

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

(world of sports). 2 amusement; diversion; fun. 3 colloq. fair or generous person. 4 playing or laughingstock (was the sport of Fortune). • *v.* 1 *intr.* divert oneself; take part in a pastime. b frolic; gambol. 2 *tr.* wear, exhibit, or produce, esp. ostentatiously. *n.* in sport jestingly. make sport of make fun of; ridicule. sports car low-built fast car. sports coat (or jacket) man's jacket for informal wear. sport utility vehicle passenger vehicle with a light-truck chassis and four-wheel drive. • *no sport'er n.*

sport-ing /spɔ:rtɪŋ/ *adj.* 1 interested in sports (sporting man). 2 sportsmanlike; generous (sporting offer). 3 concerned about, active in, or involved in sports (sporting dog). *v.* sporting chance some possibility of success. • *no sport'ing-ly adv.*

sport-ive /spɔ:rtɪv/ *adj.* playful.

sports-man /spɔ:rtsmən/ *n.* (pl. -men; fem. sports-woman, pl. -women) 1 person who takes part in sports. 2 person who behaves fairly and generously. • *no sports'man-like adj.* sports'man-ly *adj.* sports'man-ship *n.*

sports-wear /spɔ:rtswɛə/ *n.* clothes worn for sports or for casual use.

sport-y /spɔ:rti/ *adj.* (sport-ier, sport-iest) colloq. 1 fond of sports. 2 rakish; showy. • *no sport'ily adv.* sport'-iness *n.*

spot /spɒt/ • *n.* 1 a small roundish part of the surface of a thing distinguished by color, texture, etc. b blemish; defect. 2 particular place; definite locality. 3 = SPOTLIGHT. 4 colloq. awkward or difficult situation (esp. in a tight, etc.) spot). • *v.* (spot-ted, spot-ting) 1 *tr.* a colloq. identify; recognize; catch sight of. b watch for and take note of (trains, talent, etc.). 2 *tr.* & *intr.* mark or become marked with spots. *v.* on the spot 1 at the scene of an action or event. 2 colloq. in a position such that response or action is required. • *no spot'ter n.*

spot-less /spɒtlɪs/ *adj.* immaculate; absolutely clean or pure. • *no spot'lessly adv.* spot'less-ness *n.*

spot-light /spɒtlaɪt/ • *n.* 1 beam of light directed on a small area. 2 lamp projecting this. 3 full attention or publicity. • *v.* *tr.* (past and past part. -light-ed or -lit) 1 direct a spotlight on. 2 draw attention to.

spot-ty /spɒtɪ/ *adj.* (spot-tier, spot-tiest) 1 marked with spots. 2 patchy; irregular. • *no spot'tily adv.* spot'ti-ness *n.*

spouse /spəʊs, spəʊz/ *n.* husband or wife.

spout /spəʊt/ • *n.* 1 projecting tube or lip through which a liquid, etc., is poured from a teapot, kettle, pitcher, etc., or issues from a fountain, pump, etc. 2 jet or column of liquid, grain, etc. • *v.* 1 discharge or issue forcibly in a jet. 2 utter (verses, etc.) or speak in a declamatory manner; speechify. • *no spout'er n.* spout'less *adj.*

sprain /sprɛɪn/ • *v.* *tr.* wrench (an ankle, wrist, etc.) so as to cause pain and swelling. • *n.* such a wrench.

sprang *past* of SPRING.

sprat /spræt/ *n.* small European herring-like fish, much used as food.

srawl /sprawl/ • *v.* 1 *intr.* sit or lie or fall with limbs flung out or in an ungainly way. b *tr.* spread (one's limbs) in this way. 2 *intr.* (of

handwriting, a plant, a town, etc.) be of irregular or sprawling form. • *n.* sprawling movement, position, or mass. • *no sprawl'ing-ly adv.*

spray /sprɛɪ/ • *n.* 1 water or other liquid flying in small drops. 2 device for creating this. • *v.* *tr.* (also *absol.*) 1 throw (liquid) in the form of spray. 2 sprinkle (an object) with small drops or particles. *n.* sprayer gunlike device for spraying paint, etc. • *no spray'a-ble adj.* spray'er *n.*

spray² /sprɛɪ/ *n.* sprig of flowers or leaves.

spread /spred/ • *v.* (past and past part. spread) 1 *tr.* a open or extend the surface of. b cause to cover a larger surface. c display to the eye or the mind. 2 *intr.* have a wide or increasing extent (spreading trees). 3 *intr.* & *tr.* become or make widely known, felt, etc. (rumors are spreading). 4 *tr.* lay (a table). • *n.* 1 act or an instance of spreading. 2 extent of spreading. 3 diffusion (spread of learning). 4 increased bodily girth (middle-aged spread). 5 difference between two rates, prices, scores, etc. 6 colloq. elaborate meal. 7 food for spreading on bread, etc. 8 bed-spread. 9 printed matter spread across more than one column. 10 ranch or farm with extensive land. *v.* spread eagle in the shape of an eagle with legs and wings extended. spread-eagle *v.* *tr.* (usu. as spread-eagled *adj.*) place in a position with limbs extended. • *no spread'a-ble adj.* spread'er *n.*

spread-sheet /sprɛdʃi:t/ *n.* computer program allowing manipulation of esp. tabulated numerical data.

spreel /spreɪl/ *colloq. n.* 1 lively extravagant outing (shopping spree). 2 bout of fun or drinking, etc.

sprig /sprɪg/ *n.* small branch or shoot.

spright-ly /sprɪtli/ *adj.* (spright-lier, spright-liest) vivacious; lively; brisk. • *no spright'ly-ness n.*

spring /sprɪŋ/ • *v.* (past sprang /sprɛŋ/; also sprung /sprʌŋ/; past part. sprang) 1 *intr.* jump; move rapidly or suddenly (sprang from his seat). 2 *intr.* move rapidly as from a constrained position or by the action of a spring. 3 *intr.* originate or arise (springs from an old family). 4 *intr.* come into being; appear, esp. suddenly (a breeze sprang up). 5 *tr.* produce or develop or make known suddenly or unexpectedly (leaves to spring surprises). 6 *tr.* st. contrive the escape or release of. • *n.* 1 jump (took a spring). 2 recoil, e.g., of a bow. 3 elasticity. 4 resilient device usu. of bent or coiled metal used esp. to drive clockwork or for cushioning in furniture or vehicles. 5 a season in which vegetation begins to appear, first season of the year. b early stage of life, etc. 6 place where water, oil, etc., wells up from the earth. *v.* spring fever restless or lethargic feeling sometimes associated with spring. • *no spring'less adj.* spring'like *adj.*

spring-board /sprɪŋbɔ:rd/ *n.* 1 springy board giving impetus in leaping, diving, etc. 2 point of departure.

spring-y /sprɪŋgi/ *adj.* (spring-ier, spring-iest) resilient; bouncy; elastic. • *no spring'ily adv.* spring'-iness *n.*

spring-kle /sprɪŋkəl/ • *v.* *tr.* scatter in small drops or particles. 2 subject to sprinkling with liquid, etc. 3 distribute in small amounts. • *n.* 1 light shower. 2 = SPRINKLING. • *no spring'kle n.*

spring-king /sprɪŋkɪŋ/ *n.* sparse number or amount.

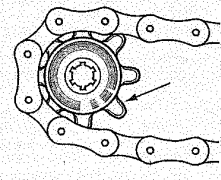
sprint /sprɪnt/ • *v.* 1 *intr.* run a short distance at full speed. 2 *tr.* run (a specified distance) in

this way. • *n.* 1 such a run. 2 similar short spell of maximum effort in cycling, swimming, auto racing, etc. • *no sprint'er n.*

sprite /sprɪt/ *n.* elf, fairy, or goblin.

spritzer /sprɪtsə/ *n.* mixture of wine and soda water.

sprock-et /sprɒkɪt/ *n.* each of several teeth on a wheel engaging with links of a chain.



SPROCKET

sprout /sprəʊt/ • *v.* 1 *tr.* put forth; produce (shoots, hair, etc.). 2 *intr.* begin to grow; put forth shoots. • *n.* shoot of a plant.

spruce /sprʊ:s/ • *adj.* neat in dress and appearance; smart. • *v.* (also *refl.*; usu. foll. by 'up') make or become neat and fashionable.

spruce² /sprʊ:s/ *n.* 1 conifer with dense foliage. 2 wood of this tree used as timber.

spring *past* and *past part.* of SPRING.

spry /sprɪ/ *adj.* (spryer, spry-est) active; lively. • *no spry'ly adv.* spry'ness *n.*

spud /spʊd/ *n.* st. potato.

spume /spʊm/ *n.* & *v.* *intr.* froth; foam. • *no spum'y adj.* (spum-ier, spum-iest).

spunk *past* and *past part.* of SPIN.

spunk-y /spʌŋki/ *colloq. n.* courage; mettle; spirit.

spunky /spʌŋki/ *adj.* (spunk-ier, spunk-iest) colloq. brave; spirited. • *no spunk'ily adv.*

spur /spɜ: / • *n.* 1 device with a small spike or a spiked wheel worn on a rider's heel for urging a horse forward. 2 stimulus or incentive. 3 spur-shaped thing, esp.: a projection from a mountain or mountain range. b branch road or railway. • *v.* (spurred, spur-ring) 1 prick (a horse) with spurs. 2 incite; stimulate. *v.* on the spur of the moment on a momentary impulse; impromptu. • *no spur'less adj.*

spu-ri-ous /spjʊ:ri:əs/ *adj.* not genuine; not being what it purports to be. • *no spu'ri-ously adv.* spu'ri-ous-ness *n.*

spurn /spɜ:n/ *v.* reject with disdain; treat with contempt. • *no spurn'er n.*

spurt /spɜ:t/ • *v.* 1 *intr.* gush out in a jet or stream. b *tr.* cause (liquid, etc.) to do this. 2 *intr.* make a sudden effort. • *n.* 1 sudden gushing out; jet. 2 short sudden effort or increase of pace, esp. in racing.

sput-nik /spʊt'nɪk, spʊt-'nɪk/ *n.* each of a series of Russian artificial satellites launched from 1957.

sput-ter /spʊtə/ • *v.* 1 *intr.* emit spitting sounds. 2 *intr.* speak in a hurried or vehement fashion. 3 *tr.* emit with a spitting sound. 4 *tr.* speak or utter rapidly or incoherently. • *n.* sputtering. • *no sput'ter'er n.*

spu-tum /spjʊ:təm/ *n.* (pl. spu-ta /-tə/) 1 sa-

liva; spittle. 2 expectorated matter, usu. a sign of disease.

spy /spi/ • *n.* (pl. spies) 1 person who secretly collects and reports information on the activities, movements, etc., of an enemy, competitor, etc. 2 person who keeps watch on others, esp. furtively. • *v.* (spies, spied) 1 *tr.* discern; see. 2 *intr.* act as a spy. • *no spy'ing n.*

spy-glass /spɪglɑ:s/ *n.* small telescope.

sq. *abbr.* square.

squab /skwɒb/ *n.* young pigeon or other bird.

squab-ble /skwɒbl/ • *n.* petty or noisy quarrel. • *v.* *intr.* engage in a squabble. • *no squab'bler n.*

squad /skwɒd/ *n.* 1 small group of people sharing a task, etc.; esp. of soldiers or policemen. 2 Sports team. *v.* squad car police car.

squad-ron /skwɒdrən/ *n.* unit of aircraft, war-ships, etc.

squat-id /skwɒtɪd/ *adj.* 1 filthy. 2 mean or poor. • *no squa-lid'ly n.* squa-lid-ly *adv.* squa-lid'-iness *n.*

squall /skwɒl/ • *n.* 1 sudden or violent wind, esp. with rain or snow or sleet. 2 discordant cry; scream (esp. of a baby). • *v.* *intr.* utter a squall; scream. • *no squa'l'y adv.*

squa-lor /skwɒlə/ *n.* state of being filthy or squallid.

squan-der /skwɒndə/ *v.* *tr.* spend (money, time, etc.) wastefully. • *no squan'der'er n.*

square /skweɪ/ • *n.* 1 equilateral rectangle. 2 open (usu. four-sided) area surrounded by buildings. 3 product of a number multiplied by itself (81 is the square of 9). 4 L-shaped or T-shaped instrument for obtaining or testing right angles. 5 st. conventional or old-fashioned person. • *adj.* 1 having the shape of a square. 2 having or in the form of a right angle (table with square corners). 3 angular and not round. 4 designating the area of a square whose side is the length of the unit specified (square mile). 5 level; parallel. 6 at right angles. 7 equal; settled. 8 fair and honest. 9 st. conventional or old-fashioned. • *adv.* squarely • *v.* 1 *tr.* make square. 2 *tr.* multiply (a number) by itself (3 squared is 9). 3 *tr.* & *intr.* reconcile (the results do not square with your conclusions). 4 *tr.* settle or pay (a bill, etc.). 5 *tr.* place (one's shoulders, etc.) squarely facing forward. *v.* square dance dance with usu. four couples facing inward from four sides. square meal substantial and satisfying meal. square root assume the attitude of a boxer. square off number that multiplied by itself gives a specified number. • *no square'y adv.* square'ness *n.* squar'ish *adj.*

squash /skwɒʃ/ • *v.* 1 *tr.* crush or squeeze flat or into pulp. 2 *intr.* make one's way by squeezing. 3 *tr.* dismiss (a proposal, etc.). • *n.* game played with rackets and a small ball against the walls of a closed court. *v.* squash'y *adj.* (squash-ier, squash-iest). squash'ily *adv.* squash'-iness *n.* squash² /skwɒʃ/ *n.* (pl. same or squashes) plant with gourdlike fruit that may be used as a vegetable.

squat /skwɒt/ • *v.* (squat-ted, squat-ting) 1 *intr.* sit on one's heels or on the ground, etc., with the knees drawn up. 2 *intr.* act as a squatter. b *tr.* occupy (a building) as a squatter. • *adj.* (squat-ter, squat-test) (of a person, etc.) short and thick; dumpy. • *n.* squatting posture.