

---

# The New Oxford American Dictionary

---

EDITED BY

Elizabeth J. Jewell  
Frank Abate

OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS  
2001

**OXFORD**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

New York Oxford

Athens Auckland Bangkok Bogotá Buenos Aires Cape Town  
Chennai Dares Salaam Delhi Florence Hong Kong Istanbul Karachi  
Kolkata Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Mumbai Nairobi  
Paris São Paulo Singapore Taipei Tokyo Toronto Warsaw  
and associated companies in  
Berlin Ibadan

The *New Oxford American Dictionary* is based on the *New Oxford Dictionary of English*, published in the United Kingdom in 1998.

Copyright © 2001 by Oxford University Press, Inc.

Published by Oxford University Press, Inc.,  
198 Madison Avenue,  
New York, New York 10016

[www.oup-usa.org](http://www.oup-usa.org)  
[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  
the prior permission of Oxford University Press.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data  
Data available  
ISBN 0-19-511227-X (thumb index)

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

An independent sultanate known as Muscat and Oman until 1970, Oman was the most influential power in the region during the 19th century; it controlled Zanzibar and other territory. Since the late 19th century, it has had strong links with Britain. The economy is dependent on oil, discovered in 1964.

-DERIVATIVES **Oma·ni** | ɒ'mænɪ | adj. & n.

**Oman, Gulf of** an inlet of the Arabian Sea, connected by the Strait of Hormuz to the Persian Gulf.

**Omar I** | ɒ'mɑːr | (c.581-644), Muslim caliph 634-44. He conquered Syria, Palestine, and Egypt.

**Omar Khayyām** | kɪ'ʔɑːm; -'æm | (died 1123), Persian poet, mathematician, and astronomer. His *rubāiyāt* (quatrains), found in *The Rubāiyāt of Omar Khayyām* (translation published 1859), are meditations on the mysteries of existence and celebrations of worldly pleasures.

**omasum** | ɒ'məsəm | n. (pl. **omasas** [-sə]) Zoology the muscular third stomach of a ruminant animal, between the reticulum and the abomasum. Also called **PSALTERIUM**.

-ORIGIN early 18th cent.: from Latin, literally 'bullock's tripe.'

**Omayyad** | ɒ'mi(y)æd | variant spelling of **UMAYYAD**.

**OMB** ▶abbr. (in the federal government) Office of Management and Budget.

**ombre** | 'æmbər | n. a trick-taking card game for three people using a pack of forty cards, popular in Europe in the 17th-18th centuries.

-ORIGIN from Spanish *hombre* 'man,' with reference to one player seeking to win the pool.

**ombredé** | 'æmbrə | adj. (of a fabric) having a dyed, printed, or woven design in which the color is graduated from light to dark.

-ORIGIN French, past participle of *ombrer* 'to shade.'

**ombro-** ▶comb. form relating to rain: *ombrotrophic*.

-ORIGIN from Greek *ombros* 'rain shower.'

**ombrotrophic** | ɒmbrə'trɒfɪk; -'trɒfɪk | adj. Ecology (of a bog or its vegetation) dependent on atmospheric moisture for its nutrients.

**ombudsman** | 'æmbədzmən; -bʊdʒz- | n. (pl. **-men**) an official appointed to investigate individuals' complaints against maladministration, esp. that of public authorities.

-ORIGIN 1950s: from Swedish, 'legal representative.'

**ombuds-person** | ɒmbədʒpərsən; -bʊdʒz- | n. a person acting as an ombudsman.

**Omdurman** | ɒmdər'mæn | a city in central Sudan, on the Nile River opposite Khartoum; pop. 229,000.

**ome** ▶suffix chiefly Biology forming nouns denoting objects or parts having a specified nature: *rhizome* | *trichome*.

-ORIGIN variant form of **-OMA**.

**omega** | ɒ'mægə; ɒ'mē- | n. the twenty-fourth, and last, letter of the Greek alphabet (Ω, ω), transliterated as 'o' or 'ō.'

■ the last of a series; the final development: [as adj.] *the omega point*. ■ (**Omega**) [followed by Latin genitive] Astronomy the twenty-fourth star in a constellation: *Omega Scorpii*.

▶symbol ■ (Ω) ohm(s): a 100Ω resistor.

-ORIGIN from Greek ὀmega 'big O.'

**omega-3 fatty acid** n. an unsaturated fatty acid of a kind occurring chiefly in fish oils, with three double bonds at particular positions in the hydrocarbon chain.

**omelette** | ɒm(ə)lɪt | (also **omelette**) n. a dish of beaten eggs cooked in a frying pan until firm, often with a filling added while cooking, and usually served folded over.

-ORIGIN French *omelette*, earlier *amelette*, alteration of *alumette*, variant of *alumelle*, from *lemele* 'knife blade,' from Latin *lamella* (see **LAMELLA**). The association with 'knife blade' is probably because of the thin flat shape of an omelet.

**omen** | 'ɒmən | n. an event regarded as a portent of good or evil: *the ghost's appearance was an ill omen* | *a rise in imports might be an omen of recovery*.

■ prophetic significance: *the raven seemed a bird of evil omen*.

-ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Latin.

**omentum** | ɒ'mentəm | n. (pl. **omenta** [-tə]) Anatomy a fold of peritoneum connecting the stomach with other abdominal organs.

-DERIVATIVES **omental** | ɒ'mentl | adj.

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin.

**omer** | 'ɒmər; 'ɒmər | n. 1 an ancient Hebrew dry measure, the tenth part of an ephah.

2 (**Omer**) Judaism a sheaf of corn or omer of grain presented as an offering on the second day of Passover.

■ the period of 49 days between this day and Shavu-

Mafia) a code of silence about criminal activity and a refusal to give evidence to authorities.

**omicron** | 'æmi,krən; 'ɒm- | n. the fifteenth letter of the Greek alphabet (Ο, ο), transliterated as 'o.'

■ (**Omicron**) [followed by Latin genitive] Astronomy the fifteenth star in a constellation: *Omicron Piscium*.

-ORIGIN from Greek *o mikron* 'little O.'

**ominous** | 'æmənəs | adj. giving the impression that something bad or unpleasant is going to happen; threatening; inauspicious: *there were ominous dark clouds gathering overhead*.

-DERIVATIVES **ominously** adv.; **ominousness** n.

-ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Latin *ominosus*, from *omen*, *omin-* 'omen.'

**omission** | ɒ'mɪʃən | n. someone or something that has been left out or excluded: *there are glaring omissions in the report*.

■ the action of excluding or leaving out someone or something: *the omission of recent publications from his bibliography*. ■ a failure to do something, esp. something that one has a moral or legal obligation to do: *to pay compensation for a wrongful act or omission*.

-DERIVATIVES **omissive** | ɒ'mɪsɪv | adj.

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from late Latin *omissio* (n-), from the verb *omittere* (see **OMIT**).

**omit** | ɒ'mɪt | v. (**omitted**, **omitting**) [trans.] (often **be omitted**) leave out or exclude (someone or something), either intentionally or forgetfully: *a significant detail was omitted from your story*.

■ fail or neglect to do (something); leave undone: *the final rinse is omitted* | [with infinitive] *he modestly omits to mention that he was pole-vault champion*.

-DERIVATIVES **omissible** | ɒ'mɪsəbəl | adj.

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *omittere*, from *ob-* 'down' + *mittere* 'let go.'

**ommatidium** | ɒmɑ'tɪdɪəm | n. (pl. **ommatidia** [-tɪdɪə]) Entomology each of the optical units that make up a compound eye, as of an insect.

-DERIVATIVES **ommatidial** | -'tɪdɪəl | adj.

-ORIGIN late 19th cent.: modern Latin, from Greek *ommatidium*, diminutive of *omma*, *ommat-* 'eye.'

**ommatophore** | ɒ'mætə'fɔːr | n. Zoology a part of an invertebrate animal, esp. a stalk or tentacle, that bears an eye.

-ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from Greek *omma*, *ommat-* 'eye' + **-PHORE**.

**omni-** ▶comb. form all; of all things: *omniscient* | *omnifarious*.

■ in all ways or places: *omnicompetent* | *omnipresent*.

-ORIGIN from Latin *omnis* 'all.'

**omnibus** | ɒm'nɪbʊs | n. 1 a volume containing several novels or other items previously published separately: *an omnibus of her first trilogy*.

2 dated a bus.

▶adj. comprising several items: *Congress passed an omnibus anti-crime package*.

-ORIGIN early 19th cent.: via French from Latin, literally 'for all,' dative plural of *omnis*.

**omnidirectional** | ɒmni,dɪ'rekʃənəl | adj. Telecommunications receiving signals from or transmitting in all directions.

**omnifarious** | ɒm'nə'ferɪəs | adj. formal comprising or relating to all sorts or varieties.

-DERIVATIVES **omnifariously** adv.; **omnifariousness** n.

-ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from late Latin *omnifarius* + **-OUS**; compare with **MULTIFARIOUS**.

**omnipotent** | ɒm'nɪpə'tent | adj. (of a deity) having unlimited power; able to do anything.

■ having ultimate power and influence: *an omnipotent sovereign*.

▶n. (**the Omnipotent**) God.

-DERIVATIVES **omnipotence** n.; **omnipotently** adv.

-ORIGIN Middle English (as a divine attribute): via Old French from Latin *omnipotens* 'all-powerful.'

**omnipresent** | ɒm'nɪ'preznt | adj. (of God) present everywhere at the same time.

■ widely or constantly encountered; common or widespread: *the omnipresent threat of natural disasters*.

-DERIVATIVES **omnipresence** n.

-ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from medieval Latin *omnipraesent-*.

**omni-range** | ɒmni,ræŋ | n. a navigation system in which short-range omnidirectional VHF transmitters serve as radio beacons.

**omniscient** | ɒm'nɪʃənt | adj. knowing everything: *the story is told by an omniscient narrator*.

-DERIVATIVES **omniscience** n.; **omnisciently** adv.

-ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from medieval Latin *omniscient-* 'all-knowing,' based on *scire* 'to know'

-DERIVATIVES **omni-sexuality** | -,seksʰə'wælɪtɪ | n.

**omni-um-gath-er-um** | ɒm'nɪəm gæ'thərəm | n. a collection of miscellaneous people or things.

-ORIGIN early 16th cent.: mock Latin, from Latin *omnium* 'of all' and **GATHER** + the Latin suffix *-um*.

**omnivore** | ɒm'nɪvɔːr | n. an animal or person that eats food of both plant and animal origin.

-ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from French, from Latin *omnivorus* 'omnivorous.'

**omnivorously** | ɒm'nɪv(ə)rəs | adj. (of an animal or person) feeding on food of both plant and animal origin.

■ taking in or using whatever is available: *an omnivorous reader*.

-DERIVATIVES **omnivorously** adv.; **omnivorousness** n.

-ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Latin *omnivorus* + **-OUS**.

**omophagy** | ɒ'məfəj | (also **omophagia**) ▶n. the eating of raw food, esp. raw meat.

-DERIVATIVES **omophagic** | ɒmə'fæjɪk | adj.; **omophagist** | -'jɪst | n.; **omophagous** | -'gəs | adj.

-ORIGIN early 18th cent.: from Greek *omophagia*, from *ōmos* 'raw' + *-phagia* (from *phagein* 'eat').

**Omotic** | ɒ'mətɪk | n. a subfamily of Afro-Asiatic languages spoken in Ethiopia, with over thirty members.

▶adj. denoting or belonging to this subfamily.

-ORIGIN 1970s: from *Omo*, the name of a river in southwestern Ethiopia, + **-OTIC**.

**omphalo-** ▶comb. form relating to the navel.

-ORIGIN from Greek *omphalos* 'navel.'

**omphalos** | ɒm'fæləs | n. (pl. **omphaloi** [-loɪ]) poetic/literary the center or hub of something: *this was the omphalos of confusion and strife*.

■ a rounded stone (esp. that at Delphi) representing the navel of the earth in ancient Greek mythology.

-ORIGIN Greek, literally 'navel.'

**Omsk** | ɒmsk | a city in south central Russia, on the Irtysh River; pop. 1,159,000.

**ON<sup>1</sup>** ▶abbr. Ontario (in official postal use).

**ON<sup>2</sup>** ▶abbr. Old Norse.

**on** | ɒn; ɔn | prep. 1 physically in contact with and supported by (a surface): *on the table was a water jug* | *she was lying on the floor* | *a sign on the front gate*.

■ located somewhere in the general surface area of (a place): *an internment camp on the island* | *the house on the corner*. ■ as a result of accidental physical contact with: *one of the children had cut a foot on some glass* | *he banged his head on a beam*. ■ supported by (a part of the body): *he was lying on his back*. ■ so as to be supported or held by: *put it on the table*. ■ in the possession of (the person referred to): *she only had a few dollars on her*.

2 forming a distinctive or marked part of (the surface of something): *a scratch on her arm* | *a smile on her face*.

3 having (the thing mentioned) as a topic: *a book on careers* | *essays on a wide range of issues*.

■ having (the thing mentioned) as a basis: *modeled on the Mayflower Compact* | *dependent on availability*.

4 as a member of (a committee, jury, or other body): *they would be allowed to serve on committees*.

5 having (the place or thing mentioned) as a target: *five air raids on the city* | *thousands marching on Washington*.

■ having (the thing mentioned) as a target for visual focus: *her eyes were fixed on his dark profile*.

6 having (the thing mentioned) as a medium for transmitting or storing information: *put your ideas down on paper* | *stored on the client's own computer*.

■ being broadcast by (a radio or television channel): *a new TV series on Channel 4*.

7 in the course of (a journey): *he was on his way to see his mother*.

■ while traveling in (a public conveyance): *John got some sleep on the plane*. ■ on to (a public conveyance) with the intention of traveling in it: *we got on the train*.

8 indicating the day or part of a day during which an event takes place: *reported on September 26* | *on a very hot evening in July*.

■ at the time of: *she was booed on arriving home*.

9 engaged in: *his attendant was out on errands*.

10 regularly taking (a drug or medicine): *he is on morphine to relieve the pain*.

11 paid for by: *the drinks are on me*.

12 added to: *a few cents on the electric bill is nothing compared with your security*.

▶adv. 1 physically in contact with and supported by a surface: *make sure the lid is on*.

■ (of clothing) being worn by a person: *sitting with her*



scarce: *he meant to go, but time and gas were in short supply.* **supply and demand** the amount of a good or service available and the desire of buyers for it, considered as factors regulating its price: *by the law of supply and demand the cost of health care will plummet.*

-DERIVATIVES **supply-er** n.

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *supplier*, from Latin *supplere* 'fill up,' from *sub-* 'from below' + *plere* 'fill.' The early sense of the noun was 'assistance, relief' (chiefly a Scots use).

**supply**<sup>2</sup> ['sʌp(ə)li] ► adv. variant spelling of *supplely* (see **SUPPLE**).

**supply chain** ► n. the sequence of processes involved in the production and distribution of a commodity.

**supply-side** ► adj. [attrib.] Economics denoting or relating to a policy designed to increase output and employment by changing the conditions under which goods and services are supplied, esp. by measures that reduce government involvement in the economy and allow the free market to operate.

-DERIVATIVES **supply-sider** n.

**support** [sə'pɔ:t] ► v. [trans.] **1** bear all or part of the weight of; hold up: *the dome was supported by a hundred white columns.*

► produce enough food and water for; be capable of sustaining: *the land had lost its capacity to support life.*

► be capable of fulfilling (a role) adequately: *tutors gain practical experience that helps them support their tutoring role.* ► endure; tolerate: *at work during the day I could support the grief.*

**2** give assistance to, esp. financially; enable to function or act: *the government gives \$2.5 billion a year to support the activities of the voluntary sector.*

► provide with a home and the necessities of life: *my main concern was to support my family.* ► give comfort and emotional help to: *I like to visit her to support her.*

► approve of and encourage: *the proposal was supported by many delegates.* ► suggest the truth of; corroborate: *the studies support our findings.* ► be actively interested in and concerned for the success of (a particular sports team). ► [as adj.] (**supporting**) (of an actor or a role) important in a play or film but subordinate to the leading parts. ► (of a pop or rock group or performer) function as a secondary act to (another) at a concert.

**3** Computing (of a computer or operating system) allow the use or operation of (a program, language, or device): *the new versions do not support the graphical user interface standard.*

► n. **1** a thing that bears the weight of something or keeps it upright: *the best support for a camera is a tripod.*

► the action or state of bearing the weight of something or someone or of being so supported: *she clutched the sideboard for support.*

**2** material assistance: *he urged that military support be sent to protect humanitarian convoys* | [as adj.] *support staff.*

► comfort and emotional help offered to someone in distress: *she's been through a bad time and needs our support.* ► approval and encouragement: *the policies of reform enjoy widespread support.* ► a secondary act at a pop or rock concert. ► technical help given to the user of a computer or other product.

-PHRASES **in support of** giving assistance to: *air operations in support of the land forces.* ► showing approval of: *the paper printed many letters in support of the government.* ► attempting to promote or obtain: *a strike in support of an 8.5% pay raise.*

-DERIVATIVES **support-a-bil-ity** [sə'pɔ:tə'biliti] n.; **support-a-ble** adj.

-ORIGIN Middle English (originally in the sense 'tolerate, put up with'): from Old French *supporter*, from Latin *supportare*, from *sub-* 'from below' + *portare* 'carry.'

**supporter** [sə'pɔ:tə] ► n. **1** a person who approves of and encourages someone or something (typically a public figure, a movement or party, or a policy): *Reagan supporters* | *supporters of the boycott.*

► a person who is actively interested in and wishes success for a particular sports team.

**2** Heraldry a representation of an animal or other figure, typically one of a pair, holding up or standing beside an escutcheon.

**3** (in full **athletic supporter**) another term for **JOCK-STRAP**.

**supportive** [sə'pɔ:tiv] ► adj. providing encouragement or emotional help: *the staff are extremely supportive of each other.*

-DERIVATIVES **supportive-ly** adv.; **supportive-ness** n.

**supportive therapy** ► n. treatment designed to improve, reinforce, or sustain a patient's physiological

available to support one another emotionally, socially, and sometimes financially: *a support group for gay teens.* **2** a system implemented with the aim of providing support for an enterprise, product line, or project: *Unix system support group.*

**sup-pose** [sə'pəʊz] ► v. **1** [with clause] assume that something is the case on the basis of evidence or probability but without proof or certain knowledge: *I suppose I got there about half past eleven.*

► used to make a reluctant or hesitant admission: *I'm quite a good actress, I suppose.* ► used to introduce a hypothesis and trace or ask about what follows from it: *suppose he had been murdered—what then?* ► [in imperative] used to introduce a suggestion: *suppose we leave this to the police.* ► (of a theory or argument) assume or require that something is the case as a precondition: *the procedure supposes that a will has already been proved* | [trans.] *the theory supposes a predisposition to interpret utterances.* ► [trans.] believe to exist or to possess a specified characteristic: *he supposed the girl to be about twelve* | [as adj.] (**supposed**) *people admire their supposed industriousness.*

**2** (be supposed to do something) be required to do something because of the position one is in or an agreement one has made: *I'm supposed to be meeting someone at the airport.*

► [with negative] be forbidden to do something: *I shouldn't have been in the kitchen—I'm not supposed to go in there.*

-PHRASES **I suppose so** used to express hesitant or reluctant agreement.

-DERIVATIVES **suppos-a-ble** adj.

-ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *supposer*, from Latin *supponere* (from *sub-* 'from below' + *ponere* 'to place'), but influenced by Latin *suppositus* 'set under' and Old French *poser* 'to place.'

**supposed-ly** [sə'pəʊzɪdli] ► adv. [sentence adverb] according to what is generally assumed or believed (often used to indicate that the speaker doubts the truth of the statement): *the ads are aimed at women, supposedly because they do the shopping.*

**supposition** [sə'pəʊzɪʃən] ► n. an uncertain belief: *they were working on the supposition that his death was murder* | *their outrage was based on suspicion and hearsay.*

-DERIVATIVES **suppositional** [-ʃənəl] adj.

-ORIGIN late Middle English (as a term in scholastic logic): from Old French, or from late Latin *suppositio* (n-) (translating Greek *hypothesis* 'hypothesis'), from the verb *supponere* (see **SUPPOSE**).

**suppositious** [sə'pəʊzɪʃəs] ► adj. **1** based on assumption rather than fact: *most of the evidence is purely suppositious.*

**2** supposititious.

-DERIVATIVES **suppositiously** adv.; **suppositiousness** n.

-ORIGIN early 17th cent. (in the sense 'supposititious'): partly a contraction of **SUPPOSITIOUS**, reinforced by **SUPPOSITION**.

**supposititious** [sə'pəʊzɪʃɪʊs] ► adj. **1** substituted for the real thing; not genuine: *the supposititious heir to the throne.*

**2** supposititious.

-DERIVATIVES **supposititious-ly** adv.; **supposititiousness** n.

-ORIGIN early 17th cent. (in the sense 'supposititious'): from Latin *suppositivus* (from *supponere* 'to substitute') + **-OUS**.

**suppositi-ory** [sə'pəʊzɪtɔ:ri] ► n. (pl. **-ies**) a solid medical preparation in a roughly conical or cylindrical shape, designed to be inserted into the rectum or vagina to dissolve.

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from medieval Latin *suppositorium*, neuter (used as a noun) of late Latin *suppositorius* 'placed underneath.'

**suppress** [sə'pres] ► v. [trans.] forcibly put an end to: *the uprising was savagely suppressed.*

► prevent the development, action, or expression of (a feeling, impulse, idea, etc.); restrain: *she could not suppress a rising panic.* ► prevent the dissemination of (information): *the report had been suppressed.* ► prevent or inhibit (a process or reaction): *use of the drug suppressed the immune response.* ► partly or wholly eliminate (electrical interference). ► Psychoanalysis consciously inhibit (an unpleasant idea or memory) to avoid considering it.

-DERIVATIVES **suppress-ible** adj.; **suppress-ive** [-sɪv] adj.; **suppres-sor** [-sɔ:r] n.

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *supprimere* 'pressed down,' from the verb *supprimere*, from *sub-* 'down' + *primere* 'to press.'

**suppres-sant** [sə'presənt] ► n. a drug or other substance that acts to suppress or restrain something: *an*

*the Communist Party's forcible suppression of the opposition in 1948.*

► Medicine stoppage or reduction of a discharge or secretion. ► Biology the absence or nondevelopment of a part or organ that is normally present. ► Genetics the canceling of the effect of one mutation by a second mutation. ► Psychology the restraint or repression of an idea, activity, or reaction by something more powerful. ► Psychoanalysis the conscious inhibition of unacceptable memories, impulses, or desires. ► prevention of electrical interference.

**suppres-sor cell** [sə'presə] (also **suppressor T cell**) ► n. Physiology a lymphocyte that can suppress antibody production by other lymphoid cells.

**sup-pu-rate** [sə'pju:rət] ► v. [intrans.] undergo the formation of pus; fester.

-DERIVATIVES **suppu-ra-tion** [sə'pju:rəʃən] n.; **suppu-ra-tive** [-rətɪv] adj.

-ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'cause to form pus'): based on Latin *sub-* 'below' + *pus*, *pur-* 'pus.'

**supr.** ► abbr. ► superior. ► supreme.

**supra** [sə'pɔ:rə] ► adv. formal used in academic or legal texts to refer to someone or something mentioned above or earlier: *the recent work by McAuslan and others (supra).*

-ORIGIN Latin.

**supra-** ► prefix **1** beyond; transcending: *supranational.* **2** above: *suprarenal.*

-ORIGIN from Latin *supra* 'above, beyond, before in time.'

**supra-chias-matic nucleus** [sə'pɔ:rə,kɪəz'mætɪk] ► n. Anatomy each of a pair of small nuclei in the hypothalamus of the brain, above the optic chiasma, thought to be concerned with the regulation of physiological circadian rhythms.

**supra-mole-cu-lar** [sə'pɔ:rəmə'lekyələ] ► adj. Biochemistry relating to or denoting structures composed of several or many molecules.

**supra-national** [sə'pɔ:rənəʃənəl] ► adj. having power or influence that transcends national boundaries or governments: *supranational law.*

-DERIVATIVES **supra-nationalism** [-ɪzəm] n.; **supra-national-ist** [-nəʃənəlɪst] n.

**supra-optic** [sə'pɔ:rə'ɔptɪk] ► adj. Anatomy situated above the optic chiasma.

**supra-or-bit-al** [sə'pɔ:rə'ɔrbɪl] ► adj. Anatomy situated above the orbit of the eye.

**supra-re-nal** [sə'pɔ:rə'renəl] ► adj. Anatomy another term for **ADRENAL**.

**supra-seg-mental** [sə'pɔ:rə,seg'mentl] ► Linguistics ► adj. denoting a feature of an utterance other than the consonantal and vocalic components, e.g., (in English) stress and intonation.

► n. such a feature.

**supremacist** [sə'preməsɪst; sɔ:]- ► n. an advocate of the supremacy of a particular group, esp. one determined by race or sex: *a white supremacist.*

► adj. relating to or advocating such supremacy.

-DERIVATIVES **supremacism** [-ɪzəm] n.

**supremacy** [sə'preməsɪ; sɔ:]- ► n. the state or condition of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status: *the supremacy of the king.*

**suprematism** [sə'premə'ɪzəm; sɔ:]- ► n. the Russian abstract art movement developed by Kazimir Malevich c.1915, characterized by simple geometric shapes and associated with ideas of spiritual purity.

-DERIVATIVES **suprematist** n.

**supreme** [sə'pre:m; sɔ:]- ► adj. (of authority or an office, or someone holding it) superior to all others: *a unified force with a supreme commander.*

► strongest, most important, or most powerful: *on the racetrack he reigned supreme.* ► very great or intense; extreme: *he was nursing himself for a supreme effort.* ► (of a penalty or sacrifice) involving death: *our comrades who made the supreme sacrifice.* ► [post-positive] used to indicate that someone or something is very good at or well known for a specified activity: *here was the gift supreme.*

► n. (also **suprême**) a rich cream sauce.

► a dish served in such a sauce: *chicken supreme.*

[ORIGIN: from French *suprême*.]

-PHRASES **the Supreme Being** a name for God.

-DERIVATIVES **supreme-ly** adv.

-ORIGIN late 15th cent. (in the sense 'highest'): from Latin *supremus*, superlative of *superus* 'that is above,' from *super* 'above.'

**Supreme Court** ► n. the highest judicial court in most US states.

► (in full **US Supreme Court**) the highest federal court in the US, consisting of nine justices and taking judicial precedence over all other courts in the