

THE OED SUPPLEMENT (A-G, H-N)

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The history of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) goes back to 1857 when the then Dean of Westminster, by calling attention to deficiencies of existing English dictionaries, encouraged the Philological Society to make plans for the compilation of a new English dictionary. These culminated after an experimental period of some 20 years in the launching of the great project to produce A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles, as the OED was originally called. The first editor began work in 1878 and the last page of the dictionary went to press in 1928, with the dictionary being published in 125 separate sections between February 1884 and April 1928 -- work on the dictionary alone had taken over half a century, in addition to the 20 year gap between the dictionary being proposed and work on it starting. The 125 sections of the dictionary were gathered together in ten volumes. The ten volumes, all available by 1928, comprised A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles (NED).

Five years later, in 1933, the NED was reissued in 12 volumes as the Oxford English Dictionary, with an additional volume, the Supplement, comprised of new words and meanings which had come into the language during the period in which the main body of the OED was being prepared. Since 1933, then, the OED has been available as a 13-volume publication, 12 volumes plus a supplement.

In 1933, the OED team, its work done, dispersed. The OED library was broken up and the quotation slips which had not been used were crated and stored. After World War II, it was decided to embark on the preparation of a revised version of the 1933 Supplement. As a first step, in 1955, arrangements were made for the arrival of a new editorial staff. And in July 1957, Robert Burchfield took on the task of editing the revised Supplement to the OED.

In 1972, the first volume of the revised Supplement was published, covering the letters A to G. The intention at that time was that there would be three volumes altogether (A-G, H-P and Q-Z). However, there was more material than would go into three volumes, so the current thinking is that there will be four volumes in total. The second volume, covering the letters H to N, was published in 1976.

In the revised Supplement, all "common words" and senses in British written English of the period 1884 to the present day are treated. The vocabulary of such writers as Kipling, Yeats, Joyce and Dylan Thomas is represented in a way that falls little short of total lit-

erary inclusiveness. Parity of treatment is given to the vocabulary of the great scientific writers of the modern period, including many winners of the Nobel prize. The written English of regions outside the British Isles, particularly that of North America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India and Pakistan has been accorded the kind of treatment that lexicographers of a former generation might have reserved for the English of Britain alone.

Volume 1 contains about 17,000 main words divided into some 30,000 senses. There are around 8,000 defined combinations listed under the main words, and another 8,000 or so undefined combinations. The number of illustrative quotations is around 130,000. The corresponding figures for Volume 2 are: 13,000 main words, 22,000 senses, 8,000 defined combinations, 5,000 undefined combinations, and 125,000 illustrative quotations.

To give readers some idea of the items appearing in the two volumes of the Supplement, a list of approximately 400 terms is given at the end of this article. None of the words in this list appears in Webster's Third New International Dictionary or its 1976 supplement, 6000 Words, or the Random House Dictionary, or A Dictionary of New English (reviewed in the February 1974 Word Ways). A few do appear in other dictionaries, though: Webster's Second contains AD-NEX; The American Thesaurus of Slang contains CHIZ, HICKBOO, and MIRTHQUAKE; The English Dialect Dictionary shows GRAUNCH; the 1976 edition of the Concise Oxford Dictionary shows DY and IDENTIKIT; Eric Partridge's Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English has DAMFOOLISHNESS, HIGHSTRIKES and MIVVY (in Part 1) and CHIZZER, GUTS-ACHE and LAVVY (in Part 2); Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary, 1972 edition, shows KGOTLA; Payton's Proper Names contains DISNEYLAND; Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary, 24th edition, lists MIGRAINEUR; and Eric Partridge's Dictionary of the Underworld has BLAG. Perhaps readers would like to track down words appearing in other dictionaries.

As yet, we haven't fully mined the revised Supplement for logologically interesting items; however, here are a few specimens. There are at least 17 tautonyms, including the triply-repeated HU-HU-HU and CLACK-CLACK-CLACK, and the three palindromes HUH-UH, MALLAM and MAPAM. The longest words are HETEROTRANS-PLANTABILITY and HYPERGAMMAGLOBULINAEMIA, with 23 letters each. Words beginning with interesting letter-pairs are DGHAJSA, GMINA, HLONIPA, KGOTLA, KTYPEITE, MTEPE, MWCHIN, NRTYA and QIPCHAK; words ending with an interesting pair include ATL, AVANGC, CHAKR, HUKM, KNAIDL and NASKH-TA'LYQ. MU'ALLAQAT and IRAQIZATION both have a Q not followed by a U. MPHM is composed of all consonants, and HELA has an internal capital L. NITAL is a reversal of LATIN, and there are many new transposals to be discovered: NGOMA - AMONG, MALAYALMA - MALAYALAM, NATOIST - STATION, MIAOTSZE - ATOMIZES. No doubt many more oddities can be found.

NEW WORDS IN THE OED SUPPLEMENT (A-G, H-N)

aandblom, abmigrate, aboulomania, adespota, adhocking, ad-hoc-ness, adnex, Afrikanerization, afzelia, agterskot, ajoupa, Alnascharize, anecdotard, anthilly, anti-dip, aqualunging, arse-licking (see arse), Asianization, astatki, atl (see ithel), Audenesque, autocopyist, auto-psychographize (see auto-), avangc (see afanc), avondbloemetje, azequia (see acequia)

backwoodishness, bagwash, ballabill, ballastless, bank-holidayish, barbarianess, basqueless, bathlessness, batonless, Baudelairianism, Beatlemania, beatniky (see beat generation), beep-beep (see beep), Beethovenesque, Beethovenized, Betjemanesque, bidy-bidy (see bid-dy-biddy), bifteck, billy-bonn (see billabong), biodeteriorative (see bio-), bipp, biroed, blag, blandander, blemya, Bob's-a-dying, bonobo, bonsense, boo-ay, boozeroo, bottle-o, bovrilize, boxty, braaivleis, brewsterlinite, buckbuck, Buffaloism, buggy-ride (see buggy), bumblepupper, bumblepuppist, bunny-hugger, burgheress, buttercuppy, butterinsky (see butlinsky)

cabinetable, callaloo, canaveg, Carrolliana, Casanovesque, casual-ization, celbenin, cellophaned, ceppo, chakr, Chamberlainization, chee-ild, chessdom, chiragh, chiz, chizzer, chunky-chucky, cine-var-iety (see cine), clack-clack-clack, clox, coddam, cokey-cokey, colport, complexification, conchifragous, cooklessness, coorongite, corgwn (see corgi), corn-kist (see corn), corocorro (see corocoro), coulbiac, cowslipping, cozzpot, crofterization, Crusoeing, Cubani-zation, cyanider, cryosar (see cryo-)

Dalek, damfoolishness, daxie, de-bamboozle, demidovite, demo-disc (see demo), deproletarianizable, dghajsa, dhamnoo, dhandh, dhobey-ing, dhrupad, dilruba, disc-jockeying (see disc), dishybilly, Disney-land (see Disneyesque), dogdayed, dozzle, drogulus, drumlinized, dunnamany, dwerg, dy, dymaxion, dzongpon (see jong)

eatua (see atua), Editola, eoboint, eucomis, exurban

fagdom, falutin, fangoththerapy, fanship, fartlek, feelthy, filixic, fin-drinny, firmish, flagellomaniac, flemingin, folk-blues (see folk), frikkadel, fructan, Fulbrighter, fumigatin.

gamahuche, gamplless, Gamza, Gandhi-esque, gasthof, gavroche, Gawdelpus (see Gawd), gazob, Geisteswissenschaftler, ghanta, ghap, gharana, ghazeeyah, ghont, giddy-ap, gimmickless, gleiing (see gley), glitterwax, gmina, gminy, godemiche, Godwottery, Goldwater-ite, goonery, gramophony, grass-widowerhood, graunch, greenery-yallery, grimpen, Groperlander, grorudite, guaiaretate, guesstim-ation, guesstimator, guidguid, guignolesque, gulli-gulli (see gully-gully), gully-gully, gumwork (see gum), guts-ache (see gut), guvacine, gwely, gytje

halowax (see halo-), handcraftsmanship, harpuijsbosje, harumphro-dite, hashmagandy, haskinization, haunk-haunk, hausmalerei,

Heath-Robinsonesque, heavy-water-moderated (see heavy), heffa-lump, HeLa, hellishing, hemi-demi-semi, heteropolymerization (see hetero-), heterotransplantability, hickboo, highstrikes, hinihini, historical-lexicographical (see historical), hlonipa, hochwohlgeboren (see hochgeboren), hoo-hoo-oo (see hu-hu-hu), hover-height, Hoxtonian, huesd-hued (see guidguid), huet-huet (see guidguid), huh-uh, hu-hu-hu, hukm, humpenscrump, hunh, hyawaballi, hydrodesulphurization, hypergammaglobulinaemia (see hyper-), hyper-drive, hyperurbanization

iarfine, Ibscenity (see Ibsenism), iddy-iddy-umpty, identikit, id-ul-fitr, iisblink (see isblink), ikky (see icky), iktas, ilb, iligant, immunosympathectomized (see immuno-), imu, in-itselfness, in-joke, inky-pinky, intro, inyanga, Iraqization, ispravnik, itai-itai

jagt, James Bondish, Japaneseness, japonicadom, jax, Jaycee-ette, jaz (see jazz), jazzophile, jhula, jiffy-quick, jijjiboo (see jigaboo), jiveass, Jixi, johndarm (see John), jong-nyer, Jordanization, jumma-bundi, junggrammatisch

Kabakaship, Kabukiesque, Kafkaesquely, kakke, kallipyg, karezza, karzy, kass-kass (see kas-kas), kazooist, Kenyanization, ketjak, kgotla, Khoikhoi, kibbler, Kiplingize, kippersol, kitchenable, kitchen-sinkery, klangfarbenmelodie, kleywang, kling-kling, klobbiyos, knaydl, kneecapping (see knee), knuckle-walker, koekoemakranka, kook-a-vic, kragdadig, ktypeite, Kurrichane, kyped

labretifery, laksamana, lamington, lammervanger, langsuir, laser-guided (see laser), latrinogram, lavvy, lawkamercy, l'chaim, learnability, leprophil, lerky, lexicalization, lezz, lightningy, likkewaan, lindyhopper, linguistic-anthropological (see linguistic), lip-syncing (see lip), Lloyd-Georgery, loggia'd, lung-gom-pa, luv, lyngorm

macrophallic (see macro-), maglev, magnetohydrodynamicist, magtig, maiden-auntishly, Malayalma (see Malayalam), mallam, Manchesterization, Maoization, Mapam, Marxization, mbongo, Mebyon Kernow, Mec Vannin, megacorpse, megaripple, melkbos, mengkulang, merdeka, metacommunicative, meta-metalanguage, mezz, mganga, Miaotsze, Micawber-like, middlescent, migraineur, milliardaire, millionheiress (see million), millyum, miniskirted (see mini-), minxin, mipafox, mirthquake, Mittyesque, mivvy, mok-e-mok, moki-moki, monimolimnion, Mozartianly, mpalla, mphm (see mph), mtepe, Mu'allaqat, mucka-mucka, mucko, multidialectal, Mummersetshire, murdermongeress, muthafucka, Muzaked, mwchin, myrmekitization

Nachtlokal, namesmanship, Narodnikism, naskh-ta'lyq, Natoist, nefedyevite, newworldward, ngarara, ngoma, nielsbohrium, nital, Nixonian, Nixonite, Nixonization, Nkrumahization, novolak, nowackiite, nrtya (see nritya), nuffink, nummy-nummy, nyumnyum, Nzima

Qipchak (see Kipchak)