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# Oxford English Reference Dictionary

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**Oxford English**

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- 6 The Britis
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- 10 Kings and  
Kingdom
- 11 Prime Mir
- 12 The Beau

the outside world.  
 -ISM])  
 OF AUTOMOBILE]  
 vowel] **1** self (*autism*).  
 spontaneous (*auto-*  
 from or after Gk *auto-*  
*autobahnen* /-nən/) a  
 motor car + *Bahn* path,  
 a personal account of  
 process or literary form.  
 /-baɪə'græfɪk/ *adj.*  
 dv.  
 MOBILE + CAVALCADE]  
**1** (esp. of an Eastern  
 bishop, church, etc.)  
 head])  
 s or **autochthones**  
 own inhabitants of a  
*adj.* **autochthonic**  
 (as *AUTO-*, *khthōn*, -*onos*  
 nous, native. **2 a** of  
 deposit) formed in its  
 for chemical reactions  
 er using high-pressure  
 ce government by one  
**3** an autocratic country  
**2** a dictatorial person.  
**ly** *adv.* [F *autocrate* f. Gk  
 country or on unmade  
 seen by the audience,  
 performer as an aid to  
 /,ɔ:təʊz-/ **1** a sentence  
 the execution of such a  
 = act of the faith]  
 erson. □ **autodidactic**  
 ic]  
 Also **auto-eroticism**  
 enerated by stimulating  
 /-r'ɒtɪk/ *adj.*  
 focusing a camera etc.  
 tilization in plants.  
 os marriage]  
 aced. □ **autogenous**  
 ing the edges together,  
 (pl. -*os*) a form of aircraft  
 propeller. The autogyro  
 ings are not powered but  
 pelled by a conventional  
 ted and named by the  
 ine flew in 1923. [Sp. (as  
 tissue from one point to  
 signature, esp. that of a  
 ot in an author's own  
 author. ● *vt.* **1** sign (a  
 a letter etc.) by hand. [F  
 on neut. of *autographos* (as  
 with one's own hand. **2** the

facsimile reproduction of writing or illustration. □ **autographic** /,ɔ:tə'græfɪk/ *adj.*  
**autogyro** var. of *AUTOGIRO*.  
**autoharp** /'ɔ:tə,hɑ:p/ *n.* a kind of zither with a mechanical device to allow the playing of chords.  
**autoimmune** /,ɔ:təʊ'mju:n/ *adj. Med.* (of a disease) caused by antibodies or immune lymphocytes produced against substances naturally present in the body. □ **autoimmunity** *n.*  
**autointoxication** /,ɔ:təʊm,tɒksɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n. Med.* poisoning by a toxin formed within the body itself.  
**autolysis** /,ɔ:təʊ'lɪsɪs/ *n.* the destruction of cells by their own enzymes. □ **autolytic** /,ɔ:təʊ'lɪtɪk/ *adj.* [G *Autolyse* (as *AUTO-*, *-LYSIS*)]  
**automat** /'ɔ:tə,mæt/ *n. US* **1** a slot-machine that dispenses goods. **2** a cafeteria containing slot-machines dispensing food and drink. [G f. F *automate*, formed as *AUTOMATON*]  
**automate** /'ɔ:tə,mɛɪt/ *vt.* convert to or operate by automation (*the ticket office has been automated*). [back-form. f. *AUTOMATION*]  
**automatic** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪk/ *adj. & n.* ● *adj.* **1** (of a machine, device, etc., or its function) working by itself, without direct human intervention. **2 a** done spontaneously, without conscious thought or intention (*an automatic reaction*). **b** necessary and inevitable (*an automatic penalty*). **3 Psychol.** performed unconsciously or subconsciously. **4** (of a firearm) that continues firing until the ammunition is exhausted or the pressure on the trigger is released. **5** (of a motor vehicle or its transmission) using gears that change automatically according to speed and acceleration. ● *n.* **1** an automatic device, esp. a gun or transmission. **2 colloq.** a vehicle with automatic transmission. □ **automatic pilot** a device for keeping an aircraft on a set course. □ **automatically** *adv.* **automaticity** /,ɔ:təmə'tɪsɪti/ *n.* [formed as *AUTOMATON* + *-IC*]  
**automation** /,ɔ:tə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *n.* **1** the use of automatic equipment to save mental and manual labour. **2** the automatic control of the manufacture of a product through its successive stages. [irreg. f. *AUTOMATIC* + *-ATION*]  
**automatism** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪz(ə)m/ *n.* **1 Psychol.** the performance of actions unconsciously or subconsciously; such action. **2** involuntary action. **3** unthinking routine. [F *automatisme* f. *automate* *AUTOMATON*]  
**automatize** /,ɔ:tə'mə,təɪz/ *vt.* (also **-ise**) **1** make (a process etc.) automatic. **2** subject (a business, enterprise, etc.) to automation, automate. □ **automatization** /,ɔ:tə'mətəɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n.* [*AUTOMATIC* + *-IZE*]  
**automaton** /,ɔ:tə'mət(ə)n/ *n.* (pl. **automata** /-tə/ or **automatons**) **1** a mechanism with concealed motive power. **2** a person who behaves mechanically, like an automaton. [L f. Gk, neut. of *automatos* acting of itself: see *AUTO-*]  
**automobile** /'ɔ:təmə,bɪ:l/ *n.* *US* a motor car. [F (as *AUTO-*, *MOBILE*)]  
**automotive** /,ɔ:tə'məʊtv/ *adj.* concerned with motor vehicles.  
**autonomic** /,ɔ:tə'nɒmɪk/ *adj.* esp. *Physiol.* functioning involuntarily. □ **autonomic nervous system** see *NERVOUS SYSTEM*. [*AUTONOMY* + *-IC*]  
**autonomous** /,ɔ:tə'nɒməs/ *adj.* **1** having self-government. **2** acting independently or having the freedom to do so. □ **autonomously** *adv.* [Gk *autonomos* (as *AUTONOMY*)]  
**autonomy** /,ɔ:tə'nɒmi/ *n.* (pl. **-ies**) **1** the right of self-government. **2** personal freedom. **3** freedom of the will. **4** a self-governing community. □ **autonomist** *n.* [Gk *autonomia* f. *autos* self + *nomos* law]  
**autopilot** /'ɔ:təʊ,pɑɪlət/ *n.* an automatic pilot. [abbr.]  
**autopista** /'ɔ:təʊ,pɪstə/ *n.* a Spanish motorway. [Sp. (as *AUTOMOBILE*, *pista* track)]  
**autopsy** /'ɔ:təʊpsɪ, ɔ:'tɒpsɪ/ *n.* (pl. **-ies**) **1** a post-mortem examination. **2** any critical analysis. **3** a personal inspection. [F *autopsie* or mod.L *autopsia* f. Gk f. *autoptēs* eye-witness]  
**autoradiograph** /,ɔ:tə'reɪdɪə,grɑ:f/ *n.* a photograph of an object, produced by radiation from radioactive material in the object. □ **autoradiographic** /-,reɪdɪə'græfɪk/ *adj.* **autoradiography** /-,reɪdɪ'ɒgræfɪ/ *n.*  
**autoroute** /'ɔ:təʊ,ru:t/ *n.* a French motorway. [F (as *AUTOMOBILE*, *ROUTE*)]  
**autostrada** /'ɔ:təʊ,streɪdɑ/ *n.* (pl. **autostradas** or **autostrade** /-dɪ/) an Italian motorway. [It. (as *AUTOMOBILE*, *strada* road)]  
**auto-suggestion** /,ɔ:təʊsə'dʒestʃən/ *n.* suggestion to oneself; the hypnotic or subconscious adoption of an idea originating within oneself.

**autotelic** /,ɔ:tə'telɪk/ *adj.* having or being a purpose in itself. [*AUTO-* + Gk *telos* end]  
**autotomy** /,ɔ:tə'tɒtəmi/ *n. Zool.* the casting off of a part of the body when threatened, e.g. the tail of a lizard.  
**autotoxin** /,ɔ:tə'tɒksɪn/ *n.* a poisonous substance originating within an organism. □ **autotoxic** *adj.*  
**autotrophic** /,ɔ:tə'trɒfɪk, -'trɒfɪk/ *adj. Biol.* able to form complex nutritional organic substances from simple inorganic substances such as carbon dioxide (cf. *HETEROTROPHIC*). [*AUTO-* + Gk *trophos* feeder]  
**autotype** /'ɔ:tə'taɪp/ *n.* **1** a facsimile. **2 a** a photographic printing process for monochrome reproduction. **b** a print made by this process.  
**autoxidation** /,ɔ:tɒksɪ'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *n. Chem.* oxidation which occurs spontaneously at ambient temperatures in the presence of oxygen.  
**autumn** /'ɔ:təm/ *n.* **1** the third season of the year, when crops and fruits are gathered and leaves fall, in the northern hemisphere from September to November and in the southern hemisphere from March to May. **2 Astron.** the period from the autumnal equinox to the winter solstice. **3** a time of maturity or incipient decay. □ **autumn crocus** the meadow saffron. [ME f. OF *autompne* f. L *autumnus*]  
**autumnal** /,ɔ:təm'n(ə)l/ *adj.* **1** of, characteristic of, or appropriate to autumn (*autumnal colours*). **2** occurring in autumn (*autumnal equinox*). **3** maturing or blooming in autumn. **4** past the prime of life. [L *autumnalis* (as *AUTUMN*, *-AL*)]  
**Auvergne** /əʊ'veɪn/ a region of south central France. It was a province of the Roman Empire, and takes its name from the Arverni, a Celtic tribe who lived there in Roman times. The region is mountainous and contains the extinct volcanic cones known as the Puy.  
**auxanometer** /,ɔ:ksə'nɒmɪtə(r)/ *n.* an instrument for measuring the linear growth of plants. [Gk *auxanō* increase + *-METER*]  
**auxiliary** /,ɔ:g'zɪljəri/ *adj. & n.* ● *adj.* **1** (of a person or thing) that gives help. **2** (of services or equipment) subsidiary, additional. ● *n.* (pl. **-ies**) **1** an auxiliary person or thing. **2** (in pl.) *Mil.* auxiliary troops. **3 Gram. an auxiliary verb. □ **auxiliary troops** *Mil.* foreign or allied troops in a belligerent nation's service. **auxiliary verb** *Gram.* one used in forming tenses, moods, and voices of other verbs. [L *auxiliarius* f. *auxilium* help]  
**auxin** /'ɔ:ksɪn/ *n.* any of a group of plant hormones that regulate growth. [G f. Gk *auxō* increase + *-IN*]  
**AV** *abbr.* **1** audiovisual (teaching aids etc.). **2** Authorized Version (of the Bible).  
**Av** var. of *Ab*<sup>1</sup>.  
**avadavat** /,ævədə'veɪt/ *n.* (also **amadavat** /,æmə-/) a small brightly coloured southern Asian waxbill of the genus *Amandava*, esp. the red *A. amandava*. [AHMADABAD (where such birds were sold)]  
**avail** /ə'veɪl/ *v. & n.* ● *v.* **1 tr.** help, benefit. **2 refl.** (foll. by *of*) profit by; take advantage of. **3 intr.** **a** provide help. **b** be of use, value, or profit. ● *n.* (usu. in *neg.* or *interrog.* phrases) use, profit (*to no avail*; *without avail*; *of what avail?*). [ME f. obs. *vail* (v.) f. OF *valoir* be worth f. L *valere*]  
**available** /ə'veɪləb(ə)l/ *adj.* (often foll. by *to, for*) **1** capable of being used; at one's disposal. **2** within one's reach. **3** (of a person) **a** free. **b** able to be contacted. □ **availably** *adv.* **availableness** *n.* **availability** /,ə'veɪlə'bɪləti/ *n.* [ME f. *AVAIL* + *-ABLE*]  
**avalanche** /'ævə,lɑ:nʃ/ *n. & v.* ● *n.* **1** a mass of snow and ice, tumbling rapidly down a mountain. **2** a sudden appearance or arrival of anything in large quantities (*faced with an avalanche of work*). ● *v.* **1 intr.** descend like an avalanche. **2 tr.** carry down like an avalanche. [F, alt. of dial. *lavanche* after *avaler* descend]  
**Avalon** /'ævə,lɒn/ **1** (in Arthurian legend) the place to which Arthur was conveyed after death. **2 Welsh Mythol.** the kingdom of the dead.  
**avant-garde** /,ævəŋ'gɑ:d/ *n. & adj.* ● *n.* pioneers or innovators esp. in art and literature. ● *adj.* (of art, ideas, etc.) new, progressive. □ **avant-gardism** *n.* **avant-gardist** *n.* [F, = vanguard]  
**Avar** /'ævɑ:(r)/ *n. & adj.* ● *n.* **1** a member of a people prominent in SE Europe in the 6th–9th centuries, having a kingdom that at one time extended from the Black Sea to the Adriatic. They were conquered by Charlemagne (791–9). **2** the Turkic language of these people. ● *adj.* of, relating to, or denoting the Avars. [Avar]  
**avarice** /'ævərɪs/ *n.* extreme greed for money or gain; cupidity. □ **avaricious** /,ævə'rɪʃəs/ *adj.* **avariciously** *adv.* **avariciousness** *n.* [ME f. OF f. L *avaritia* f. *avarus* greedy]  
**avast** /ə'vɑ:st/ *int. Naut.* stop, cease. [Du. *houd vast* hold fast]  
**avatar** /'ævɑ:tɑ:(r)/ *n.* **1 Hinduisim** the descent of a deity or released soul to earth in bodily form. **2** incarnation; manifestation. **3 a****