ *n.* 1 *hist.* member of the ancient Roman nobility. 2 aristocrat. *adj.* aristocratic; well-bred.

pa-tri-mo-ny /pə'tri:məni/ *n.* (*pl.* **-nies**) property inherited from one's father or ancestor. **pa-tri-mo-nial** *adj.*

pa-tri-ot /pə'tri:ət/ *n.* person who is devoted to and ready to support or defend his or her country. **pa-tri-ot-ic** /-ri:ətɪk/ *adj.* **pa-tri-ot-ic-ally** *adv.* **pa-tri-ot-ism** *n.*

pat-rol /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.* (**pa-trol-ling**) 1 *tr.* carry out a patrol of. 2 *intr.* act as a patrol. *n.* **pa-trol-car** police car used in patrolling roads and streets. **pa-trol-ler** *n.*

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

pa-tro-n /pə'trɒn/ *n.* (*fm.* **pa-tro-ness**) 1 person who gives financial or other support to a person, cause, work of art, etc. 2 habitual customer. **pa-tro-nage** /pə'trɒnɪdʒ/ *n.* 1 patron's or customer's support. 2 a power to appoint others to government jobs. 3 distribution of such jobs.

pa-tro-n-ize /pə'trɒnaɪz/ *v. tr.* 1 treat condescendingly. 2 act as a patron toward (a person, cause, artist, etc.). 3 support; encourage. 3 be a customer of. **pa-tro-ni-zation** *n.* **pa'tron-iz-er** *n.* **pa'tron-iz-ing** *adj.* **pa'tron-iz-ing-ly** *adv.*

pa-tro-ny-mic /pə'trɒnɪmɪk/ *n.* name derived from the name of a father or ancestor, e.g., *Johnson*, *O'Brien*, *Ivanovich*.

pat-ry /pə'tri/ *n.* (*pl.* **-sies**) person who is deceived, ridiculed, tricked, etc.

pat-ter /pə'tɜr/ *v. intrans.* make a rapid succession of taps. *n.* rapid succession of taps, short light steps, etc.

pat-ter /pə'tɜr/ *n.* rapid speech used by a comedian or salesperson. *n.* *intr.* talk glibly or mechanically.

pat-tern /pə'tɜrn/ *n.* (*pl.* **-sies**) 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*). *v. tr.* 1 model (a thing) on a design, etc. 2 decorate with a pattern.

pat-ty /pə'ti/ *n.* (*pl.* **-ties**) small flat cake of food.

pauc-i-ty /pəʊsɪ'ti/ *n.* smallness of number or quantity.

paunch /pɔːnʃ/ *n.* 1 belly or stomach, esp. when protruding. 2 ruminant's first stomach; rumen. **paunch-y** *adj.* (**paunch-i-er**, **paunch-i-est**). **paunch'i-ness** *n.*

pauc-er /pəʊsɜr/ *n.* person without means; beggar. **pauc-er-ism** /-rɪzəm/ *n.* **pauc-er-ize** *v. tr.* **pauc-er-ize** /-rɪz/ *v. tr.*

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

pave /pə'veɪ/ *v. tr.* cover (a street, floor, etc.) with paving, etc. **pave the way** for prepare for. **pa-ver** *n.* **pa-ving** *n.*

pave-ment /pə'veɪmənt/ *n.* paved path, roadway, etc.

pa-vi-lion /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.

Pavlov-ian /pə'veɪləvɪən/ *adj.* of or relating to I. P. Pavlov or his work, esp. on conditioned reflexes.

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

paw-l /pɔːl/ *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.

pawn-broke /pɔːnbroʊk/ *n.* person who lends money at interest on the security of personal property pawned. **pa-wn'bro-king** *n.*

Paw-nee /pɔːneɪ/ *n.* 1 a N. American people native to Kansas and Nebraska. 2 member of this people. 2 language of this people.

pawn-shop /pɔːnʃɒp/ *n.* pawnbroker's shop.

paw-paw /pɔːpɔː/ *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. 4 make (a visit). 4 (also *absol.*) be profitable or advantageous. 5 reward or punish. 6 let out (a rope) by slackening it. *n.* wages. *adj.* requiring payment of a coin, a set fee, etc., for use. *n.* in the pay of employed by. **pay back** 1 repay. 2 punish or be revenged on. **pay dirt** 1 *Miner.* ground worth working for ore. 2 financially promising situation. **pay off** 1 dismiss (workers) with a final payment. 2 *colloq.* yield good results; succeed. 3 pay (a debt) in full. **pay phone** coin-operated telephone. **payee** /peɪi/ *n.* **pay'er** *n.*

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

pay-able /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 /peɪmɑːstər/ *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 /peɪɔːf/ *n.* 1 act of payment. 2 climax. 3 final reckoning. 4 *colloq.* bribe; bribery.

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

pay-roll /peɪrɒl/ *n.* list of employees receiving regular pay.

PB *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 *ph.* illicit hallucinogenic drug, phenycyclidine hydrochloride (phenyl cyclohexyl piperidine). 2 pneumocystis carinii pneumonia.

per *abbr.* percent.

PD *abbr.* Police Department.

Pd *chem.* palladium.

pd. *abbr.* paid.

PDT *abbr.* Pacific Daylight Time.

PE *abbr.* physical education.

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

peace /piːs/ *n.* 1 a quiet; tranquility. 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. **peace'a-ble-ness** *n.* **peace'a-ble-ly** *adv.*

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

peace-mak-er /piːsməɪkər/ *n.* person who brings about peace. **peace'mak-ing** *n.* & *adj.*

peace-time /piːstɪm/ *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 *colloq.* a person or thing of superlative quality. 4 often *offens.* attractive young woman. **peach'y** *adj.* (**peach-ber**, **peach-est**). **peach'i-ness** *n.*

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

pea-fowl /piːfəʊl/ *n.* peacock or peahen.

pea-hen /piːhɛn/ *n.* female peafowl.

pea-jack-et /piːdʒəkət/ (also **pea'coat**) *n.* sailor's short double-breasted woolen overcoat.

peak /piːk/ *n.* 1 projecting usu. pointed part, esp. a the pointed top of a mountain. 2 a mountain with a peak. *n.* stiff brim at the front of a cap. 2 highest point. 3 time of greatest success. *v. intr.* reach the highest value, quality, etc. **peaked** *adj.* **peak'i-ness** *n.*

peak /piːk/ *v. intr.* 1 waste away. 2 (as **peaked-out** /piːkəʊt/) 3 pale; sickly.

peal /piːl/ *n.* 1 the 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. *v. tr.* 1 *intr.* sound forth in a peal. 2 *tr.* utter sonorously. 3 *tr.* ring (bells) in peals.

pea-nut /piːnʌt/ *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.*) *colloq.* paltry or trivial thing or amount, esp. of money. **peanut butter** paste of ground roasted peanuts.

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

pearl /pɜːl/ *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. *v. tr.* fish for pearl oysters. **pearl'y** *adj.*