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THE OXFORD

Essential  
Dictionary

AMERICAN EDITION



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## 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

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Published by Oxford University Press, Inc., as  
*The Oxford American Desk Dictionary*. Derived from  
*The Oxford Desk Dictionary and Thesaurus*.

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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

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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paternalism ~ pawl

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limiting freedom and responsibility by well-meaning regulations. **paternalism** /pə'tɜːnəlɪzəm/ *n.* policy of governing or behaving in a paternal way. **paternalist** /pə'tɜːnəlɪst/ *n.* **paternalistic** /pə'tɜːnəlɪstɪk/ *adj.* **paternalistically** *adv.*

**paternity** /pə'tɜːnɪti/ *n.* 1 fatherhood. 2 one's paternal origin. 3 the source or authorship of a thing.

**path** /pɑːθ/ *n.* (pl. **paths** /'pɑːθz/) 1 way or track made for or by walking. 2 line along which a person or thing moves (*flight path*). 3 course of action. **pathless** *adj.*

**pathetic** /pə'tetɪk/ *adj.* 1 arousing pity, sadness, or contempt. 2 *colloq.* miserably inadequate. **pathetically** *adv.*

**pathogen** /'pæθədʒən/ *n.* agent causing disease. **pathogenic** /-dʒənɪk/ *adj.*

**pathological** /pə'thɒlədʒɪkəl/ *adj.* 1 of pathology. 2 of or caused by a physical or mental disorder (*a pathological fear of spiders*). **pathologically** *adv.*

**pathology** /'pæθələdʒi/ *n.* 1 science of bodily diseases. 2 symptoms of a disease. **pathologist** *n.*

**pathos** /'pæθəs/ *n.* -thaws, -thɒs/ *n.* quality in speech, writing, events, etc., that evokes pity or sadness.

**pathway** /'pæθweɪ/ *n.* path or its course.

**pathy** /'pæθi/ *comb. form* forming nouns denoting: 1 curative treatment (*allopathy*; *homeopathy*). 2 feeling (*telepathy*).

**patience** /'peɪʃəns/ *n.* perseverance; ability to endure; forbearance.

**patient** /'peɪʃənt/ *adj.* having or showing patience. *n.* person receiving medical treatment. **patiently** *adv.*

**patina** /'pəteɪnə, pə'tɪnə/ *n.* (pl. **patinas**) 1 film, usu. green, formed on old bronze. 2 similar film or gloss on other surfaces. **patinated** /'pætnəɪd/ *adj.* **patination** *n.*

**patio** /'pæteɪo/ *n.* 1 paved usu. roofless area adjoining and belonging to a house. 2 roofless inner court.

**patois** /'pətwɑː, pə'twɑː/ *n.* (pl. same, *pronunc. /-wɑːz/) regional dialect of the common people.*

**patriarch** /'pætrɪərɑːk/ *n.* 1 male head of a family or tribe. 2 *Ecol.* a chief bishop in the Orthodox Church. *b* (in the Roman Catholic Church) bishop ranking immediately below the pope. 3 venerable old man. **patriarchal** *adj.* **patriarchally** *adv.*

**patriarchate** /'pætrɪərɑːkət, -kəɪt/ *n.* office, rank, see, or residence of a patriarch.

**patriarchy** /'pætrɪərɑːki/ *n.* (pl. **chiefs**) system of society, government, etc., ruled by a man or men and with descent through the male line.

**patriarchian** /'pætrɪərɑːʃən/ *n.* 1 *hist.* member of the ancient Roman nobility. 2 aristocrat. *adj.* aristocratic; well-bred.

**patriarchy** /'pætrɪərɑːki/ *n.* (pl. **-nies**) property inherited from one's father or ancestor. **patriarchally** *adv.* **patriarchism** *n.*

**patriot** /'pætrɪət/ *n.* 1 act of walking or travel-

ing around an area in order to protect or supervise it. 2 guards, police, troops, etc., sent out to watch or protect. *v.* (pa-trolled, pa-trol-ling) 1 *tr.* carry out a patrol. 2 *intr.* act as a patrol. **patrol car** police car used in patrolling roads and streets. **patroller** *n.*

**patrolman** /'pætrɒlmən/ *n.* (pl. **-men**) police officer assigned to or patrolling a specific route.

**patron** /'pætrɒn/ *n.* (fem. **patroness**) 1 person who gives financial or other support to a person, cause, work of art, etc. 2 habitual customer. **patron saint** protecting or guiding saint of a person, place, etc.

**patronage** /'pætrɒnɪdʒ/ *n.* 1 patron's or customer's support. 2 a power to appoint others to government jobs. *b* distribution of such jobs.

**patronize** /'pætrɒnaɪz, pət-/ *v. tr.* 1 treat condescendingly. 2 act as a patron toward (a person, cause, artist, etc.); support; encourage. 3 be a customer of. **patronization** *n. **patronizer** *n. **patronizing** *adj. **patronizingly** *adv.****

**patronymic** /'pætrɒnɪmɪk/ *n.* name derived from the name of a father or ancestor, e.g., *Johnson, O'Brien, Ivanovich*.

**patsey** /'pætsi/ *n.* (pl. **-sies**) person who is deceived, ridiculed, tricked, etc.

**pattee** /'pæti/ *n.* *v. intr.* make a rapid succession of taps. *n.* rapid succession of taps, short light steps, etc.

**pattee** /'pæti/ *n.* rapid speech used by a comedian or salesperson. *v. intr.* talk glibly or mechanically.

**pattem** /'pætm/ *n.* 1 decorative design. 2 regular or logical form, order, etc. 3 model or design, e.g., of a garment, from which copies can be made. 4 example of excellence; ideal; model (*a pattern of elegance*). *v. tr.* 1 model (a thing) on a design, etc. 2 decorate with a pattern.

**patty** /'pæti/ *n.* (pl. **-ties**) small flat cake of food.

**paucity** /'pɔːsɪti/ *n.* smallness of number or quantity.

**paunch** /'paʊnʃ/ *n.* 1 belly or stomach, esp. when protruding. 2 ruminant's first stomach; rumen. **paunchy** *adj.* (**paunchier, paunchiest**). **paunchiness** *n.*

**pauper** /'pɔːpər/ *n.* person without means; beggar. **pauperism** /'rɪzəm/ *n.* **pauperize** *v. tr.* **pauperization** /-rɪzə'ʃən/ *n.*

**pause** /'pɔːz/ *n.* temporary stop; silence. *v. intr.* 1 make a pause; wait. 2 linger over (a word, etc.).

**pave** /'peɪv/ *v. tr.* cover (a street, floor, etc.) with paving, etc. *o* **pave the way for** prepare for. **paver** *n.* **paving** *n.*

**pavement** /'peɪvmənt/ *n.* paved path, roadway, etc.

**pavilion** /'peɪvɪljən/ *n.* 1 tent, esp. a large one at a show, fair, etc. 2 building or stand used for entertainments, exhibits, etc. 3 detached building that is part of a connected set of buildings, as at a hospital.

**Pavlovian** /'pævɪləvɪən/ *adj.* of or relating to I. P. Pavlov or his work, esp. on conditioned reflexes.

**paw** /'pɔː/ *n.* 1 foot of an animal having claws or nails. 2 *colloq.* person's hand. *v. tr.* strike or scrape with a paw or hoof. 3 *tr. colloq.* fondle awkwardly or indecently.

**paw** /'pɔː/ *n.* lever with a catch for the teeth of a wheel or bar.

**pawn** /'pɔːn/ *n.* 1 *Chess* piece of the smallest size and value. 2 person used by others for their own purposes.

**pawn** /'pɔːn/ *v. tr.* 1 deposit an object, esp. with a pawnbroker, as security for money lent. 2 pledge or wager. *o* *n.* object left as security for money, etc., lent.

**pawnbroker** /'pɔːnbroʊkər/ *n.* person who lends money at interest on the security of personal property pawned. **pawnbroking** *n.*

**Pawnee** /'pɔːni/ *n.* 1 a N. American people native to Kansas and Nebraska. *b* member of this people. 2 language of this people.

**pawnshop** /'pɔːnʃɒp/ *n.* pawnbroker's shop.

**pawpaw** /'pɔːpɔː/ *n.* (also **pa'paw**) N. American tree with purple flowers and edible fruit.

**pay** /'peɪ/ *v. tr.* (*past and past part. paid* /'paɪd/) 1 (also *absol.*) give (a person, etc.) what is due for services done, goods received, debts incurred, etc. 2 give (a sum) for work done, a debt, etc. 3 a give, bestow, or express. *b* make (a visit). 4 (also *absol.*) be profitable or advantageous. 5 reward or punish. 6 let out (a rope) by slackening it. *o* *n.* wages. *o* *adj.* requiring payment of a coin, a set fee, etc., for use. *o* *n.* the pay of employed by. **pay back** 1 repay. 2 punish or be revenged on. **pay dirt** 1 *Mineral.* ground worth working for. 2 financially promising situation. **pay off** 1 dismiss (workers) with a final payment. 2 *colloq.* yield good results; succeed. 3 pay (a debt) in full. **pay phone** coin-operated telephone. **pay-ee** /'peɪi/ *n.* **pay'er** *n.*

**pay** Middle English (in the sense 'pacify'): from Old French *paie* (noun), *payer* (verb), from Latin *pacare* 'appease', from *pax* 'peace'. The notion of 'payment' arose from the sense of 'pacifying' a creditor.

**pay-able** /'peɪəbəl/ *adj.* that must or may be paid; due.

**pay-day** /'peɪdeɪ/ *n.* day on which salary or wages are paid.

**pay-load** /'peɪləʊd/ *n.* 1 part of an aircraft's load from which revenue is derived, as paying passengers. 2 explosive warhead carried by an aircraft or rocket.

**paymaster** /'peɪmɑːstər/ *n.* official who pays troops, workers, etc.

**payment** /'peɪmənt/ *n.* 1 act or an instance of paying. 2 amount paid. 3 reward; recompense.

**pay-off** /'peɪɔːf/ *n. sl.* 1 act of payment. 2 climax. 3 final reckoning. 4 *colloq.* bribe; bribery.

**payola** /'peɪələ/ *n.* bribe offered in return for unofficial promotion of a product, etc., in the media.

**pay-roll** /'peɪrəʊl/ *n.* list of employees receiving regular pay.

**Pb** *Chem.* lead.

**PBS** *abbr.* Public Broadcasting Service.

**PC** *abbr.* 1 personal computer. 2 politically correct.

**PCB** *abbr.* 1 *Computing* printed circuit board. 2 *Chem.* polychlorinated biphenyl, any of several toxic aromatic compounds formed as waste in industrial processes.

**PCP** *n.* 1 *sl.* illicit hallucinogenic drug, phencyclidine hydrochloride (*phenyl cyclohexyl piperidine*). 2 pneumocystis carinii pneumonia.

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pawn ~ pearl

**per** *abbr.* percent.

**PD** *abbr.* Police Department.

**Pd** *Chem.* palladium.

**pd.** *abbr.* paid.

**PDT** *abbr.* Pacific Daylight Time.

**PE** *abbr.* physical education.

**pea** /'piː/ *n.* 1 hardy climbing plant, with seeds growing in pods and used for food. 2 its seed.

**peace** /'piːs/ *n.* 1 a quiet; tranquillity. *b* mental calm; serenity (*peace of mind*). 2 freedom from or the cessation of war. 3 freedom from civil disorder. *o* *hold one's peace* keep silent. *peace pipe* tobacco pipe smoked as a token of peace among some Native Americans.

**peace-able** /'piːsəbəl/ *adj.* 1 disposed to peace. 2 tranquil; peaceful. **peace-able-ness** *n.* **peace-ful** *adv.*

**peace-ful** /'piːsɪfəl/ *adj.* 1 characterized by peace; tranquil. 2 not infringing peace. **peace-fully** *adv.* **peace-ful-ness** *n.*

**peace-maker** /'piːsməɪkər/ *n.* person who brings about peace. **peace-making** *n.* & *adj.*

**peace-time** /'piːstɪm/ *n.* period when a country is not at war.

**peach** /'piːtʃ/ *n.* 1 a round juicy fruit with downy cream or yellow skin flushed with red. *b* tree bearing it. 2 yellowish pink color of. 3 *colloq.* a person or thing of superlative quality. *b* often *offens.* attractive young woman. **peach'y** *adj.* (**peach-er, peach-iest**). **peach'-iness** *n.*

**peacock** /'piːkɒk/ *n.* male peafowl, having brilliant plumage and an erectile fanlike tail (with eyelike markings).

**peafowl** /'piːfəʊl/ *n.* peacock or peahen.

**peahen** /'piːhɛn/ *n.* female peafowl.

**peajack-ot** /'piːdʒæk/ (also **pea'coat**) *n.* sailor's short double-breasted woolen overcoat.

**peak** /'piːk/ *n.* 1 projecting usu. pointed part, esp.: a the pointed top of a mountain. *b* a mountain with a peak. *c* stiff brim at the front of a cap. 2 a highest point. *b* time of greatest success. *v. intr.* reach the highest value, quality, etc. **peaked** *adj.* **peak'-iness** *n.*

**peak** /'piːk/ *v. intr.* 1 waste away. 2 (as **peak-ed** /'piːkɪd/ *adj.*) pale; sickly.

**peal** /'piːl/ *n.* 1 a the loud ringing of a bell or bells, esp. a series of changes. *b* set of bells. 2 loud repeated sound, esp. of thunder, laughter, etc. *v. tr.* *intr.* sound forth in a peal. 2 *tr.* utter sonorously. 3 *tr.* ring (bells) in peals.

**peanut** /'piːnʌt/ *n.* 1 leguminous plant, bearing pods that ripen underground and contain seeds used as food and yielding oil. 2 seed of this plant. 3 (in *pl.*) *colloq.* paltry or trivial thing or amount, esp. of money. *o* **peanut butter** paste of ground roasted peanuts.

**pear** /'peə/ *n.* 1 yellowish or brownish green fleshy fruit, tapering toward the stalk. 2 tree bearing it.

**pearl** /'peə/ *n.* 1 a (often *attrib.*) usu. white or bluish gray hard mass formed within the shell of certain oysters highly prized as a gem for its luster (*pearl necklace*). *b* imitation of this. 2 precious thing; finest example. 3 anything resembling a pearl, e.g., a dewdrop, tear, etc. *v. intr.* fish for pearl oysters. **pear'-er** *n.* **pear'-ly** *adj.*