

# OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE UNABRIDGED

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## Explanatory Notes

**redstart** . . . . . 2 . . . . . birds of the genus *Phoenicurus* (as the black redstart, *P. ochruros* syn. *P. titys* of Europe)  
**blacknose dace** . . . . . n : a common No. American dace (*Rhinichthys atronotus* or *Atrichthys atronotus*)

The first form indicates that the binomial following *syn* (for "synonym") is technically invalid but so widely known or generally used as to justify mention. The second is used when there is professional lack of agreement about the correct name.

**14.4** A genus name used more than once in an unnumbered entry or in a numbered sense of an entry is routinely abbreviated in uses after the first:

**so-ran** . . . . . n . . . . . either of two Indian mangroves (*Sonneratia roxburghiana* and *C. candelleana*)  
**nas-tur-tium** . . . . . n . . . . . 2 s : any plant of the genus *Tro-paeum* (as *T. majus* and *T. ritans*)  
**ich-thy-oph-thir-i-us** . . . . . n . . . . . cap : a genus of oval holotrichous ciliates comprising a single species (*I. multifiliis*)

**14.5** Names of taxonomic categories higher than the genus are capitalized plural nouns often used with singular verbs, and not italicized or abbreviated in normal use, and in this dictionary are routinely oriented in rank when used in defining:

**turtle** . . . . . n . . . . . 1 : a reptile of the order Testudinata  
**scar-a-bae-oid** . . . . . 1 : a beetle of Scarabaeidae or a closely related family  
**achar-i-ace-ae** . . . . . n . . . . . a family of herbs and shrubs (order Parietales)

Such names when used in other entries will be found entered at their own alphabetical place.

**14.6** A taxonomic entry of the form *x syn of y* means that *x* is in all respects (as grammatical number, capitalization, meaning, and taxonomic rank) equivalent to *y* but that it is for some reason (as a flaw of spelling or form, a faulty application, or a lack of priority) technically inferior to and less valid than *y*.

**14.7** An italic guide phrase (as in some classifications) used to introduce the text of a taxonomic entry is a warning device and implies that the taxon defined though not strictly a synonym in the taxonomic sense is not as generally acceptable as one lacking such a qualifier.

## 15. USAGE NOTES

**15.1** A usage note is introduced by a lightface dash. Two or more successive usage notes are separated by a semicolon. A usage note provides information about the use of the word being defined and so always modifies the word that is the main entry. It may be in the form of a comment on idiom, syntax, semantic relationship, status, or various other matters:

**fresh-en** . . . . . vt . . . . . 4 : . . . . . usu. used with *up*  
**collar** . . . . . n . . . . . 1 : . . . . . used of a steel bar in a rolling mill  
**al-le-gro** . . . . . adv (or adj) . . . . . : . . . . . used as a direction in music  
**free-ma-son** . . . . . n . . . . . 2 : . . . . . called also *Mason*  
**co-he-sion** . . . . . n . . . . . 3 : . . . . . distinguished from *adhesion*

**15.2** A usage note may stand in place of a definition and without the symbolic colon. Some function words have little or no semantic content, and most interjections express feelings but otherwise are untranslatable into substitutable meaning. Many other words (as some oaths and imprecations, calls to animals, specialized signals, song refrains, and honorific titles), though genuinely a part of the English language, have a usage note instead of a definition:

**gee** . . . . . interj . . . . . : . . . . . often used as an introductory expletive for emphasis and sometimes to express surprise or enthusiasm  
**at** . . . . . prep . . . . . 1 : . . . . . used as a function word to indicate presence in, on, or near  
**ahoy** . . . . . interj . . . . . : . . . . . used in hailing (ship >)  
**hey** . . . . . interj . . . . . : . . . . . used to call attention or to incite, to express interrogation, surprise, or exultation, or with indefinite meaning in the burden of a song

## 16. CROSS-REFERENCES

**16.0** Various word relationships requiring that matter at one place in a dictionary show special awareness of matter at another place are taken care of by a system of cross-references. A sequence of lightface small capitals used anywhere in a definition is identical letter-by-letter with a boldface main entry (or with one of its inflectional forms) at its own alphabetical place. This sequence is a cross-reference; its boldface equivalent elsewhere is what is cross-referenced to and is not itself a cross-reference.

**16.1** A cross-reference following a lightface dash and beginning with either *see* or *compare* is a directional cross-reference. It explicitly directs one to look somewhere else for further information. It never stands for a definition but (with a few exceptions) is always appended to one. Such a cross-reference is separated from another cross-reference or from a usage note by a semicolon.

**16.1.1** A cross-reference using the verb *see* means that the boldface entry word to which it is appended is mentioned in the same meaning and function at the entry cross-referenced to. The information at this entry which is cross-referenced to adds to the meaning of the boldface word to which the cross-reference is attached or supplements it in some significant way (as by adding to one definition of *house* the cross-reference "see BUNGALOW, COTTAGE, MANSION; APARTMENT

BUILDING, BOARDINGHOUSE, DWELLING HOUSE, LODGING HOUSE, ROOMING HOUSE, TENEMENT HOUSE"):

**horn** . . . . . n . . . . . 1 a (l) : one of the paired bony processes that arise from the upper part of the head of many ungulate mammals . . . . . see ANTLER  
**ant-ler** . . . . . n . . . . . : a horn of an animal of the deer family

**16.1.2** A cross-reference using the verb *compare* means that the boldface entry word to which it is appended is not mentioned (except perhaps incidentally) at the entry cross-referenced to. The additional information at this entry which is cross-referenced to is related in some pertinent way (as by similarity, contrast, or complement):

**apoc-o-pe** . . . . . n . . . . . : the loss of one or more sounds or letters at the end of a word . . . . . compare APHAERESIS, SYSCOPE  
**syn-co-pe** . . . . . n . . . . . 2 a : the loss of one or more sounds or letters in the interior of a word

**16.2** A cross-reference following a symbolic colon is a synonymous cross-reference. It may stand alone as the only definitional matter for a boldface entry or for a sense or subsense of an entry. It may be one of a group of definitions joined in series by symbolic colons. In either case the cross-reference means that the definitions at the entry cross-referenced to are substitutable as definitions for the boldface entry or the sense or subsense at which the cross-reference appears:

**con-cep-ti-ble** . . . . . adj . . . . . : CONCEIVABLE  
**con-cep-tion** . . . . . n . . . . . 4 : DENSITY 1  
**concentric cable** . . . . . n : COAXIAL CABLE  
**con-cep-tric** . . . . . adj . . . . . 1 . . . . . b : having a common axis (as of two or more cones or moraines) : formed about the same axis : COAXIAL  
**in-vent** . . . . . vt . . . . . 2 : to think up or imagine : concoct mentally : FABRICATE

**16.2.1** Two or more synonymous cross-references are sometimes introduced by a symbolic colon and joined to each other by a comma. This indicates that there are two or more sets of definitions at other entries which are substitutable in various contexts:

**con-cept** . . . . . n . . . . . : THOUGHT, IDEA, NOTION  
**con-cept** . . . . . vb . . . . . 2 : ADMIT, ACKNOWLEDGE

**16.2.2** A synonymous cross-reference sometimes accounts for a usage note introduced by *called also* at the entry cross-referenced to:

**ra-ad** . . . . . n . . . . . : ELECTRIC CATFISH  
**electric catfish** . . . . . n . . . . . : called also *raad*  
**fairy bell** . . . . . n . . . . . 1 . . . . . : FOXGLOVE 1  
**foxglove** . . . . . n . . . . . 1 . . . . . : called also *fairy bell*, *finger-flower*, *fingerroot*

**16.3.1** A cross-reference following an italic *var of* is a cognate cross-reference. It is explained and illustrated in 1.7.3 as applied to standard variants.

**16.3.2** A limiting label before the *var of* in a cognate cross-reference indicates in what way an entry word is nonstandard:

**air** . . . . . Scot *var of* *eyre*  
**alarm clock** . . . . . chiefly Brit *var of* *ALARM CLOCK*  
**ast** . . . . . dial *var of* *ASK*  
**colour** . . . . . chiefly Brit *var of* *COLOR*  
**defuse** . . . . . obs *var of* *DIFFUSE*

**16.3.3** A cross-reference following an italic *syn of* is also a cognate cross-reference. See 14.6.

**16.4** A cross-reference following an italic label identifying an entry as an inflectional form of a singular noun, of an adjective or adverb, or of an infinitive verb is an inflectional cross-reference. These are illustrated in 4.6, 4.12, and 4.16.

**16.5** A cross-reference following a functional label is a suffixal cross-reference. These are illustrated at 4.4, 4.10, and 4.14. Each of these suffixes is an entry at its own alphabetical place where the way in which it is suffixed is explained.

**16.6** A cross-reference may or may not be identified by a superscript number before it or by a lightface sense number or letter after it. A synonymous cross-reference to a homograph is not identified by part of speech: nouns refer to nouns, adjectives to adjectives. Cross-references to verbs sometimes distinguish between *vt* and *vi*.

## 17. RUN-ON ENTRIES

**17.1.1** A main entry may be continued after a lightface dash by a boldface derivative of itself. This is a run-on entry. Its boldface is always in alphabetical order with respect to the word it is run on to. It has a functional label but no definition:

**en-vi-able** . . . . . adj . . . . . : **en-vi-able-ness** . . . . . n -ES  
**epi-phenomenal** . . . . . adj . . . . . : **epi-phenomenally** . . . . . adv  
**equi-distant** . . . . . adj . . . . . : **equidistantly** . . . . . adv

**17.1.2** An additional run-on entry sometimes follows:

**er-ro-neous** . . . . . adj . . . . . : **er-ro-neous-ly** . . . . . adv -ER-RO-NEOUS-NESS n -ES

**17.2** A main entry may be continued after a lightface dash by a boldface phrase containing the main entry word or an inflected form of it. This also is a run-on entry. It often is not in alphabetical order. It may or may not have a functional label but it has a definition:

**ac-count** . . . . . n . . . . . : **in account with** . . . . . prep . . . . . -ON  
**bad** . . . . . adj . . . . . : **in a bad way** . . . . . - TOO BAD  
**deep** . . . . . adj . . . . . : **in deep water** . . . . .  
**run** . . . . . vb . . . . . : **run across** . . . . . - RUN A TEMPERATURE  
**run** . . . . . n . . . . . : **run riot** . . . . . - RUN TO SEED  
**run** . . . . . n . . . . . : **run wild** . . . . .

**set** . . . . . vb . . . . . : **set about** . . . . . - **set aside** . . . . . - **set forth** . . . . . - **set one's cap for** . . . . . - **set one's hand to** . . . . .

**17.3** A run-on entry is an independent entry with respect to function and status. Labels at the main entry do not apply unless they are repeated.

## 18. SYNONYMIES

**18.1** This dictionary contains over a thousand paragraphs in which synonymous words are briefly discriminated and given verbal illustrations. Each paragraph follows the entry of one of the words of a group under consideration and is signaled by the boldface abbreviation *syn* indicated. The paragraph is a synonymy. The first one appears at the word *abjure* and considers *abjure*, *renounce*, *forswear*, *recant*, and *retract*.

**18.2** Words considered in a synonymy refer at their own alphabetical places to its location by running on the boldface letters *syn* and the word:

**re-nounce** . . . . . *syn* see *ABJURE*  
**for-swear** . . . . . *syn* see *ABJURE*

## 19. ABBREVIATIONS

**19.1** An entry having the label *abbr* is an abbreviation and what follows it is an expansion rather than a definition. No symbolic colon is used:

**bbl** *abbr* barrel  
**abp** *abbr*, often *cap* archbishop

**19.2** An abbreviation formed from the initial letters of two or more words appears in unspaced capital letters.

**BCD** *abbr* bad conduct discharge  
**GA** *abbr* 1 general agent 2 general assembly

**19.3** Some abbreviations function also as substantives and have a combined label:

**TD** *abbr* or *n* -s . . . . . touchdown

## 20. SYMBOLS

**20.1** An entry having the label *symbol* has an expansion or interpretation rather than a definition. No symbolic colon is used:

**Ga** *symbol* gallium  
**y** *symbol* 1 unknown quantity 2 an ordinate 3 *cap* admittance 4 *cap* yttrium

## 21. COMBINING FORMS

**21.1** A main entry that begins or ends with a hyphen is a word element that forms part of an English compound. The identifying label, besides the hyphen, is *comb form* for "combining form", or if the element is used only as an affix, the label is *prefix* or *suffix*. A suffix or terminal combining form that always determines syntactic function is further identified by addition of a part-of-speech label (as *adj suffix* or *n comb form*):

**nas-** or **naso-** also **nasi-** *comb form*  
**pre-** *prefix*  
**-able** also **-ible** . . . . . *adj suffix*  
**-age** . . . . . *n suffix* -s  
**cephal-** or **cephalo-** *comb form* . . . . . 1 : head (*cephalitis*)  
*(cephalometer)* 2 : cephalic and (*cephalofacial*)

**21.2** This dictionary enters combining forms for two reasons: chiefly to make easier the writing of etymologies of words in which they occur over and over again; and to recognize meaningful elements that are constantly being used to form new words not yet authenticated for dictionary inclusion. A compound consisting of a known word and a known combining form is not censurable merely by being absent from the dictionary.

## 22. THE VOCABULARY ENTRY

**22.1** The following definition appears at its own alphabetical place in the dictionary:

**vocabulary entry** *n* : a word (as the noun *book*), hyphenated or open compound (as the verb *book-match* or the noun *book review*), word element (as the affix *pre-*), abbreviation (as *apt*), verbalized symbol (as *N<sub>2</sub>*), or term (as *man in the street*) entered alphabetically in a dictionary for the purpose of definition or identification or expressly included as an inflectional form (as the noun *books* or the verbs *booked* and *saw*) or as a derived form (as the noun *godliness* or the adverb *globally*) or related phrase (as *one for the book*) run on at its base word and usu. set in a type (as boldface or small capitals) readily distinguishable from that of the running text which defines, explains, or identifies the entry

As defined, this term applies to all the entries as they are printed alphabetically from *a* to *zyzzog-ton*, with or without hyphens, all their boldface variants, all the run-on entries, and all inflectional forms whether written out in boldface or indicated by small-capital suffixes.

## 23. -ER, -OR, -IZE

**23.1** -ER, -OR, or -IZE. A "see -er in *Explan Notes*" as at *center*, a "see -or in *Explan Notes*" as at *honor*, or a "see -ize in *Explan Notes*" as at *synchronize* refers to variant spellings discussed in sections 2.7, 2.12, and 2.10 in the article headed "Spelling".

## 24. FACTOTUMS

**24.1** The letter-forms illustrated at the beginning of each letter of the alphabet are a capital surrounded by lowercase roman (upper left), lowercase italic (upper right), and small and large script or black letter (across the bottom).



6 a *obs* : to become vested b *obs* : CONSIST c : to remain  
lie for action or accomplishment (the maintenance of peace ~  
with him alone) 7 of farmland : to remain idle or uncropped  
8 : to bring to an end voluntarily the introduction of evidence  
in a law case and thereby lose the right to introduce fresh