

THE  
NEW SHORTER  
OXFORD ENGLISH  
DICTIONARY  
ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

EDITED BY  
LESLEY BROWN

---

---

VOLUME 1  
A-M

---

---

CLARENDON PRESS · OXFORD

Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford New York  
Athens Auckland Bangkok Bombay  
Calcutta Cape Town Dar es Salaam Delhi  
Florence Hong Kong Istanbul Karachi  
Kuala Lumpur Madras Madrid Melbourne  
Mexico City Nairobi Paris Singapore  
Taipei Tokyo Toronto  
and associated companies in  
Berlin Ibadan

Oxford is a trade mark of Oxford University Press

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

© Oxford University Press 1973, 1993

First Edition 1933  
Second Edition 1936  
Third Edition 1944  
Reprinted with Revised Etymologies and Enlarged Addenda 1973  
This Edition 1993

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, without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press. Within the UK, exceptions are allowed in respect of any fair dealing for the purpose of research or private study, or criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, or in the case of reprographic reproduction in accordance with the terms of the licences issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency. Enquiries concerning reproduction outside these terms and in other countries should be sent to the Rights Department, Oxford University Press, at the address above

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data  
Data available

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data  
Data available

ISBN 0-19-861134-X Plain Edition  
ISBN 0-19-861271-0 Thumb Index Edition  
ISBN 0-19-863142-1 Luxury Edition  
ISBN 0-19-195804-2 Leather Bound Edition

7 9 10 8

Printed in the United States of America  
on acid-free paper

**isoionic**

having the same (hydrogen) ion concentration; that mix without change of ionization. L19. 2 *Physiol.* Occurring without causing any change in pH, as the removal of carbon dioxide from the tissues by the blood. E20.

**isoionic** /AISŌUAI'dnik/ a. E20. [f. ISO- + IONIC a.²] *Chem.* Of a solute or solution: giving rise to or containing no non-colloidal ions other than those formed by dissociation of the solvent.

**isoionic point** the point (usu. pH value) at which the average number of protons attached to the basic groups of solute molecules is equal to the average number dissociated from the acidic groups.

**isolable** /AISŌ(a)lŏb(ə)l/ a. M19. [f. ISOLATE v. + -ABLE.] Able to be isolated.

**isolability** n. L20.

**isolatable** /AISŌ(a)lŏtəb(ə)l, AISŌ(u)'leɪ-/ a. M20. [f. as prec.] = prec.

**isolatability** n. M20.

**isolate** /AISŌ(a)lŏt/ a. & n. E19. [f. (as) ISOLATED.] A *adj.* = ISOLATED. E19. B n. 1 An isolated thing; *esp.* a thing abstracted from its normal context for study. L19. 2 *Perfumery.* A compound purified from a natural oil. E20. 3 *Microbiol.* A group, *esp.* a pure culture, of similar micro-organisms isolated for study. M20. 4 *Sociol. & Psychol.* A person, community, group, or (occas.) an animal isolated from normal social interaction, from choice or through separation or rejection. M20. 5 *Biol.* A population which has become distinct from the parent species through the operation of an isolating mechanism. M20.

**isolate** /AISŌleɪt/ v. t. E19. [Back-form. f. ISOLATED (now regarded as the pa. pple of the vb); partly after Fr. *isoler*: see -ATE³.] 1 Place or set apart or alone; cause to stand alone or detached, separated from or unconnected with other things or persons. Also, distinguish, identify. E19. 2 *Chem.* Obtain or extract (a substance) in a pure form. M19. 3 *Electr.* Insulate, *esp.* by a physical gap; disconnect. M19. 4 Subject (an infected person or place) to strict quarantine. L19.

1 W. S. CHURCHILL Until agrarian problems could be isolated from other political issues, there was little hope. M. MEYER Strindberg withdrew into himself and isolated himself. . . from his colleagues. A. MUNRO Blizzards still isolate the towns and villages. J. M. COETZEE I isolated over four hundred different characters in the script. 2 M. PYKE A few milligrams of vitamin B12 had been isolated and the nature of its complex molecule established.

**isolated** /AISŌleɪtɪd/ a. M18. [f. Fr. *isolé* f. It. *isolato* f. late L *insulatus* made an island, f. L *insula* island: see -ATE³, -ED¹. Cf. prec.] Placed or standing apart or alone; detached or separate from other things or persons; unconnected with anything else; solitary.

J. REED There were still isolated cases of defiance towards the new Government, but they were rare. B. EMECHETA An isolated place, hidden . . . by the surrounding desert and hills. L. NKOSI A bitter man, secretive and isolated. **isolated pawn** *Chess*: without other pawns of the same colour in adjacent files.

**isolati** n. pl. see ISOLATO.

**isolating** /AISŌleɪtɪŋ/ ppl a. M19. [f. ISOLATE v. + -ING².] That isolates; *Ling.* (of a language) in which words tend not to vary in form (by either agglutination or inflection) according to grammatical function; = ANALYTIC a. 3.

**isolating barrier, isolating mechanism** a geographical, ecological, seasonal, physiological, or other factor which limits or prevents interbreeding between groups of plants or animals.

**isolation** /AISŌleɪʃ(ə)n/ n. & a. M19. [f. ISOLATE v. + -ATION, partly after Fr. *isolation*.] A n. 1 The action of isolating something or someone; the fact or condition of being or having been isolated; separation from other things or

inherent tendency. L19. b *Psychoanalysis.* A defence mechanism whereby a particular wish or thought loses emotional significance by being isolated from its normal context. E20. 5 *Biol.* The limitation or prevention of interbreeding between groups of plants or animals by some isolating mechanism, leading to the development of new species or varieties. E20.

1 in **isolation** considered singly and not relative to something else. SPLENDID *isolation*.

B *attrib.* or as *adj.* Designating a procedure, place of confinement, etc., by which isolation is effected. M19.

*isolation camp, hospital, ward, etc.*

**isolationism** /AISŌleɪʃ(ə)nɪz(ə)m/ n. E20. [f. prec. + -ISM.] The policy of seeking (political or national) isolation.

**isolationist** /AISŌleɪʃ(ə)nɪst/ n. & a. L19. [f. as prec. + -IST.] A n. A person who favours or advocates (political or national) isolationism. L19. B *adj.* Characteristic of or being an isolationist. L19.

**isolative** /AISŌleɪtɪv/ a. L19. [f. ISOLATE v. + -ATIVE.] 1 *Philol.* Of a sound-change: taking place independently of adjacent sounds. Opp. COMBINATIVE 2. L19. 2 *gen.* Tending to isolate something or someone. M20.

**isolato** /i:Ō'ŏ:təʊ/ n. Pl. -tī /-tī/, -tōs. M19. [It.] An isolated person, an outcast.

**isolator** /AISŌleɪtə/ n. M19. [f. ISOLATE v. + -OR.] A person who or thing which isolates something or someone; a contrivance for isolating something; an insulator.

**isoleucine** /AISŌ(u)'lu:si:n/ n. E20. [f. ISO- + LEUCINE.] *Biochem.* A hydrophobic amino acid, CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH(NH<sub>2</sub>)COOH, which occurs in proteins and is essential in the human diet; 2-amino-3-methylpentanoic acid.

**isolog** n. see ISOLOGUE.

**isologous** /AISŌlŏgəs/ a. M19. [f. ISO- + Gk *logos* relation, ratio (see LOGOS) + -OUS, after *homologous*.] 1 *Chem.* Of two or more (series of) compounds: having comparable or related molecular structures; now usu. *spec.*, (of compounds) having identical molecular structure but different atoms of the same valency at some position(s) in the molecule. Cf. HOMOLOGOUS a. 4. M19. 2 *Med. & Biol.* Genetically identical, *esp.* as regards immunological factors; involving such individuals. M20.

**isologue** /AISŌ(u)lŏg/ n. Also \*-log. L19. [f. ISO- + LOGUE.] *Chem.* Each of two or more isologous compounds.

**isomer** /AISŌmə/ n. M19. [f. Gk *isomerēs* sharing equally, f. as ISO- + *meros* part, share.] 1 *Chem.* A substance isomeric with another; any of a number of isomeric compounds or forms of a compound. M19. 2 *Physics.* Each of two or more nuclei having the same atomic number and mass number but different radioactive properties, as a result of being in different energy states; *esp.* a nucleus in a metastable excited state rather than the ground state. Also *nuclear isomer*. M20.

1 *geometrical isomer, optical isomer, structural isomer, etc.*

**isomerase** /AISŌmə'reɪz/ n. M20. [f. prec. + -ASE.] *Biochem.* Any of various enzymes which bring about an isomerization reaction.

**isomeric** /AISŌ(u)'mɛrɪk/ a. M19. [f. as ISOMER + -IC.] 1 *Chem.* Of two or more compounds, or of one compound in relation to another: composed of the same elements in the same proportions, and having the same molecular weight, but forming substances with different properties owing to the different grouping or arrangement of the constituent atoms. (Coll. by

**isomorphic**

**isomeride** /AISŌmə'raɪd/ n. *rare*. M19. [f. as ISOMER + -IDE.] *Chem.* = ISOMER 1.

**isomerise** v. var. of ISOMERIZE.

**isomerism** /AISŌmə'rɪz(ə)m/ n. M19. [f. ISOMER + -ISM.] 1 *Chem.* The fact or condition of being isomeric; identity of percentage composition in compounds differing in properties. M19. 2 *Physics.* The fact or condition of being nuclear isomers. M20.

1 **geometrical isomerism**: in which compounds differ in the spatial arrangement of atoms relative to a (rigid) double bond. **optical isomerism**: in which compounds differ in the spatial arrangement of atoms around one or more asymmetric carbon atoms, and hence usu. in optical activity. **STEREISOMERISM.** **structural isomerism**: in which molecules having the same constituent atoms have different structures, the atoms being joined in different sequences.

**isomerize** /AISŌmə'raɪz/ v. t. & i. Also -ise. L19. [f. ISOMER + -IZE.] *Chem.* Change into an isomer (of the original substance). Usu. foll. by *into, to*.

**isomerization** n. (*Chem.*) the conversion of a compound into an isomer of itself L19.

**isomeric** /AISŌ(u)'mɛrɪk/ a. & n. M19. [f. Gk *isomerēs* (see ISOMER) + -OUS.] *Biol.* Having the same number of (similar) parts; *spec.* in *Bot.* (of a flower) having the same number of parts in each whorl (opp. HETEROMEROUS 2b).

**isometric** /AISŌ(u)'mɛtrɪk/ a. & n. M19. [f. Gk *isometria* equality of measure, f. as ISO- + -METRY: see -IC.] A *adj.* 1 Of equal measure or dimensions. M19. 2 *Drawing.* Designating a method of projection or perspective in which the three principal dimensions are represented by three axes 120° apart, with all measurements on the same scale, used in technical and architectural drawing. M19. 3 *Cryst.* = CUBIC a. 2b. M19. 4 *Physiol.* Of, pertaining to, or designating muscular action in which tension is developed without contraction of the muscle. L19. 5 *Physics.* Relating to, or taking place under, conditions of constant volume. L19. 6 *Biol.* Of growth: maintaining constant proportions with increase in size. M20. 7 *Math.* That is an isometry; related by an isometry. Foll. by *to*. M20. B n. 1 *Physics.* A line in a diagram that corresponds to or represents states of equal volume. L19. 2 In *pl.* A system of stationary physical exercises in which muscles are caused to act isometrically against one another or against an unyielding object. M20.

**isometrical** /AISŌ(u)'mɛtrɪk(ə)l/ a. M19. [f. as prec. + -AL¹.] = ISOMETRIC a. 2, 3.

**isometrically** /AISŌ(u)'mɛtrɪk(ə)li/ *adv.* M19. [f. ISOMETRIC a. or prec.: see -ICALLY.] 1 *Drawing.* In the manner of isometric projection. M19. 2 *Physiol.* Under isometric conditions. E20. 3 *Math.* By means of or in the manner of an isometry. M20.

**isometry** /AISŌmɪ'tri/ n. M20. [f. as ISOMETRIC: see -Y³.] 1 *Math.* A one-to-one transformation of one metric space into another that preserves the distances or metrics between each pair of points. M20. 2 *Biol.* (Growth exhibiting) constancy of proportion with increase in size. Cf. ALLOMETRY. M20.

**isomorph** /AISŌ(u)'mɔ:fk/ n. M19. [f. ISO- + -MORPH.] 1 A substance or organism isomorphous with another. M19. 2 *Ling.* A line (imaginary or on a map) bounding an area in which a particular morphological form occurs; a morphological isogloss. *rare*. E20.

**isomorphic** /AISŌ(u)'mɔ:fk/ a. M19. [f. as prec. + -IC.] 1 *Chem. & Min.* Isomorphous; pertaining to or involving isomorphism. M19. 2 *Math. & Philos.* Of groups or other sets: corresponding to each other in form, and in the

having the same (hydrogen) ion concentration; that mix without change of ionization. L19. 2 *Physiol.* Occurring without causing any change in pH, as the removal of carbon dioxide from the tissues by the blood. E20.

**isoionic** /AISəʊaɪ'ɒnɪk/ a. E20. [f. ISO- + IONIC a.] *Chem.* Of a solute or solution: giving rise to or containing no non-colloidal ions other than those formed by dissociation of the solvent.

**isoionic point** the point (usu. pH value) at which the average number of protons attached to the basic groups of solute molecules is equal to the average number dissociated from the acidic groups.

**isolable** /AIS(ə)lɒb(ə)l/ a. M19. [f. ISOLATE v. + -ABLE.] Able to be isolated.

**isolability** n. L20.

**isolatable** /AISəleɪtəb(ə)l/, AISə(ʊ)'leɪ-/ a. M20. [f. as prec.] = prec.

**isolatability** n. M20.

**isolate** /AIS(ə)lət/ a. & n. E19. [f. (as) ISOLATED.] A *adj.* = ISOLATED. E19. B n. 1 An isolated thing; *esp.* a thing abstracted from its normal context for study. L19. 2 *Perfumery.* A compound purified from a natural oil. E20. 3 *Microbiol.* A group, esp. a pure culture, of similar micro-organisms isolated for study. M20. 4 *Sociol. & Psychol.* A person, community, group, or (occas.) an animal isolated from normal social interaction, from choice or through separation or rejection. M20. 5 *Biol.* A population which has become distinct from the parent species through the operation of an isolating mechanism. M20.

**isolate** /AISəleɪt/ v. t. E19. [Back-form. f. ISOLATED (now regarded as the pa. pple of the vb); partly after Fr. *isoler*: see -ATE<sup>3</sup>.] 1 Place or set apart or alone; cause to stand alone or detached, separated from or unconnected with other things or persons. Also, distinguish, identify. E19. 2 *Chem.* Obtain or extract (a substance) in a pure form. M19. 3 *Electr.* Insulate, esp. by a physical gap; disconnect. M19. 4 Subject (an infected person or place) to strict quarantine. L19.

1 W. S. CHURCHILL Until agrarian problems could be isolated from other political issues, there was little hope. M. MEYER Strindberg withdrew into himself and isolated himself. . . from his colleagues. A. MUNRO Blizzards still isolate the towns and villages. J. M. COETZEE I isolated over four hundred different characters in the script. 2 M. PYKE A few milligrams of vitamin B12 had been isolated and the nature of its complex molecule established.

**isolated** /AISəleɪtɪd/ a. M18. [f. Fr. *isolé* f. It. *isolato* f. late L *insulatus* made an island, f. L *insula*: see -ATE<sup>3</sup>, -ED<sup>1</sup>. Cf. prec.] Placed or standing apart or alone; detached or separate from other things or persons; unconnected with anything else; solitary.

J. REED There were still isolated cases of defiance towards the new Government, but they were rare. B. EMECHETA An isolated place, hidden . . . by the surrounding desert and hills. L. NKOSI A bitter man, secretive and isolated. **isolated pawn** *Chess*: without other pawns of the same colour in adjacent files.

**isolati** n. pl. see ISOLATO.

**isolating** /AISəleɪtɪŋ/ ppl a. M19. [f. ISOLATE v. + -ING<sup>2</sup>.] That isolates; *Ling.* (of a language) in which words tend not to vary in form (by either agglutination or inflection) according 'to grammatical function'; = ANALYTIC a. 3.

**isolating barrier, isolating mechanism** a geographical, ecological, seasonal, physiological, or other factor which limits or prevents interbreeding between groups of plants or animals.

**isolation** /AISə'leɪ(ə)n/ n. & a. M19. [f. ISOLATE v. + -ATION, partly after Fr. *isolation*.] A n. 1 The action of isolating something or someone; the fact or condition of being or having been isolated; separation from other things or persons; solitariness. M19. 2 The separation of a chemical substance in a pure state. M19. 3 *spec.* The complete separation of patients with a contagious or infectious disease from contact with other people; the prevention of access to a place so infected. L19. 4a *Psychol. & Sociol.* The separation of a person or thing from the normal (social) environment or context, either deliberately for study, or as a result of some

inherent tendency. L19. b *Psychoanalysis.* A defence mechanism whereby a particular wish or thought loses emotional significance by being isolated from its normal context. E20. 5 *Biol.* The limitation or prevention of interbreeding between groups of plants or animals by some isolating mechanism, leading to the development of new species or varieties. E20.

1 in **isolation** considered singly and not relative to something else. SPLENDID *isolation*.

B *attrib.* or as *adj.* Designating a procedure, place of confinement, etc., by which isolation is effected. M19.

*isolation camp, hospital, ward, etc.*

**isolationism** /AISə'leɪ(ə)nɪz(ə)m/ n. E20. [f. prec. + -ISM.] The policy of seeking (political or national) isolation.

**isolationist** /AISə'leɪ(ə)nɪst/ n. & a. L19. [f. as prec. + -IST.] A n. A person who favours or advocates (political or national) isolationism. L19. B *adj.* Characteristic of or being an isolationist. L19.

**isolative** /AISə'leɪtɪv/ a. L19. [f. ISOLATE v. + -ATIVE.] 1 *Philol.* Of a sound-change: taking place independently of adjacent sounds. Opp. COMBINATIVE 2. L19. 2 *gen.* Tending to isolate something or someone. M20.

**isolato** /ISə'lə:təʊ/ n. Pl. -ti /-ti/, -tos. M19. [It.] An isolated person, an outcast.

**isolator** /AISəleɪtə/ n. M19. [f. ISOLATE v. + -OR.] A person who or thing which isolates something or someone; a contrivance for isolating something; an insulator.

**isoleucine** /AISə(ʊ)'lu:si:n/ n. E20. [f. ISO- + LEUCINE.] *Biochem.* A hydrophobic amino acid, CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH(NH<sub>2</sub>)COOH, which occurs in proteins and is essential in the human diet; 2-amino-3-methylpentanoic acid.

**isolog** n. see ISOLOGUE.

**isologous** /AISə'lɒgəs/ a. M19. [f. ISO- + Gk *logos* relation, ratio (see LOGOS) + -OUS, after *homologous*.] 1 *Chem.* Of two or more (series of) compounds: having comparable or related molecular structures; now usu. *spec.*, (of compounds) having identical molecular structure but different atoms of the same valency at some position(s) in the molecule. Cf. HOMOLOGOUS a. 4. M19. 2 *Med. & Biol.* Genetically identical, esp. as regards immunological factors; involving such individuals. M20.

**isologue** /AISə(ʊ)'lɒg/ n. Also \*-log. L19. [f. ISO- + -LOGUE.] *Chem.* Each of two or more isologous compounds.

**isomer** /AISə'mɛr/ n. M19. [f. Gk *isomerēs* sharing equally, f. as ISO- + *meros* part, share.] 1 *Chem.* A substance isomeric with another; any of a number of isomeric compounds or forms of a compound. M19. 2 *Physics.* Each of two or more nuclei having the same atomic number and mass number but different radioactive properties, as a result of being in different energy states; esp. a nucleus in a metastable excited state rather than the ground state. Also *nuclear isomer*. M20.

1 *geometrical isomer, optical isomer, structural isomer, etc.*

**isomerase** /AISə'mɛrɪz/ n. M20. [f. prec. + -ASE.] *Biochem.* Any of various enzymes which bring about an isomerization reaction.

**isomeric** /AISə(ʊ)'mɛrɪk/ a. M19. [f. as ISOMER + -IC.] 1 *Chem.* Of two or more compounds, or of one compound in relation to another: composed of the same elements in the same proportions, and having the same molecular weight, but forming substances with different properties owing to the different grouping or arrangement of the constituent atoms. (Foll. by *with*.) M19. 2 *Physics.* Of, pertaining to, or designating nuclear isomers. M20.

¶ In sense 1, formerly extended to include compounds in which the number of atoms in one is a multiple of those in the other, or restricted to those with similar functional groups and hence similar properties.

**isomerically** *adv.* as regards isomers; by isomerization: L19.

**isomeride** /AISə'mɛrɪd/ n. *rare*. M19. [f. as ISOMER + -IDE.] *Chem.* = ISOMER 1.

**isomerise** v. var. of ISOMERIZE.

**isomerism** /AISə'mɛrɪz(ə)m/ n. M19. [f. ISOMER + -ISM.] 1 *Chem.* The fact or condition of being isomeric; identity of percentage composition in compounds differing in properties. M19. 2 *Physics.* The fact or condition of being nuclear isomers. M20.

1 **geometrical isomerism**: in which compounds differ in the spatial arrangement of atoms relative to a (rigid) double bond. **optical isomerism**: in which compounds differ in the spatial arrangement of atoms around one or more asymmetric carbon atoms, and hence usu. in optical activity. STEREOISOMERISM. **structural isomerism**: in which molecules having the same constituent atoms have different structures, the atoms being joined in different sequences.

**isomerize** /AISə'mɛrɪz/ v. t. & i. Also -ise. L19. [f. ISOMER + -IZE.] *Chem.* Change into an isomer (of the original substance). Usu. foll. by *into, to*.

**isomerization** n. (*Chem.*) the conversion of a compound into an isomer of itself. L19.

**isomerous** /AISə'm(ɪ)rəs/ a. M19. [f. Gk. *isomerēs* (see ISOMER) + -OUS.] *Biol.* Having the same number of (similar) parts; *spec.* in *Bot.* (of a flower) having the same number of parts in each whorl (opp. HETEROMEROUS 2b).

**isometric** /AISə(ʊ)'mɛtrɪk/ a. & n. M19. [f. Gk *isometria* equality of measure, f. as ISO- + -METRY: see -IC.] A *adj.* 1 Of equal measure or dimensions. M19. 2 *Drawing.* Designating a method of projection or perspective in which the three principal dimensions are represented by three axes 120° apart, with all measurements on the same scale, used in technical and architectural drawing. M19. 3 *Cryst.* = CUBIC a. 2b. M19. 4 *Physiol.* Of, pertaining to, or designating muscular action in which tension is developed without contraction of the muscle. L19. 5 *Physics.* Relating to, or taking place under, conditions of constant volume. L19. 6 *Biol.* Of growth: maintaining constant proportions with increase in size. M20. 7 *Math.* That is an isometry; related by an isometry. Foll. by *to*. M20. B n. 1 *Physics.* A line in a diagram that corresponds to or represents states of equal volume. L19. 2 In *pl.* A system of stationary physical exercises in which muscles are caused to act isometrically against one another or against an unyielding object. M20.

**isometrical** /AISə(ʊ)'mɛtrɪk(ə)l/ a. M19. [f. as prec. + -AL<sup>1</sup>.] = ISOMETRIC a. 2, 3.

**isometrically** /AISə(ʊ)'mɛtrɪk(ə)li/ *adv.* M19. [f. ISOMETRIC a. or prec.: see -ICALLY.] 1 *Drawing.* In the manner of isometric projection. M19. 2 *Physiol.* Under isometric conditions. E20. 3 *Math.* By means of or in the manner of an isometry. M20.

**isometry** /AISə'mɛtrɪ/ n. M20. [f. as ISOMETRIC: see -Y<sup>3</sup>.] 1 *Math.* A one-to-one transformation of one metric space into another that preserves the distances or metrics between each pair of points. M20. 2 *Biol.* (Growth exhibiting) constancy of proportion with increase in size. Cf. ALLOMETRY. M20.

**isomorph** /AISə(ʊ)'mɔ:ɸ/ n. M19. [f. ISO- + -MORPH.] 1 A substance or organism isomorphous with another. M19. 2 *Ling.* A line (imaginary or on a map) bounding an area in which a particular morphological form occurs; a morphological isogloss. *rare*. E20.

**isomorphic** /AISə(ʊ)'mɔ:ɸɪk/ a. M19. [f. as prec. + -IC.] 1 *Chem. & Min.* Isomorphous; pertaining to or involving isomorphism. M19. 2 *Math. & Philos.* Of groups or other sets: corresponding to each other in form, and in the nature and product of their operations; related by or being an isomorphism. Foll. by *to, with*. L19. 3 *Biol.* Of closely similar form but independent origin. *rare*. L19. 4 *Bot.* In algae and certain fungi: designating a type of alternation of generations in which the two forms are morphologically similar. M20. 5 *Ling.* Similar in morphological structure, having similar morphological forms. M20.

For other words beginning with *iso-* see the entry for **iso-**