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# **The New Oxford American Dictionary**

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SECOND EDITION

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## nose guard

English: from NOSE + GAY in the obsolete sense 'or-nament.'

**nose guard** *n.* another term for **NOSE TACKLE**.

**nose job** *n.* informal an operation involving rhinoplasty or cosmetic surgery on a person's nose.

**nose leaf** *n.* a fleshy leaf-shaped structure on the nose of many bats, used for echolocation.

**nose-ema** *n.* a spore-forming parasitic protozoan that chiefly affects insects. • Genus *Nosema* in phylum Microspora, kingdom Protista; several species, in particular *N. apis*, which causes infectious **nosema disease** in honeybees. ▶ **mod-**

**nosepiece** *n.* the central part of a helmet or the central part of a pair of glasses that fits over the bridge of the nose. ▶ **the**

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and apocalyptic predictions in rhyming quatrains appeared in two collections, in 1555 and 1558, and their interpretation continues to be the subject of controversy.

**Nos-tratic** *n.* a hypothetical phylum of languages of which the principal members are the Indo-European, Semitic, Altaic, and Dravidian families.

▶ **adj.** of or relating to this language phylum. ▶ 1960s: from German *nostratisch*, based on Latin *nostras*, *nostrat-* 'of our country.'

**nos-tril** *n.* either of two external openings of the nasal cavity in vertebrates that admit air to the lungs and smells to the olfactory nerves. ▶ Old English *nosterl*, *nosthyrl*, from *nosu* 'nose' + *thyr(e)* 'hole.' —**nos-trilled** *adj.* [in combination].

**nos-trum** *n.* a medicine, esp. one that is not considered effective, prepared by an unqualified person. ▶ a pet scheme or favorite remedy, esp. one for bringing about some social or political reform or improvement.

**nos-y** *n.* (also **nos-ey**) *informal* ▶ **adj.** (**nos-ier**, **nos-iest**) (of a person or their behavior) showing too much curiosity about other people's affairs: he had to whisper to avoid being overheard by their nosy neighbors. ▶ **v.** [intrans.] pry into something: they don't nosy into your business like some people. —**nos-ily** *adv.* —**nos-i-ness** *n.*

**Nos-y Parker** (also **nos-y Parker**) *n.* *informal* an overly inquisitive person. ▶ early 20th cent.: from the picture postcard caption, "The adventures of Nosy Parker," referring to a peeping Tom in Hyde Park, London.

**not** *adv.* **1** (also **n't** joined to a preceding verb) used with an auxiliary verb or "be" to form the negative: he would not say | she isn't there | didn't you tell me? ▶ **used** in some constructions with other verbs: [with *infinitive*] he has been warned not to touch | the pain of not knowing | she not only wrote the text but also researched the photographs. ▶ **used** as a short substitute for a negative clause: maybe I'll regret it, but I hope not | "Don't you keep in touch?" "I'm afraid not." | they wouldn't know if I was telling the truth or not. ▶ **used** to express the negative of other words: not a single attempt was made | treating the symptoms and not the cause | "How was it?" "Not so bad." ▶ **used** with a quantifier to exclude a person or part of a group: not all the poems are serious. ▶ **less** than (used to indicate a surprisingly small quantity): the brakes went on not ten feet from him. ▶ **used** in understatements to suggest that the opposite of a following word or phrase is true: the not too distant future | not a million miles away. ▶ *informal*, humorous following and emphatically negating a statement: that sounds like quality entertainment—not. [a usage popularized by the film *Wayne's World*.]

▶ **n.** (often **NOT**) *Electronics* a Boolean operator with only one variable that has the value one when the variable is zero and vice versa. ▶ (also **not gate**) a circuit that produces an output signal only when there is not a signal on its input.

▶ **adj.** (often **Not**) *Art* (of paper) not hot-pressed, and having a slightly textured surface. ▶ Middle English: contraction of the adverb **NOUGHT**.

▶ **PHRASES** ▶ **not at all** **1** used as a polite response to thanks. **2** definitely not: "You don't mind?" "Not at all." ▶ **not but what** *archaic* nevertheless: not but what the picture has its darker side. ▶ **not half** see **HALF**. ▶ **not least** see **LEAST**. ▶ **not quite** see **QUITE**. ▶ **not that** it is not to be inferred that: I'll never be allowed back—not that I'd want to go back. ▶ **not a thing** nothing at all. ▶ **not very** see **VERY**.

**no-ta-be-ne** *n.* *benē* [abbr.: n.b. or N.B.] ▶ **v.** [in imperative] formal observe carefully or take special notice (used in written text to draw attention to what follows). ▶ Latin, literally 'note well!'

**no-ta-bil-ity** *n.* *bil-ity* ▶ **n.** (pl. **-ties**) a famous or important person: I have met a number of new notabilities including Henry Moore, the sculptor.

**no-ta-ble** *n.* *notebē* ▶ **adj.** worthy of attention or notice; remarkable: the gardens are notable for their collection of magnolias and camellias | the results, with one notable exception, have been superb.

▶ **n.** (usu. **notables**) a famous or important person: businessmen and local notables. ▶ Middle English: from Old French, from Latin *notabilis* 'worthy of note,' from the verb *notare* 'to note, mark.'

**no-ta-bly** *n.* *notebē* ▶ **adv.** especially; in particular: a diet low in animal fat protects against potentially fatal diseases, notably diabetes. ▶ in a way that is striking or remarkable: [as *submodifier*] such a statement is notably absent from the administration's proposals.

**no-tam** *n.* (also **No-tam**) ▶ **n.** a written notification issued to pilots before a flight, advising them of circumstances relating to the state of flying. ▶ 1940s: from *notice* *t(o) a(f)ir(m)en*.

**no-taph-ily** *n.* *tafē* ▶ **n.** the collecting of banknotes as a hobby. —**no-taph-ily** *adj.* —**no-taph-ily** *-list* *n.*

**no-ta-rize** *n.* *notē* ▶ **v.** [trans.] have (a document) legalized by a notary.

**no-tary** *n.* *notē* (in full **notary public**) ▶ **n.** (pl. **-ries**) a person authorized to perform certain legal formalities, esp. to draw up or certify contracts, deeds, and other documents for use in other jurisdictions. ▶ Middle English (in the sense 'clerk or secretary'): from Latin *notarius* 'secretary,' from *nota* 'mark.' —**no-ta-ri-al** *adj.*

**no-tate** *n.* *tāt* ▶ **v.** [trans.] write (something, typically music) in notation. ▶ early 20th cent.: back-formation from **NOTATION**. —**no-ta-tor** *n.*

**no-ta-tion** *n.* *tāshən* ▶ **n.** **1** a series or system of written symbols used to represent numbers, amounts, or elements in something such as music or mathematics: algebraic notation. ▶ **2** a note or annotation: he noticed the notations in the margin. ▶ **3** short for **SCALE OF NOTATION** (see **SCALE** sense 2). ▶ late 16th cent.: from Latin *notatio(n-)*, from the verb *notare*, from *nota* 'mark.' —**no-ta-tional** *adj.*

**not-being** *n.* nonexistence.

**notch** *n.* *näch* ▶ **n.** **1** an indentation or incision on an edge or surface: there was a notch in the end of the arrow for the bowstring. ▶ each of a series of holes for the tongue of a buckle: he tightened his belt an extra notch. ▶ **a nick made on something in order to keep a score or record: he had a six-gun with four notches in it for guys he had killed. ▶ a point or degree in a scale: her opinion of Nicole dropped a few notches. ▶ 2** a deep, narrow mountain pass.

▶ **v.** [trans.] **1** make notches in: [as *adj.*] (notched) notched bamboo sticks. ▶ **secure** or **insert** by means of notches: she notched her belt tighter. ▶ **score** or **achieve** (something): she notched her second major championship. ▶ mid 16th cent.: probably from Anglo-Norman French *noche*, variant of Old French *osche*, of unknown origin. —**notch-er** *n.*

**notch-back** *n.* *näch* ▶ **n.** a car with a back that extends approximately horizontally from the bottom of the rear window so as to make a distinct angle with it.

**notch filter** *n.* *Electronics* a filter that attenuates signals within a very narrow band of frequencies.

**notch-y** *n.* *nächē* ▶ **adj.** (**notch-er**, **notch-iest**) *Brit.* (of a manual gear-changing mechanism) difficult to use because the lever has to be moved accurately (as if into a narrow notch).

**note** *n.* *nōt* ▶ **n.** **1** a brief record of facts, topics, or thoughts, written down as an aid to memory: I'll make a note in my diary | Robyn arranged her notes on the lectern. ▶ **2** a short comment on or explanation of a word or passage in a book or article; an annotation: see *note iv* above. ▶ **3** a short informal letter or written message: I left her a note explaining where I was going. ▶ **4** an official letter sent from the representative of one government to another. ▶ **usu.** with *adj.* a short official document that certifies a particular thing: you need a sick note from your doctor. ▶ **5** *Brit.* a banknote: a ten-pound note. ▶ **6** a single tone of definite pitch made by a musical instrument or the human voice: the last notes of the symphony died away. ▶ **7** a written sign representing the pitch and duration of such a sound. ▶ **8** a key of a piano or similar instrument: black notes | white notes. ▶ **9** a bird's song or call, or a single tone in this: the tawny owl has a harsh flight note. ▶ **10** [in *sing.*] a particular quality or tone that reflects or expresses a mood or attitude: there was a note of scorn in her voice | the decade could have ended on an optimistic note. ▶ **11** any of the basic components of fragrance or flavor: the fresh note of bergamot.

▶ **v.** [trans.] **1** notice or pay particular attention to (something): noting his mother's unusual gaiety | [with *clause*] please note that you will not receive a reminder that final payment is due. ▶ **2** remark upon (something), typically in order to draw someone's attention to it: we noted earlier the difficulties inherent in this strategy. ▶ **3** record (something) in writing: he noted down her address on a piece of paper. ▶ Middle English (sense 4 of the *noun* and sense 1 of the *verb*): from Old French *note* (noun), *noter* (verb), from Latin *nota* 'a mark,' *notare* 'to mark.'

Pronunciation Key *ə* ago; *ə* over; *ə* or, *ə* up; *er* or, *er* fur; *a* hat; *ā* rate; *ā* car; *ch* chew; *e* let; *ē* see; *e* (or) air; *i* fit; *i* by; *i* (or) ear; *o* sing; *ō* go; *ō* for; *oi* boy; *ōō* good; *ōō* goo; *ou* out; *sh* she; *th* thin; *th* then; *(h)w* why; *zh* vision