
The New Oxford American Dictionary

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An independent sultanate known as Muscat and Oman until 1970, Oman was the most influential power in the region during the 19th century; it controlled Zanzibar and other territory. Since the late 19th century, it has had strong links with Britain. The economy is dependent on oil, discovered in 1964.

-DERIVATIVES **Oma·ni** |'o:māni| adj. & n.

Oman, Gulf of an inlet of the Arabian Sea, connected by the Strait of Hormuz to the Persian Gulf.

Omar I |'o:mār| (c.581–644), Muslim caliph 634–44. He conquered Syria, Palestine, and Egypt.

Omar Khayyām |kɪ'ām; -'æm| (died 1123), Persian poet, mathematician, and astronomer. His *rubāiyāt* (quatrains), found in *The Rubāiyāt of Omar Khayyām* (translation published 1859), are meditations on the mysteries of existence and celebrations of worldly pleasures.

oma·sum |'o:məsəm| n. (pl. **omasas** |-'sə|) Zoology the muscular third stomach of a ruminant animal, between the reticulum and the abomasum. Also called **PSALTERIUM**.

-ORIGIN early 18th cent.: from Latin, literally 'bullock's tripe.'

Omayyad |'o:mi(y)əd| variant spelling of **UMAYYAD**. **OMB** >abbr. (in the federal government) Office of Management and Budget.

ombre |'āmbər| n. a trick-taking card game for three people using a pack of forty cards, popular in Europe in the 17th–18th centuries.

-ORIGIN from Spanish *hombre* 'man,' with reference to one player seeking to win the pool.

om·bré |'ām,brə| adj. (of a fabric) having a dyed, printed, or woven design in which the color is graduated from light to dark.

-ORIGIN French, past participle of *ombrer* 'to shade.'

ombro- >comb. form relating to rain: *ombrotrophic*.

-ORIGIN from Greek *ombros* 'rain shower.'

om·bro·troph·ic |,āmbɹə'trɒfɪk; -'trɒfɪk| adj. Ecology (of a bog or its vegetation) dependent on atmospheric moisture for its nutrients.

om·buds·man |'āmbədʒmən; -'bɒdʒz-| n. (pl. **-men**) an official appointed to investigate individuals' complaints against maladministration, esp. that of public authorities.

-ORIGIN 1950s: from Swedish, 'legal representative.'

om·buds·per·son |'āmbədʒ,pərsən; -'bɒdʒz-| n. a person acting as an ombudsman.

Om·dur·man |,āmdər'mān| a city in central Sudan, on the Nile River opposite Khartoum; pop. 229,000.

-ome >suffix chiefly Biology forming nouns denoting objects or parts having a specified nature: *rhizome* | *trichome*.

-ORIGIN variant form of **-OMA**.

ome·ga |'o:məgə; 'o:mē-| n. the twenty-fourth, and last, letter of the Greek alphabet (Ω, ω), transliterated as 'o' or 'ō.'

■ the last of a series; the final development: [as adj.] *the omega point*. ■ **(Omega)** [followed by Latin genitive] Astronomy the twenty-fourth star in a constellation: *Omega Scorpii*.

■ symbol ■ (Ω) ohm(s): a 100Ω resistor.

-ORIGIN from Greek *ōmega* 'big O.'

ome·ga·3 fat·y ac·id n. an unsaturated fatty acid of a kind occurring chiefly in fish oils, with three double bonds at particular positions in the hydrocarbon chain.

ome·let |'ām(ə)lɪt| (also **omelette**) n. a dish of beaten eggs cooked in a frying pan until firm, often with a filling added while cooking, and usually served folded over.

-ORIGIN French *omelette*, earlier *amelette*, alteration of *alumette*, variant of *alumelle*, from *lemele* 'knife blade,' from Latin *lamella* (see **LAMELLA**). The association with 'knife blade' is probably because of the thin flat shape of an omelet.

omen |'omən| n. an event regarded as a portent of good or evil: *the ghost's appearance was an ill omen* | *a rise in imports might be an omen of recovery*.

■ prophetic significance: *the raven seemed a bird of evil omen*.

-ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Latin.

om·en·tum |'o:məntəm| n. (pl. **omenta** |-'tə|) Anatomy a fold of peritoneum connecting the stomach with other abdominal organs.

-DERIVATIVES **om·en·tal** |'o:məntl| adj.

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin.

omer |'omər; 'omer| n. 1 an ancient Hebrew dry measure, the tenth part of an ephah.

2 **(Omer)** Judaism a sheaf of corn or omer of grain presented as an offering on the second day of Passover.

■ the period of 49 days between this day and Shavuoth (Pentecost).

-ORIGIN from Hebrew *omer*.

omer·tā |'o:mertə; 'omer'tā| n. (as practiced by the

Mafia) a code of silence about criminal activity and a refusal to give evidence to authorities.

om·i·cron |'āmi,kɹən; 'ōm-| n. the fifteenth letter of the Greek alphabet (Ο, ο), transliterated as 'o.'

■ **(Omicron)** [followed by Latin genitive] Astronomy the fifteenth star in a constellation: *Omicron Piscium*.

-ORIGIN from Greek *o mikron* 'little O.'

om·i·nous |'āmənəs| adj. giving the impression that something bad or unpleasant is going to happen; threatening; inauspicious: *there were ominous dark clouds gathering overhead*.

-DERIVATIVES **om·i·nously** adv.; **om·i·nous·ness** n.

-ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Latin *ominosus*, from *omen*, *omin-* 'omen.'

om·i·s·sion |'o:mɪʃən| n. someone or something that has been left out or excluded: *there are glaring omissions in the report*.

■ the action of excluding or leaving out someone or something: *the omission of recent publications from his bibliography*. ■ a failure to do something, esp. something that one has a moral or legal obligation to do: *to pay compensation for a wrongful act or omission*.

-DERIVATIVES **om·i·s·sive** |'o:mɪsɪv| adj.

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from late Latin *omissio* (n-), from the verb *omittere* (see **OMIT**).

om·it |'o:mit| v. **(omitted, omitting)** [trans.] (often be omitted) leave out or exclude (someone or something), either intentionally or forgetfully: *a significant detail was omitted from your story*.

■ fail or neglect to do (something); leave undone: *the final rinse is omitted* | [with infinitive] *he modestly omits to mention that he was pole-vault champion*.

-DERIVATIVES **om·i·s·sible** |'o:mɪsəbəl| adj.

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from late Latin *omittere*, from *ob-* 'down' + *mittere* 'let go.'

om·ma·tī·dī·um |,āmə'tɪdɪəm| n. (pl. **ommatidia** |-'tɪdɪə|) Entomology each of the optical units that make up a compound eye, as of an insect.

-DERIVATIVES **om·ma·tī·dī·al** |-'tɪdɪə| adj.

-ORIGIN late 19th cent.: modern Latin, from Greek *ommatidion*, diminutive of *omma*, *ommat-* 'eye.'

om·ma·tō·phore |'o:mætə,fɔr| n. Zoology a part of an invertebrate animal, esp. a stalk or tentacle, that bears an eye.

-ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from Greek *omma*, *ommat-* 'eye' + **-PHORE**.

omni- >comb. form all; of all things: *omniscient* | *omnifarious*.

■ in all ways or places: *omnicompetent* | *omnipresent*.

-ORIGIN from Latin *omnis* 'all.'

om·ni·bus |'āmnə,bəs| n. 1 a volume containing several novels or other items previously published separately: *an omnibus of her first trilogy*.

2 dated a bus.

■ comprising several items: *Congress passed an omnibus anti-crime package*.

-ORIGIN early 19th cent.: via French from Latin, literally 'for all,' dative plural of *omnis*.

om·ni·di·rec·tion·al |,āmnɪ,dɪ'rekʃənəl| adj. Telecommunications receiving signals from or transmitting in all directions.

om·ni·far·i·ous |,āmnə'ferəs| adj. formal comprising or relating to all sorts or varieties.

-DERIVATIVES **om·ni·far·i·ously** adv.; **om·ni·far·i·ous·ness** n.

-ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from late Latin *omnifarius* + **-OUS**; compare with **MULTIFARIOUS**.

om·ni·pō·tent |'ām'nɪpə'tənt| adj. (of a deity) having unlimited power; able to do anything.

■ having ultimate power and influence: *an omnipotent sovereign*.

n. **(the Omnipotent)** God.

-DERIVATIVES **om·ni·pō·tence** n.; **om·ni·pō·tent·ly** adv.

-ORIGIN Middle English (as a divine attribute): via Old French from Latin *omnipotens* 'all-powerful.'

om·ni·pres·ent |,āmnə'preznt| adj. (of God) present everywhere at the same time.

■ widely or constantly encountered; common or widespread: *the omnipresent threat of natural disasters*.

-DERIVATIVES **om·ni·pres·ence** n.

-ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from medieval Latin *omnipraesent-*.

om·ni·range |'āmnɪ,rænʃ| n. a navigation system in which short-range omnidirectional VHF transmitters serve as radio beacons.

om·ni·sci·ent |'ām'nɪʃɪənt| adj. knowing everything: *the story is told by an omniscient narrator*.

-DERIVATIVES **om·ni·sci·ence** n.; **om·ni·sci·ent·ly** adv.

-ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from medieval Latin *omniscient-* 'all-knowing,' based on *scire* 'to know.'

om·ni·sex·u·al |,āmnɪ'seksʃwəl| adj. involving, related to, or characterized by a diverse sexual propensity.

-DERIVATIVES **om·ni·sex·u·al·ity** |-,seksʃə'wæl-ɪtɪ| n.

om·ni·um·gath·er·um |,āmnəəm gæ'tʰərəm| n. a collection of miscellaneous people or things.

-ORIGIN early 16th cent.: mock Latin, from Latin *omnium* 'of all' and **GATHER** + **-UM**.

om·ni·vore |'āmnə,vɔr| n. an animal or person that eats food of both plant and animal origin.

-ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from French, from Latin *omnivorus* 'omnivorous.'

om·niv·o·rous |'ām'nɪv(ə)rəs| adj. (of an animal or person) feeding on food of both plant and animal origin.

■ taking in or using whatever is available: *an omnivorous reader*.

-DERIVATIVES **om·niv·o·rous·ly** adv.; **om·niv·o·rous·ness** n.

-ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Latin *omnivorus* + **-OUS**.

om·ph·a·gy |'o:məfəjə| (also **omophagia**) n. the eating of raw food, esp. raw meat.

-DERIVATIVES **om·ph·ag·ic** |,ōmə'fæjɪk| adj.; **om·ph·a·gist** |-'jɪst| n.; **om·ph·a·gous** |-'gəs| adj.

-ORIGIN early 18th cent.: from Greek *omophagia*, from *ōmos* 'raw' + *-phagia* (from *phagein* 'eat').

Om·ot·ic |'o:mə'tɪk| n. a subfamily of Afro-Asiatic languages spoken in Ethiopia, with over thirty members.

■ adj. denoting or belonging to this subfamily.

-ORIGIN 1970s: from *Omo*, the name of a river in southwestern Ethiopia, + **-OTIC**.

omphalo- >comb. form relating to the navel.

-ORIGIN from Greek *omphalos* 'navel.'

om·pha·los |'āmfələs| n. (pl. **omphaloi** |-'loɪ|) poetic/literary the center or hub of something: *this was the omphalos of confusion and strife*.

■ a rounded stone (esp. that at Delphi) representing the navel of the earth in ancient Greek mythology.

-ORIGIN Greek, literally 'navel.'

Omsk |'ɒmsk| a city in south central Russia, on the Irtysh River; pop. 1,159,000.

ON¹ >abbr. Ontario (in official postal use).

ON² >abbr. Old Norse.

on |æn; ɒn| >prep. 1 physically in contact with and supported by (a surface): *on the table was a water jug* | *she was lying on the floor* | *a sign on the front gate*.

■ located somewhere in the general surface area of (a place): *an internment camp on the island* | *the house on the corner*. ■ as a result of accidental physical contact with: *one of the children had cut a foot on some glass* | *he banged his head on a beam*. ■ supported by (a part of the body): *he was lying on his back*. ■ so as to be supported or held by: *put it on the table*. ■ in the possession of (the person referred to): *she only had a few dollars on her*.

2 forming a distinctive or marked part of (the surface of something): *a scratch on her arm* | *a smile on her face*.

3 having (the thing mentioned) as a topic: *a book on careers* | *essays on a wide range of issues*.

■ having (the thing mentioned) as a basis: *modeled on the Mayflower Compact* | *dependent on availability*.

4 as a member of (a committee, jury, or other body): *they would be allowed to serve on committees*.

5 having (the place or thing mentioned) as a target: *five air raids on the city* | *thousands marching on Washington*.

■ having (the thing mentioned) as a target for visual focus: *her eyes were fixed on his dark profile*.

6 having (the thing mentioned) as a medium for transmitting or storing information: *put your ideas down on paper* | *stored on the client's own computer*.

■ being broadcast by (a radio or television channel): *a new TV series on Channel 4*.

7 in the course of (a journey): *he was on his way to see his mother*.

■ while traveling in (a public conveyance): *John got some sleep on the plane*. ■ on to (a public conveyance) with the intention of traveling in it: *we got on the train*.

8 indicating the day or part of a day during which an event takes place: *reported on September 26* | *on a very hot evening in July*.

■ at the time of: *she was booed on arriving home*.

9 engaged in: *his attendant was out on errands*.

10 regularly taking (a drug or medicine): *he is on morphine to relieve the pain*.

11 paid for by: *the drinks are on me*.

12 added to: *a few cents on the electric bill is nothing compared with your security*.

■ adv. 1 physically in contact with and supported by a surface: *make sure the lid is on*.

■ (of clothing) being worn by a person: *sitting with her coat on* | *get your shoes on*.

2 indicating continuation of a movement or action: *she burbled on* | *he drove on* | *and so on*.