
The New Oxford American Dictionary

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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 **Omani** |'ɔ:məni| adj. & n.
- Oman, Gulf of** an inlet of the Arabian Sea, connected by the Strait of Hormuz to the Persian Gulf.
- Omar I** |'ɔ:mər| (c.581-644), Muslim caliph 634-44. He conquered Syria, Palestine, and Egypt.
- Omar Khayyām** |ki'fām;-'æm| (died 1123), Persian poet, mathematician, and astronomer. His *rubāiyyāt* (quatrains), found in *The Rubāiyyāt of Omar Khayyām* (translation published 1859), are meditations on the mysteries of existence and celebrations of worldly pleasures.
- omasum** |'ɔ:məsəm| n. (pl. **omasa** [-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** |'ɔ: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.
- ombéré** |'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** |'æmbər'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** |'æmbədʒ.pərsən;-'bʊdʒz-| n. a person acting as an ombudsman.
- Omdurman** |'æmdər'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** |'ɔ:məgə; 'ɔ: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 *ō mega* '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** |'æm(ə)lit| (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** |'ɔ:mən| 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** |'ɔ:mentəm| n. (pl. **omenta** [-tə]) Anatomy a fold of peritoneum connecting the stomach with other abdominal organs.
- DERIVATIVES **omental** |'ɔ:mentl| adj.
- ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin.
- omer** |'ɔ:mər; 'ɔ:mer| 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; 'ɔ:m-| 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** |'ɔ: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** |'ɔ:mɪsɪv| adj.
- ORIGIN late Middle English: from late Latin *omissio* (n-), from the verb *omitere* (see **OMIT**).
- omit** |'ɔ:mit| 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** |'ɔ:mɪsəbəl| adj.
- ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *omitere*, from *ob-* 'down' + *mittere* 'let go.'
- ommatidium** |'æmə'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** |'ɔ:mætə'fɔ:| 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** |'æmnə'bʊs| 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** |'æmni,dɪ'rekʃənəl| adj. Telecommunications receiving signals from or transmitting in all directions.
- omnifarious** |'æmnə'ferəs| adj. formal comprising or relating to all sorts or varieties.
- DERIVATIVES **omnifariose** adv.; **omnifariousness** n.
- ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from late Latin *omnifarius* + **-OUS**; compare with **MULTIFARIOUS**.
- omnipotent** |'æm'nɪpə'tɒnt| 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 *omnipotent-* 'all-powerful.'
- omnipresent** |'æmnə'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** |'æmni,ræŋ| n. a navigation system in which short-range omnidirectional VHF transmitters serve as radio beacons.
- omniscient** |'æm'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'wæl-
lɪtɪ| n.
- omnium-gath'erum** |,æmnəm ɡæ'thɔ:rəm| 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** |'æmnə,vɔ:r| n. an animal or person that eats food of both plant and animal origin.
- ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from French, from Latin *omnivorus* 'omnivorous.'
- omnivorous** |'æmnə'vɔ: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** |'ɔ:məfəj| (also **omophagia**) n. the eating of raw food, esp. raw meat.
- DERIVATIVES **omophagic** |,ɔ:mə'fæjɪk| adj.; **omophagist** |-'jɪst| n.; **omophagous** |-'gɔ:s| adj.
- ORIGIN early 18th cent.: from Greek *ōmophagia*, from *ōmos* 'raw' + *-phagia* (from *phagein* 'eat').
- Omotic** |'ɔ:mə'tɪk| 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** |'æmfələs| n. (pl. **omphaloi** |-'lɔɪ|) 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** |ɔmsk| a city in south central Russia, on the Irtysh River; pop. 1,159,000.
- ON¹** abbr. Ontario (in official postal use).
- ON²** abbr. Old Norse.
- on** |än; 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 booted 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*

