



About this database

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|-------------------------|---|
| Type of information | Full-text access to the 20 volume Second Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary. |
| Date of coverage | Traces the evolution of more than 600,000 words over the last 1,500 years through the use of 2.5million quotations. |
| Currency of information | Updated quarterly. |

Accessing this database / Logging on

You can use this database straight away inside the library. Just click on the database link on our web pages at <http://www.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/resources/databaseloc.asp?loc=shl>

If you are using a computer at home, from a college of the University of London, or from outside the SAS Institutes, you will be asked for your name and Library card number to log in.

Please note that in some cases access may be restricted to specific user groups according to the licensing agreement in force. To find out if you are an authorized user, check on the page <http://www.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/resources/databaseauth.asp>

How to get help using this database

If you need help when using this database click on Enter OED Online and then click on Help with using OED Online, Quick Reference Guide (PDF) or New to OED Online?.

Alternatively, you may wish to contact the Information Services Team via enquiries@shl.lon.ac.uk or 020 7862 8462/ 8461.

Search options in this database

To begin using this database click on Enter OED Online.

The screenshot shows the OED Online website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following links: OED News, About the OED, Subscribe to OED Online, Customer service, Learning resources, and Word of the day. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a 'NEWS' section with the headline 'Latest additions: June 2007' and a sub-headline 'Use your local library's subscription'. The text below the sub-headline reads: 'Access the whole OED from home by using your local library's subscription. (Most UK public...'. On the right, there is a search box with a 'Find Word' button. Above the search box, there is a 'Short-cuts' section with the following links: 'Lost for words? Get an entry', 'Help with using OED Online', and 'Quick reference guide (PDF)'. A callout box with a red arrow points to the 'Enter OED Online' button in the search area.

Basic Search

You can perform a basic search by entering the word you are looking for into the Start Using OED Online search box.

New to OED Online

- How do I find a word?
- What do the buttons mean?
- Example searches
- Tour of OED Online

Insert your word here, click Find Word

Simple Search/Advanced Search

Help and Quick Reference Guide

- Help with using OED Online
- Quick reference guide [PDF](#)
- Key to symbols and other conventions
- Abbreviations used in OED Online
- Add OED Online to your browser
- Learning resources

What's new

OED Word of the Day by RSS feed

You can now receive links to Word of the Day and keep up-to-date with news about OED Online through our new [RSS web](#).

Latest new and revised entries

- 14 June 2007: prima-proteose
- **New words**

Quarterly updates

Unpublished additions

- N. Other *n.*
- pill pill, *n.*
- stoush *n.*
- prime time, *n.*¹

Simple search Advanced search

Subscriber: University of London

When the results for your search are retrieved they will be displayed in the following way:

Find Word

Lost for Words?

Entry Version

Help

List by Entry

List by Date

Entry Map

Oxford English Dictionary

quagmire

SECOND EDITION 1989

1. A piece of wet and boggy ground, too soft to sustain the weight of men or the larger animals; a quaking bog; a fen, marsh.

1579-80 **NORTH** *Plutarch* (1676) 530 There was a certain quagmire before him, that ran with a swift running stream. 1610 **ROWLANDS** *Martin Mark-all* 26 They come to bogs and quagmyres, much like to them in Ireland. 1665 *Surv. Aff. Netherl.* 120 [Holland is] the greatest Bogg of Europe, and Quagmire of Christendom. 1756 **C. LUCAS** *Ess. Waters* II. 131 The quagmire being pierced..is found no where above two feet deep. 1838 **PRESCOTT** *Ferd. & Is.* (1846) III. xiv. 121 The excessive rains..had converted the whole country into a mere quagmire. 1882 **QUIDA** *Maremma* I. 47 To reach the mountain crest without sinking miserably in a quagmire.

Comb. 1611 **COTGR.**, *Mollasse*,..quagmire-like.

2. *transf. and fig.* a. Anything soft, flabby, or yielding.

1635 **QUARLES** *Embl.* 1. xii. (1718) 50 Thy flesh a trembling bog, a quagmire full of humour
corpulent, drown'd in foggy quagmires of fat
the indurated patches seem, in some cases, to be mixed upon a

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OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Subscriber: University of London

The search results page offers a number of features and these include:

- **List By Entry:** See the current entry within an alphabetical listing.
- **List By Date:** See the current entry within a chronological listing, and find out which other words entered the language in the same year.
- **Entry Map:** Displays the main numbered senses of the entry to aid navigation.
- **Entry Version:** Gives the version and publication date of the entry. A button links to an earlier version of the entry when available.
- **Find Word:** To look up a word or phrase, simply type into the box, hit return or click the magnifying glass. You can use wildcards in all searches. (WILDCARDS: ? represents a single occurrence of any character p?t, finds pat, pet, pit etc. * represents the occurrence of any number of characters (including zero) p*t, finds pat, paint, pragmatist, etc.)
- **Lost for Words:** Use Lost for Words to get a random entry from the Dictionary.

Search Tips: Special Characters, Hyphens and case. *E:* Accents are ignored – *cafe* finds *café* *th* matches Old English and *gh* matches Middle English Hyphens are treated as spaces Searching is not case-sensitive

Simple Search

The Simple Search menu allows you to type a word or phrase into the box to find it in the full text of the dictionary, or in a selected area from the drop-down list.

Click on More Options (underneath the search box) to search for two words or phrases occurring near each other.

The screenshot shows the OED Online homepage. A callout box labeled 'Simple Search' points to a search menu on the left. The menu includes options like 'full text', 'first cited date', 'first cited author', 'first cited work', 'definitions', 'etymologies', 'language names', 'quotations', 'quotation date', 'quotation author', 'quotation work', and 'quotation text'. The main page features a 'Welcome to OED Online' header, a search box with a 'Find Word' button, and sections for 'Start using OED Online', 'Help and resources', 'What's new', 'OED Word of the Day by RSS feed', 'Latest new and revised entries', and 'Featured additions'.

Advanced Search

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced search' page with the following callout boxes:

- Search Specific Editions:** Points to the introductory text on the left: 'Use this form to search the full text of the New Edition (in progress, 2000-). A separate form is available to search the Second Edition (1989).' and the 'Simple search' / 'Advanced search' tabs at the bottom.
- Entries/Quotations Tab:** Points to the 'Entries' and 'Quotations' tabs at the top of the search form.
- Case Sensitive/Exact Character Searching:** Points to the checkboxes for 'Case-sensitive searching' and 'Exact character searching'.
- Order of Operations:** Points to the 'Options for NEAR/NOT NEAR' section, including the 'before', 'after', and 'before or after' radio buttons, and the 'Order of operations: A then B' dropdown.
- Part of Speech Filter:** Points to the 'Part of speech filter' section with checkboxes for various parts of speech like noun, verb, adjective, etc.
- Restrict Search:** Points to the 'Restrict search to results of' section, including the 'previous search' radio button and the 'search number' input field.

Boolean Searching

The OED Online Advanced Search enables you to use Boolean searching, allows for case sensitivity and special characters, and you can also choose to search within the results of previous searches.

BOOLEAN SEARCHING: Combine search terms using the Boolean operators AND, OR, AND NOT, NEAR, and NOT NEAR. Retrieve either whole entries or individual quotations containing the search terms. Click the Entries or the Quotations tab to activate the selection. Search for terms in different search areas within the same entry or quotation using the drop-down lists.

The following features allow you to refine your search further:

- **Search Specific Editions:** Search either the new or the earlier Second Edition.
- **Restrict Search:** Narrow down the results of a search by restricting a subsequent search to those results. Previous searches are listed below the Advanced Search form.
- **Part of Speech Filter:** Check one or more boxes to return only entries with the selected parts of speech.
- **Case Sensitive Searching:** Make a search case sensitive by checking this box before starting the search.
- **Exact Character Searching:** Accents are ignored unless this box is checked. Enter the name of a special character between hash marks – `ca#eacu#` finds café.
- **Order of Operations:** Choose the order in which the operations are to be performed when two Boolean operators are used between three search terms.