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THE OXFORD

Essential
Dictionary

AMERICAN EDITION



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THE OXFORD ESSENTIAL DICTIONARY

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(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). *n.* 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:rtswɛər/ *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. *n.* 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. *n.* 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-li-er, spright-li-est) vivacious; lively; brisk. • *no spright'ly-ness n.*

spring /sprɪŋ/ • *v.* (past sprang /sprɑ:ŋ/ 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. *n.* 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-i-er, spring-i-est) resilient; bouncy; elastic. • *no spring'ily adv.* spring'i-ness *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.

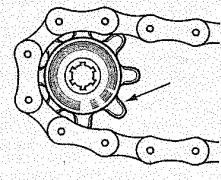
sprint /sprɪnt/ • *v.* 1 *intr.* run a short distance at full speed. 2 *tr.* run (a specified distance) in

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-i-er, spum-i-est).

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

spunk-y /spʌŋkɪ/ *colloq. n.* courage; mettle; spirit. *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. *n.* on the spur of the moment on a momentary impulse; impromptu. • *no spur'less adj.*

spu-ri-tious /spju:ri:ʃiəs/ *adj.* not genuine; not being what it purports to be. • *no spu'ri-tious-ly adv.* spu'ri-tious-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 /spju: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. *n.* 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'ily 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 /skwɛə/ • *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. *n.* 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'yly 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. *n.* squash'y *adj.* (squash-i-er, squash-i-est). squash'ily *adv.* squash'i-ness *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.