

# The Concise Oxford English Dictionary

TENTH EDITION, REVISED

*Edited by*  
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Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

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Oxford New York

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Published in the United States  
by Oxford University Press Inc., New York

© Oxford University Press 1934, 1951, 1964, 1976, 1982, 1990, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2002

Database right Oxford University Press (makers)

First edition 1911

Second edition (revised) 1929

Third edition (with addenda) 1934

Fourth edition 1951

Fifth edition 1964

Sixth edition 1976

Seventh edition 1982

Eighth edition 1990

Ninth edition 1995

Tenth edition 1999

Tenth (with addenda) edition 2001

Tenth (with addenda) edition reissued with new title and jacket 2002

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data  
Data available

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data  
Data available

ISBN 0-19-860572-2

ISBN 0-19-860636-2 (thumb index)

ISBN 0-19-860470-X (dictionary with CD-ROM)

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Typeset in Arial, Nimrod, and Minion  
by Interactive Sciences Ltd, Gloucester  
Printed in Great Britain by  
Clays Ltd, Bungay, Suffolk

work of fine gold, silver, or copper.  
 DERIVATIVES **filigreed** adj.  
 ORIGIN C17 (earlier as *filigreen*, *filigrane*): from Fr. *filigrane*, from Ital. *filigrana* (from L. *filum* 'thread' + *granum* 'seed').

**filling cabinet** ● n. a large piece of office furniture with deep drawers for storing files.

**fillings** ● pl. n. small particles rubbed off by a file.

**Filipino** /fɪl'pɪniə/ (also **Pilipino**) ● n. (Gen. **Filipino** /-niə/) (pl. **-os** or **-as**) 1 a native or national of the Philippines, or a person of Filipino descent. 2 the national language of the Philippines, a standardized form of Tagalog. ● adj. of or relating to the Philippines, the Filipinos, or their language.  
 ORIGIN Sp., from *las Islas Filipinas* 'the Philippine Islands'.

**fill** ● v. 1 make or become full. > block up (a hole, gap, etc.). > pervade with an emotion or feeling. > (of a sail) curve out tautly from its supports as the wind blows into it. 2 appoint a person to hold (a vacant post). > hold and perform the duties of (a position or role). 3 occupy (a period of time). 4 chiefly N. Amer. be supplied with the items described in (a prescription or order). 5 Poker complete (a hand) by drawing the necessary cards. ● n. 1 (one's good hand) by drawing the necessary cards. ● n. 1 (one's fill) as much as one wants or can bear > enough to fill something: *a fill of tobacco*. 2 material which fills a space, especially in building or engineering work. 3 (in popular music) a short interjected instrumental phrase.  
 PHRASES **fill someone's shoes** (or **boots**) informal take over someone's role and fulfil it satisfactorily.  
 PHRASAL VERBS **fill in** act as a substitute. **fill someone in** inform someone more fully of a matter. **fill something in** 1 Brit. add information to complete a form or document. 2 complete a drawing by adding colour or shade to the spaces within an outline. **fill out** put on weight. **fill something out** chiefly N. Amer. add information to complete a form or document. > give more details about something.  
 ORIGIN OE *fyllan* (v), *fyllu* (n.), of Gmc origin; rel. to **FULL**.

**fille de joie** /fi: də 'ʒwa:/ ● n. euphemistic a prostitute.  
 ORIGIN Fr., lit. 'girl of pleasure'.

**filler**¹ /'fɪlə/ ● n. 1 something used to fill a gap or cavity, or to increase bulk. > an item serving only to fill space or time in a newspaper, broadcast, or recording. > a word or sound filling a pause in an utterance or conversation (e.g. *er*). 2 a person or thing that fills a space or container: *a shelf-filler*.

**filler**² /'fɪlə/ ● n. (pl. same) a monetary unit of Hungary, equal to one hundredth of a forint.  
 ORIGIN from Hungarian *fillér*.

**filler cap** ● n. a cap closing the pipe leading to the petrol tank of a motor vehicle.

**fillet** ● n. 1 a fleshy boneless piece of meat from near the loins or the ribs of an animal. > (also **fillet steak**) a beef steak cut from the lower part of a sirloin. > a boned side of a fish. 2 a band or ribbon binding the hair. 3 Architecture a narrow flat band separating two mouldings. > a small band between the flutes of a column. 4 a roughly triangular strip of material which rounds off an interior angle between two surfaces. 5 a plain line impressed on the cover of a book. ● v. (**filleted**, **filleting**) remove the bones from (a fish). > cut (fish or meat) into fillets.  
 DERIVATIVES **filleter** n.  
 ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *fillet* 'thread', based on L. *filum* 'thread'.

**filling** ● n. 1 a quantity or piece of material that fills or is used to fill something. 2 N. Amer. another term for **WEFT**. ● adj. (of food) leaving one with a pleasantly satiated feeling.

**filling station** ● n. a petrol station.

**fillip** /'fɪlɪp/ ● n. 1 a stimulus or boost. 2 archaic a movement made by bending the last joint of the finger against the thumb and suddenly releasing it. ● v. (**fillipped**, **fillipping**) archaic propel (a small object) with a flick of the fingers.  
 ORIGIN ME: symbolic; cf. **FLICK**, **FLIP**.

**fillis** /'fɪlɪs/ ● n. Brit. loosely twisted string, used especially for tying up plants.

**filly** ● n. (pl. **-ies**) less than four years old. 2 humorous a lively girl or young woman.  
 ORIGIN ME: from ON *fylija*, of Gmc origin; rel. to **FOAL**.

**film** ● n. 1 a thin flexible strip of plastic or other material coated with light-sensitive emulsion for exposure in a camera. 2 material in the form of a very thin flexible sheet. > a thin layer covering a surface. 3 a story or event recorded by a camera as a series of moving images and shown in a cinema or on television. ● v. 1 make a film of; record on film. 2 become or appear to become covered with a thin film.  
 ORIGIN OE *filmen* 'membrane', of W. Gmc origin; rel. to **FEL**.

**film badge** ● n. a device containing photographic film which registers the wearer's exposure to radiation.

**filmic** ● adj. of or relating to films or cinematography.

**film noir** /fɪlm 'nwa:/, French film *nwaʁ*/ ● n. a style or genre of cinematographic film marked by a mood of pessimism, fatalism, and menace.  
 ORIGIN Fr., lit. 'black film'.

**filmography** ● n. (pl. **-ies**) a list of films by one director or actor, or on one subject.  
 ORIGIN 1950s: from **FILM** + **-GRAPHY**, on the pattern of *bibliography*.

**filmsetting** ● n. Printing the setting of material to be printed by projecting it on to photographic film from which the printing surface is prepared.  
 DERIVATIVES **filmset** v. **filmsetter** n.

**film star** ● n. a well-known film actor or actress.

**filmstrip** ● n. a series of transparencies in a strip for projection.

**filmy** ● adj. (**-ier**, **-iest**) 1 (especially of fabric) thin and translucent 2 covered with or as with a thin film.  
 DERIVATIVES **filmyly** adv. **filminess** n.

**fillo** /'fɪləʊ/ (also **phyllo**) ● n. a kind of flaky pastry stretched into very thin sheets, used especially in eastern Mediterranean cookery.  
 ORIGIN 1950s: from mod. Gk *phullos* 'leaf'.

**Filofax** /'fɪləʊfæks/ ● n. trademark a loose-leaf notebook for recording appointments, addresses, and notes.  
 ORIGIN 1980s: representing a colloq. pronunc. of *file of facts*.

**filopodium** /'fɪləʊ(p)'pəʊdiəm/ ● n. (pl. **filopodia**) Biology a long, slender, tapering pseudopodium.  
 DERIVATIVES **filopodial** adj.  
 ORIGIN C20: from L. *filium* 'thread' + **PODIUM**.

**filoselle** /'fɪləʊsɛl/ ● n. floss silk, or silk thread resembling this, used in embroidery.  
 ORIGIN C16: from Fr., from Ital. *filosello*.

**filovirus** /'fɪləʊvaɪrəs/ ● n. a filamentous RNA virus of a group which causes severe haemorrhagic fevers.

**fil's**¹ /fɪls/ ● n. (pl. same) a monetary unit of Iraq, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, and Yemen, equal to one hundredth of a riyal in Yemen and one thousandth of a dinar elsewhere.  
 ORIGIN from a colloq. pronunc. of Arab. *fals*, denoting a small copper coin.

**fil's**² /fɪls, French *fis*/ ● n. used after a surname to distinguish a son from a father of the same name.  
 ORIGIN Fr., 'son'.

**filter** ● n. 1 a porous device for removing impurities or solid particles from a liquid or gas passed through it. > a screen, plate, or layer which absorbs some of the light passing through it. > a device for suppressing electrical or sound waves of frequencies not required. 2 Brit. an arrangement whereby vehicles may turn left (or right) while other traffic waiting to go straight ahead or turn right (or left) is stopped by a red light. 3 Computing a piece of software that processes text, e.g. by removing unwanted spaces. ● v. 1 pass through a filter. 2 (often **filter in/out/through**) move gradually through something or in a specified direction. > (of information) gradually become known.  
 DERIVATIVES **filterable** (also **filtrable**) adj.  
 ORIGIN ME (denoting a piece of felt): from Fr. *filtrer*, from med. L. *filtrum* 'felt used as a filter', of W. Gmc origin and

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rel. to FELT'.

**filter bed** ● n. a tank or pond containing a layer of sand or gravel, used for filtering large quantities of liquid.

**filter-feeding** ● adj. Zoology (of an aquatic animal) feeding by filtering out plankton or nutrients suspended in the water.

- DERIVATIVES **filter-feeder** n.

**filter press** ● n. a device consisting of a series of cloth filters fixed to frames, used for the large-scale filtration of liquid under pressure.

**filter tip** ● n. a filter attached to a cigarette for removing impurities from the inhaled smoke.

- DERIVATIVES **filter-tipped** adj.

**filth** ● n. 1 disgusting dirt. > obscene and offensive language or printed material. > corrupt behaviour: 2 [as pl. n. the filth] Brit. informal, derogatory the police.

- ORIGIN OE *fylth* 'rotting matter', also 'corruption, obscenity', of Gmc origin; rel. to FOUL.

**filthy** ● adj. (-ier, -iest) disgustingly dirty. > obscene and offensive. > Brit. informal (of weather) very unpleasant. > informal (of a mood) very disagreeable. ● adv. informal extremely: *filthy rich*.

- DERIVATIVES **filthily** adv. **filthiness** n.

**filtrable** ● adj. variant spelling of FILTERABLE.

**filtrate** /'fɪltreɪt/ ● n. a liquid which has passed through a filter. ● v. rare filter.

- DERIVATIVES **filtration** n.

- ORIGIN C17: from mod. L. *filtrat*, *filtrare* 'filter'.

**fimbria** /'fɪmbriə/ ● n. (pl. *fimbriae* /-ti:/) chiefly Anatomy a series of threads resembling a fringe. > a thread in such a structure, especially a finger-like projection at the end of a Fallopian tube.

- DERIVATIVES **fimbrial** adj.

- ORIGIN C18 (earlier C15) as *fimbriated*: from late L., 'border, fringe'.

**fimbriated** /'fɪmbriətɪd/ (also **fimbriate**) ● adj. 1 Biology having a fringe of fimbriae. 2 Heraldry having a narrow border.

**fin** ● n. 1 a flattened appendage on the body of a fish or other aquatic animal, used for propelling, steering, and balancing. > an underwater swimmer's flipper. 2 a small flattened projecting surface or attachment on an aircraft, rocket, or motor car, for providing aerodynamic stability. 3 a flattened projection for increasing heat transfer from an object. ● v. (finned, finning) swim under water by means of flippers.

- DERIVATIVES **finless** adj. **finned** adj.

- ORIGIN OE *finn*, *fn*, of Gmc origin.

**finagle** /'fɪnɜːɡ(ə)/ ● v. informal obtain or act dishonestly or deviously.

- DERIVATIVES **finagler** n.

- ORIGIN 1920s (orig. US): from dial. *fainagive* 'cheat'.

**final** ● adj. 1 coming at the end of a series. > reached as the outcome of a process: *the final cost will run into six figures*. 2 allowing no further doubt or dispute. ● n. 1 the last game in a sports tournament or other competition, which will decide the overall winner. > (finals) a series of games constituting the final stage of a competition. 2 (finals) Brit. a series of examinations at the end of a degree course. > (final) N. Amer. an examination at the end of a term, school year, or particular class. 3 Music the principal note in a mode.

- DERIVATIVES **finality** n. **finally** adv.

- ORIGIN ME: from OFr., or from L. *finalis*, from *finis* 'end'.

**final cause** ● n. Philosophy the purpose of an action or the end towards which a thing naturally develops.

**final clause** ● n. Grammar a clause expressing purpose or intention (e.g. one introduced by *in order that*).

**final drive** ● n. the last part of the transmission system in a motor vehicle.

**finale** /'fɪnɑːli, -leɪ/ ● n. the last part of a piece of music, an entertainment, or a public event.

- ORIGIN C18: from Ital.

**finalism** ● n. the doctrine that natural processes, for example evolution, are directed towards some goal.

- DERIVATIVES **finalistic** adj.

**finalist** ● n. 1 a participant in the final or finals of a com-

petition. 2 a student taking finals.

**finalize** (also -ise) ● v. 1 complete (a transaction) after discussion of the terms. 2 produce or agree on a finished version of.

- DERIVATIVES **finalization** n.

**final solution** ● n. the Nazi policy (1941-5) of exterminating European Jews.

- ORIGIN translation of Ger. *Endlösung*.

**finance** /'faɪnəns, fr-, 'faɪnəns/ ● n. the management of large amounts of money especially by governments or large companies. > monetary support for an enterprise. > (finances) the monetary resources and affairs of a state, organization, or person. ● v. provide funding for.

- ORIGIN ME (orig. in the sense 'payment of a debt, ransom, etc.'): from OFr., from *finer* 'settle a debt', from *fin* (see FINE<sup>2</sup>).

**finance company** (also **finance house**) ● n. a company concerned primarily with providing money, e.g. for hire-purchase transactions.

**financial** /'faɪnənsj(ə), fr-/ ● adj. 1 of or relating to finance. 2 Austral./NZ informal possessing money.

- DERIVATIVES **financially** adv.

**financial year** ● n. Brit. a year as reckoned for taxing or accounting purposes (e.g. the British tax year, reckoned from 6 April).

**financier** /'faɪnənsiə, fr-/ ● n. a person engaged in managing the finances of governments or other large organizations.

- ORIGIN C17: from Fr., from *finance* (see FINANCE).

**finback** ● n. another term for FIN WHALE.

**finca** /'fɪŋkə/ ● n. (in Spanish-speaking countries) a country estate or ranch.

**finch** ● n. a seed-eating songbird of a large group including the chaffinch, goldfinch, linnet, etc., typically with a stout bill and colourful plumage. [Many species, especially in family Fringillidae.]

- ORIGIN OE *finc*, of W. Gmc origin.

**find** ● v. (past and past part. **found**) 1 discover by chance or deliberately. > (find something out or find out about something) discover information or a fact. > succeed in obtaining: *she also found the time to raise a family*. > (of hunters or hounds) discover a fox or other game. > (find someone out) detect someone in a crime or lie. 2 recognize or discover to be present: *vitamin B12 is found in dairy products*. > discover or perceive to be the case. > ascertain by research or calculation. > Law (of a court) officially declare to be the case. > (find against or for) Law (of a court) make a decision against (or in favour of); judge to be guilty (or innocent). 3 reach or arrive at by a natural or normal process: *water finds its own level*. > (find one's way) reach one's destination without knowing or having been told in advance how to get there. ● n. a discovery of something valuable or interesting, typically an archaeological one. > a person who is found to be useful or interesting.

- PHRASES **all found** Brit. dated (of an employee's wages) with board and lodging provided free. **find one's feet** stand up and become able to walk. > establish oneself in a particular field. **find it in one's heart to do** [usu. with neg.] allow or force oneself to do.

- DERIVATIVES **findable** adj.

- ORIGIN OE *findan*, of Gmc origin.

**finder** ● n. 1 a person that finds someone or something. 2 a small telescope attached to a large one to locate an object for observation. > a viewfinder.

- PHRASES **finders keepers (losers weepers)** informal whoever finds something is entitled to keep it.

**fin de siècle** /'fɪ də 'sjekl(ə)/ ● adj. relating to or characteristic of the end of a century, especially the 19th century.

- ORIGIN Fr., 'end of century'.

**finding** ● n. 1 a conclusion reached as a result of an inquiry, investigation, or trial. 2 (findings) N. Amer. small articles or tools used in making garments, shoes, or jewellery.

**fine** /'faɪn/ ● adj. 1 of very high quality. > satisfactory > in good health and feeling well. > (of speech or writing) sounding impressive but ultimately insincere: *fine words*.

CONSONANTS b but | d dog | f few | g get | h he | j yes | k cat | l leg | m man | n no | p pen | r red

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**fine**<sup>2</sup> /'faɪn/ ●  
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- ORIGIN ME:  
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**fine**<sup>3</sup> /'faɪn/ ●  
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- people'.
- popular** ● *adj.* **1** liked or admired by many or by a particular person or group. **2** intended for or suited to the taste or means of the general public. > (of a belief or attitude) widely held among the general public. **3** (of political activity) of or carried on by the people as a whole.  
- DERIVATIVES **popularism** *n.* **popularity** *n.* **popularly** *adv.*  
- ORIGIN ME: from L. *popularis*, from *populus* 'people'.
- popular etymology** ● *n.* another term for **FOLK ETYMOLOGY**.
- popular front** ● *n.* a political party or coalition representing left-wing elements.
- popularize** (also **-ise**) ● *v.* make popular. > make (something scientific or academic) accessible or interesting to the general public.  
- DERIVATIVES **popularization** *n.* **popularizer** *n.*
- popular music** ● *n.* music appealing to the popular taste, including rock, pop, reggae, dance music, etc.
- populate** ● *v.* form the population of (a place). > cause people to settle in (a place).  
- ORIGIN C16: from med. L. *populat*, *populare* 'supply with people'.
- population** ● *n.* **1** all the inhabitants of a particular place. > a particular group within this. > the action of populating an area. **2** Biology a community of interbreeding organisms. **3** Statistics a finite or infinite collection of items under consideration.
- populist** ● *n.* **1** a member or adherent of a political party seeking to represent the interests of ordinary people. **2** a person who supports or seeks to appeal to the interests of ordinary people. ● *adj.* of or relating to a populist.  
- DERIVATIVES **populism** *n.* **populistic** *adj.*  
- ORIGIN C19: from L. *populus* 'people' + **-ist**.
- populous** ● *adj.* having a large population.  
- DERIVATIVES **populously** *adv.* **populousness** *n.*  
- ORIGIN ME: from late L. *populosus*, from *populus* 'people'.
- pop-up** ● *adj.* **1** (of a book or greetings card) containing folded pictures that rise up to form a three-dimensional scene or figure when opened. **2** (of an electric toaster) operating so as to push up a piece of toast when it is ready. **3** Computing (of a menu or other utility) able to be superimposed on the screen being worked on and suppressed rapidly. ● *n.* Baseball see **POP**<sup>1</sup> (sense 3).
- porbeagle** /'pɔːbɪg(ə)l/ ● *n.* a large active shark found chiefly in the open seas of the North Atlantic and in the Mediterranean. [*Lamna nasus*.]  
- ORIGIN C18: from Cornish dial., perh. from Cornish *porth* 'harbour' + *bugel* 'shepherd'.
- porcelain** /'pɔːs(ə)lɪn/ ● *n.* a white vitrified translucent ceramic; china. See also **HARD-PASTE**, **SOFT-PASTE**. > articles made of this.  
- DERIVATIVES **porcellanous** /'pɔːsɛlənəs/ *adj.*  
- ORIGIN C16: from Fr. *porcelaine*, from Ital. *porcellana* 'cowrie shell', hence 'chinaware'.
- porcelain clay** ● *n.* another term for **KAOLIN**.
- porch** ● *n.* **1** a covered shelter projecting in front of the entrance of a building. **2** *N. Amer.* a veranda.  
- DERIVATIVES **porched** *adj.* **porchless** *adj.*  
- ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *porche*, from L. *porticus* 'colonnade', from *porta* 'passage'.
- porcine** /'pɔːsɪn/ ● *adj.* of or resembling a pig or pigs.  
- ORIGIN C17: from Fr. *porcin* or L. *porcinus*, from *porcus* 'pig'.
- porcini** /pɔː'tʃɪni/ ● *pl. n.* chiefly *N. Amer.* ceps.  
- ORIGIN Ital., lit. 'little pigs'.
- porcupine** ● *n.* a large rodent with defensive spines or quills on the body and tail. [Families Hystricidae (Old World) and Erethizontidae (New World).]  
- ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *porc espin*, from Provençal *porc espi(n)*, from L. *porcus* 'pig' + *spina* 'thorn'.
- porcupine fish** ● *n.* a spiny tropical marine fish which inflates itself when threatened. [*Diodon hystrix* and other species.]
- pore**<sup>1</sup> ● *n.* a minute opening in the skin or other surface through which gases, liquids, or microscopic particles may pass.  
- ORIGIN ME: from OFr., via L. from Gk *poros* 'passage, pore'.
- pore**<sup>2</sup> ● *v.* **1** (**pore over/through**) be absorbed in the reading or study of. **2** (**pore on/over**) archaic ponder.  
- ORIGIN ME: perh. rel. to **PEER**<sup>1</sup>.
- porgy** /'pɔːgi/ ● *n.* (pl. **-ies**) a sea bream chiefly found in North American Atlantic coastal waters. [*Calamus* and other genera: many species.]  
- ORIGIN C17: alt. of Sp. and Port. *pargo*.
- Porifera** /pə'rɪf(ə)rə/ ● *pl. n.* Zoology a phylum of aquatic invertebrates that comprises the sponges.  
- DERIVATIVES **poriferan** *adj.* & *n.*  
- ORIGIN mod. L., from L. *porus* 'pore' + *-fer* 'bearing'.
- pork** ● *n.* **1** the flesh of a pig used as food, especially when uncured. **2** short for **PORK BARREL**.  
- ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *porc*, from L. *porcus* 'pig'.
- pork barrel** ● *n.* *Amer. informal* the use of government funds for projects designed to win votes.  
- DERIVATIVES **pork-barrelling** *n.*  
- ORIGIN from the use of such a barrel by farmers, to keep a reserve supply of meat.
- porker** ● *n.* **1** a young pig raised and fattened for food. **2** *informal, derogatory* a fat person.
- porkling** ● *n.* a young or small pig.
- pork pie** ● *n.* a raised pie made with minced, cooked pork, eaten cold.
- pork-pie hat** ● *n.* a hat with a flat crown and a brim turned up all round.
- pork scratchings** ● *pl. n.* *Brit.* crisp pieces of pork fat left after rendering lard, eaten as a snack.
- porky**<sup>1</sup> ● *adj.* (**-ler, -lest**) **1** *informal* fleshy or fat. **2** of or resembling pork. ● *n.* (pl. **-ies**) (also **porky-pie**) *Brit.* rhyming slang a lie.
- porky**<sup>2</sup> ● *n.* (pl. **-ies**) *US informal* a porcupine.
- porn** (also **porno**) *informal* ● *n.* pornography. ● *adj.* pornographic.
- pornography** ● *n.* printed or visual material intended to stimulate sexual excitement.  
- DERIVATIVES **pornographer** *n.* **pornographic** *adj.* **pornographically** *adv.*  
- ORIGIN C19: from Gk *pornographos* 'writing about prostitutes'.
- porous** ● *adj.* (of a rock or other material) having minute interstices through which liquid or air may pass.  
- DERIVATIVES **porosity** *n.* **porousness** *n.*  
- ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *poroux*, based on L. *porus* 'pore'.
- porphyria** /'pɔːfɪrɪə/ ● *n.* Medicine a rare hereditary disorder of haemoglobin metabolism causing mental disturbance, extreme sensitivity to light, and excretion of dark pigments in the urine.  
- ORIGIN 1920s: mod. L., from **PORPHYRIN**.
- porphyrin** /'pɔːfɪrɪn/ ● *n.* Biochemistry a pigment (e.g. haem or chlorophyll) whose molecule contains a flat ring of four linked heterocyclic groups.  
- ORIGIN C20: from Gk *porphura* 'purple' + **-in**<sup>1</sup>.
- porphyritic** /'pɔːfɪrɪtɪk/ ● *adj.* Geology relating to or denoting a rock texture containing distinct crystals or crystalline particles embedded in a compact groundmass.
- porphyry** /'pɔːfɪrɪ/ ● *n.* (pl. **-ies**) a hard igneous rock containing crystals of feldspar in a fine-grained, typically reddish groundmass.  
- ORIGIN ME: via med. L. from Gk *porphurītēs*, from *porphura* 'purple'.
- porpoise** /'pɔːpəs, -pɔɪs/ ● *n.* a small toothed whale with a low triangular dorsal fin and a blunt rounded snout. [*Phocoena phocoena* (**harbour porpoise**) and other species, family Phocoenidae.]  
- ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *porpois*, based on L. *porcus* 'pig' + *piscis* 'fish'.
- porridge** ● *n.* **1** a dish consisting of oatmeal or another cereal boiled with water or milk. **2** *Brit. informal* time spent in prison.  
- DERIVATIVES **porridgy** *adj.*  
- ORIGIN C16 (denoting soup thickened with barley): alt. of **POTTAGE**.
- porringer** /'pɔːrɪn(d)ʒə/ ● *n.* historical a small bowl, often with a handle, used for soup or similar dishes.

CONSONANTS b but | d dog | f few | g get | h he | j yes | k cat | l leg | m man | n no | p pen | r red

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