REWRITING THE OED

key features

2008
Introduction

This booklet is a brief illustrated guide to some of the major editorial features which distinguish the third edition of the *OED (OED3)* from earlier versions of the dictionary (*OED1/2*).

*OED3* is a work-in-progress. The first revised instalment was published online in March 2000, and since then many thousands of new and revised entries have been published. Almost a quarter of the dictionary is now available in its revised form.

The following pages display entries (or parts of entries) both before and after revision. The areas covered are Documentation (the raw data of the language on which entries are based), Definitions, New Terms, Historical Principles, Entry Structure, Tagging, Etymology, and Pronunciation. The full range of changes cannot be shown in a short booklet, but examples of the types of changes made give a general impression of the extensive overhaul which the dictionary is receiving under the current revision.

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OED3 represents the first comprehensive revision and update of a dictionary which was originally published as the New English Dictionary between 1884 and 1928. The first edition was officially renamed the Oxford English Dictionary in 1933. The second edition of the OED (published in 1989) was principally an amalgamation of OED1 and subsequent supplementary volumes.

Rewriting the OED is an updated version of a booklet prepared in 1996, under the title Aspects of Revision. In 1996 only a short run of entries had been revised for publication, and the intention of the original booklet was to demonstrate to the Delegates of the University Press at Oxford (and other interested parties) the sorts of changes they could expect to find in the revised dictionary. By revising the booklet, we are now able to include material from a much wider range of entries. In addition, we can show some of the extensive changes to editorial policy which inform the new edition, as well as hinting at the substantial changes to our knowledge of the English language which the project has been able to document.
The addition of earlier examples of terms allows us to present a more accurate picture of the origins of English words and usages:

**OED1/2**

**macaw**

The name for several species of large long-tailed birds of the parrot kind constituting the genus *Ara*; they inhabit tropical and subtropical America and are remarkable for their gaudy plumage.

1668 CHARLETON Onomasticon Zoicon 66 Great blew and yellow Parrat called the Machao, or Cockatoon. *a*1672 WILLUGHBY Ornithol. 11. xi. (1676) 73 Psittacus maximus alter Aldrov. Angl. Maccaw, seu Macao & Cockatoon. 1703 W. DAMPIER Voy. (1729) III. 1. 405 The Red Maccaw. 1707 W. FUNNELL Voy. iv. 70 The Maccaw..is about the bigness of a Hawk. 1788 New Lond. Mag. 61 The larger Psittaci are called Macaos. 1802 BINGLEY Anim. Biog. (1813) II. 75 The Brasilian Green Macaw. 1821-30 L.D. COCKBURN Mem. v. (1874) 257 [He] was walking..dressed like a mackaw, as the Commissioner's purse-bearer. 1870 DISRAELI Lothair xxxv. Upon gilt and painted perches also there were..macaws.

**OED3**

**macaw, n.**

Any of various large long-tailed parrots (often with vivid plumage) belonging to the genus *Ara* and certain related genera, native to tropical and subtropical America. glaucous, hyacinth, scarlet, Spix's macaw: see the first element.

1625 S. PURCHAS Pilgrimes IV. VII. i. 1304 The Arara Parots are those that by another name are called Macaos. 1668 W. CHARLETON Onomasticon Zoicon 66 Great blew and yellow Parrat called the Machao, or Cockatoon. *a*1672 F. WILLUGHBY Ornithol. (1676) 11. xi. 73 Psittacus maximus alter Aldrov. Angl. Maccaw, seu Macao & Cockatoon. 1703 W. DAMPIER New Voy. (1729) III. 1. 405 The Red Maccaw. 1707 W. FUNNELL Voy. round World iv. 70 The Maccaw..is about the bigness of a Hawk. 1753 E. CHAMBERS Cycl. Suppl. Suppl. s.v., With som [sc. cockatoon] is made the synonymous name of all the Macaw tribe. 1788 New London Mag. 61 The larger Psittaci are called Macaos. 1803 W. BINGLEY Animal Biogr. II. 239 The Brasilian Green Macaw. The Brasilian Macaw..is about seventeen inches in length. *a*1854 Ld. COCKBURN Memorials (1856) v. 299 [He] was walking..dressed like a mackaw, as the Commissioner's purse-bearer. 1870 B. DISRAELI Lothair (new ed.) xxxv. Upon gilt and painted perches also there were..macaws. 1904 Times 30 Jan. 10/2 The collection of foreign birds...among others of..macaws, a black vasa parrot, and a hoopoe. 1958 J. CAREW Black Midas ix. 186 Since the bamboo curtains..were faded I had toucan and macaw feathers glued on to the bamboo in bright patterns. 1987 E. W. BURR Compan. Bird Med. ix. 53/1 *Cnemidocoptes laevis*.is the depluming scabies mite that commonly affects parrots (especially macaws).

**Travellers' tales were popular reading matter in the early 17th century, as accounts of the new and the strange were voraciously devoured by the public. Macaw occurs in Samuel Purchas's description of the fauna of Brazil, forty-three years before the previous first attestation. (Purchas was working from a translation of a text written by a 'Portugall frier (or Jesuite)'.**

[continued]
spacewoman

A female traveller in space; a woman who comes from another planet.

1962 N. MITCHISON (title) Memoirs of a spacewoman 1963 Daily Tel. 18 Oct. 23/3 (caption) Russia's first space woman, Valentina Tereshkova, 26, waving at Prestwick yesterday when her plane made a two-hour refuelling stop. 1978 G. HOUSEHOLD Last Two Weeks of Georges Rivac i. 14 It doesn't matter which way up I'm put. I ought to be a spacewoman.

Naomi Mitchison's sci-fi novel of 1962 previously provided the earliest example of the word spacewoman in OED2. Renewed reading in the science-fiction magazine Worlds Beyond turned up an example eleven years earlier (1951), well before the first astronauts were shot into space. Spaceman, in the equivalent sense, dates back to 1933.

hot water

1. a. Water at a high temperature, either naturally as in a hot spring, or artificially heated for cookery, washing, or other purposes; (in later use) spec. heated water available on tap (in a home, hotel, etc.).

OE Lācninga cxxxvii. 176 Nim eac meldon ða wyrt, gewyrc to duste swiðe smale, do in hat wæter, syle drincan. 1381 Diuersa Servicia in C. B. Heeatt & S. Butler Curye on Inglysch (1985) 77 Wasch hem wel in a feyre vessel & in fayre hot water. a1450 in T. Austin Two 15th-cent. Cookery-bks. (1888) 24 Sethe hem in hot water. e1475 (1392) Surg. Treat. in MS Wellcome 564 f. 73, Hoot watir, þouȝ it aswage akȝe to þe prickynge of a senewe, is most greuous. 1526 Treasure of Pore Men f. xxix. Take Beteigne Sauaigne and drye them and make pouder ther of & let [etc.].

The expression hot water could previously be dated to the late Middle English period. It is reassuring to know that the Anglo-Saxons were also familiar with the term.
DOCUMENTATION: 2

By updating the historical record we are able to show which terms are still in use, and to indicate more accurately when others died out:

**OED1/2**

**hotchpotch, n.**

1. *Cookery.* A dish containing a mixture of many ingredients; spec. a mutton broth thickened with young vegetables of all sorts stewed together.

1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* Ixxii. 443 We make a hotchpotch of halfe figges and half reysons as they say. 1692 DRYDEN *Ess. Sat.* Ess. (1882) 44 A kind of olla, or hotchpotch, made of several sorts of meats. 1797 *Sporting Mag.* IX. 327 [She] had got ready what is there [Scotland] called hotchpotch, for dinner. 1891 MRS. OLIPHANT *Railway Man* I. xi. 178 The hotch-potch.. was excellent. It is a soup made with lamb and all the fresh young vegetables.

**OED3**

**hotchpotch, n.**

2. *Cookery.* A dish containing a mixture of many ingredients; spec. a thick soup of barley, peas, and other vegetables, and sometimes meat. Also: a mutton and vegetable stew.

1567 A. GOLDING tr. Ovid *Metamorphosis* (new ed.) v. f. 63’, Out she brought hir.. a Hotchpotch made of steeped Barlie browne And Flaxe and Coriander seede and other simples more. 1583 A. GOLDING tr. J. Calvin *Serm. on Deut.* Ixxii. 443 We make a hotchpotch of halfe figges and half reysons as they say. 1606 J. SYVESTER tr. G. de S. Du Bartas *Deuine Weekes & Wks.* (new ed.) ii. iii. 85 They long For Memphian hotch-potch, Leeks, and Garlike strong. 1692 DRYDEN *Ess. Satire in Ess.* (1882) 44 A kind of olla, or hotchpotch, made of several sorts of meats. 1725 R. BRADLEY *Chomel's Dict. Econ.*, Pot-pourri, a Culinary Term, signifying an Hotch-Potch. 1797 *Sporting Mag.* 9 327 [She] had got ready what is there [sc. in Scotland] called hotchpotch, for dinner. 1823 J. GALT *Entail* III. iv. 39 She flings away the pease, an mak's her hotch-potch wi' the shawps. 1891 M. OLIPHANT *Railway Man* I. xi. 178 The hotch-potch.. was excellent. It is a soup made with lamb and all the fresh young vegetables.

**OED1/2** provides examples of this sense of *hotchpotch* from 1583 until 1891 (and does not mark it as obsolete). The instalment of *OED1* containing *hotchpotch* was published in 1899, and so for the time this was an up-to-date entry. It is good to have its modern currency confirmed by later attestations up to the year 2000.

NB The previous edition had found its first example in the translations of Arthur Golding. Now this has been superseded by an earlier reference from Golding’s celebrated translation of Ovid (1567). Note also the apparently frequency by which new terms are first recorded in translations.

1583 C. HARNETT *Wool-pack* 59 The dinner to-day was a simple affair.. there was only one dish—a delicious Hotch Potch. 1973 C. A. WILSON *Food & Drink in Brit.* iv. 123 Goose in hotch-potch was a favourite recipe. 2000 M. KNEALE *Eng. Passengers* (2001) i. 42 Before us appeared. tins of hotch potch from Aberdeen.
The provision of in-fill quotations bridges gaps in the previous record of English semantic development:

**OED1/2**

**boyishly, a.**

In a boyish manner, like a boy.

1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 64 And the same question repeateth agayne and agayne very boyeshly. 1807 A. M. PORTER *Hungar. Bro.* I. i. 29 To hide the sensibility, which boyishly heblushed at. 1849 STOVEL *Introd. Canne's Necess.* 107, Boyishly exclaiming, ‘No bishop, no king’.

**OED3**

**boyishly, a.**

In a boyish manner; like a boy.

1581 J. BELL tr. W. Haddon & J. Foxe *Against Jerome Osorius* 64 And the same question repeateth agayne and agayne very boyeshly. 1695 J. WILLIAMS *Vindic. Serm. John Arch-Bp. Canterbury* i. 15 Thus scoffingly and boyishly doth he introduce this serious Argument. 1720 J. LEIGHT *Kensington-Gardens* iv. 57 His Conversation with Men is impertinent, and officiously familiar, with Women boyishly shamefac’d. 1758 DRAMAT. *Execution of Agis* 23 The misformed Interlocutors of those Stage-Dialo
gues, are boyishly figurative, declamatory, and sometimes metaphysical. 1807 A. M. PORTER *Hungarian Brothers* I. i. 29 To hide the sensibility, which boyishly he blushed at. 1849 C. STOVEL *Canne's Necessitie of Separation* Introd. p. cvii, Boyishly exclaiming, ‘No bishop, no king’. 1901 F. NORRIS *Octopus* ii. v. 466 Annixter was so boyishly proud of the effect that it would have been unkind to have undeceived him. 1999 *Guardian* 1 Feb. ii. 3/3 He has small, even features, a shock of cowlicky brown hair that droops boyishly down over his forehead.

*Boyishly* is poorly attested in previous editions of the *OED*, with a long gap in documentary evidence between 1581 and 1807. At present 1581 remains the earliest attestation, but new material provides evidence of continuity of usage between the 16th and early 19th centuries.

Note that even this apparently native formation is first recorded in a translation.
Standardizing quotation references (short titles) facilitates online searching:

**OED1/2**

1678 R. Cudworth *Intell. Syst.* 882
Vulgar Opinion...supposes the Fixed
Stars...to be the Utmost Wall, or
Arched Roof, and Rowling
Circumference thereof.

1678 Cudworth *Intell. Syst.* 583
Infinite self-activity or effectiveness.

1678 Cudworth *Intellect. Syst.* 229
Goodness and Providence, Personated,
are sometimes also Abusively, called
Gods and Goddesses.

1678 Cudworth *Int. S.* 556 Henadical
(or Monadical) Gods.

**OED3**

1678 R. Cudworth *True Intellect. Syst.*
*Universe* i. v. 882 Vulgar
Opinion... supposes the Fixed
Stars... to be the Utmost Wall, or
Arched Roof, and Rowling
Circumference thereof.

1678 R. Cudworth *True Intellect. Syst.*
*Universe* i. iv. 583 Infinite Self-
Activity, or Effectiveness.

1678 R. Cudworth *True Intellect. Syst.*
*Universe* i. iv. 229 Goodness and
Providence, Personated, are sometimes
also Abusively, called Gods and
Goddesses.

1678 R. Cudworth *True Intellect. Syst.*
*Universe* i. iv. 556 Henadical (or
Monadical) Gods.

In the days of *OED* the editors attempted as much consistency as they could
manage in the area of short titling. But variation was not problematic, as the
human reader could usually appreciate which title was intended. In these days of
computer retrieval, consistency seems more important, and so the project is in
the process of standardizing the tens of thousands of different titles that are cited
throughout the text.

In this case, four variants of Ralph Cudworth's *True Intellectual System of the
Universe* (a Cambridge Platonist text from 1678) are merged into a single, more
understandable short title.
Modern scholarship and research often reveals inaccuracies in the dating and attribution of early texts:

**OED1/2**

1608 **TOURNEUR** *Reveng. Trag.* iv. ii, He whurles and rotles in the throate.

1599 **HAKLYUT** *Voy.* II. i. 79 The handgunshot was innumerable and incredible.

1735 **ARBUTHNOT** *Misc. Wks.* (1751) I. 67 Not to forget the Quibbles and Fly-flaps he played against his Adversaries.

1622 **M. FOTHERBY** *Atheomastix* Pref. 18 He must needes..be greatly accended vnto true deuotion.

**OED1/2**

1607 **T. MIDDLETON** *Revengers Trag.* iv. sig. G3, He whurles and rotles in the throate.

1524 **Begynnynge Orde Knyghtes Hospytallers** sig. Bvj, The handgunshot was innumerable & incredible.

1726 **Learned Diss. Dumpling** 16 Not to forget the Quibbles and Fly-flaps he play'd against his Adversaries.

As a general rule, attributions of authorship do not change from century to century. Work on Elizabethan and Jacobean dramatists has called into question earlier established truths about authorship attribution, and the *OED* takes note of these when it can. In the first case above, the *Revenger's Tragedy* was formally regarded as the work of Cyril Tourneur, but it is now generally thought to have been written by Thomas Middleton.

Hakluyt's *Voyages* of 1599 cited the 1524 text now quoted in its stead (with concomitant changes of spelling within the quoted).

The remaining examples show small changes of date and attribution made for the sake of accuracy.
The *OED* is based principally on documentary evidence, and yet the record has previously been corrupted by the citation of inadequate editions which do not represent the original text. The project runs an extensive programme of reverifying the text of illustrative quotations in the most appropriate editions, and the examples below represent some of the results of this process:

**OED1/2**

1610 J. GUILLIM *Heraldry* III. xxii. (1660) 235 Dolphins here are in their naturall form of swimming, wherein they use to marshele their great troopes in admiring order.


*1623 MIDDLETON* *Anyth. for quiet Life* Wks. (Dyce) IV. 443 So near I am to him, we must call cousins.

1708 J. PHILIPS *Cyder* (1807) 99 Nought is heard But din, and various clamor, and mad rant.

**OED3**

1632 *Guillim's Display of Heraldrie* (ed. 2) iii. xxii. 238 Dolphins here are in their naturall form of swimming, wherein they use to marche their great troopes in admiring order. [1610 ed. reads 'admirable'.]

1562 T. COOPER *Answ. in J. Jewel Apol. Priuate Masse* f. 57v, O profound and deep settle reason.

*1632 T. MIDDLETON & J. WEBSTER* *Any Thing for Quiet Life* (1662) ii. sig. C4, So near I am to him, we must call Cousins.

1708 J. PHILIPS *Cyder* ii. 76 Nought is heard But din, and various clamour, and mad rant.

The *OED* bases its analysis of the language on text. It is therefore vital that these texts should accurately represent the original text.

The previous editors assumed that Guillim's 'admiring' appeared in the 1610 (first) edition of his work, though they were citing it from the 1660 edition. Later research shows that ed. 1 had 'admirable', and that 'admiring' did not enter the text until 1632.

The Middleton and Cooper show texts modernized by their Victorian editors, and John Philip's *Cyder: a Poem* is (from a lexicographical point of view) somewhat the worse for wear in its 1807 edition, where the text shows some editorial standardization and updating.
DOCUMENTATION: 7

Many texts were previously cited by alleged composition or performance dates, even though there is generally no evidence that a particular term addressed was actually present at this date. *OED3* cites from the 'hard' ('scientific' and 'real') bibliographical evidence, and this can substantially affect our knowledge of the history of a term:

**OED1/2**

**hot cockles**

A rustic game in which one player lay face downwards, or knelt down with his eyes covered, and being struck on the back by the others in turn, guessed who struck him. Also *attrib.*

1580 SIDNEY Arcadia ii. (1629) 224 How shepheards spend their daies, At blowe point, hot cockles, or else at keeles. 1676 MARVELL Mr. Smirke 13 They..leave men, as if it were at Hot-Cockles, to guess blind-fold who it is that hit them. a1708 HICKERINGILL Wks. (1716) I...

**post-house**

1. An inn or other house where horses are kept for the use of travellers; a posting house. *Obs.*

1645 EVELYN Diary 28 Jan. We repos'd this night at Piperno, in the Post-house without the towne. 1712 Lond. Gaz. No. 5027/5 He alighted at the Post-house to change Horses. 1819 BYRON Juan I. ciii, They are a sort of post-house, where the Fates Change horses. 1833 L. RITCHIE Wand. by Loire 16 The main road running past the towne,, and the post-house being at a little distance beyond.

It is natural to want to cite a text from the earliest possible date, but from the dictionary editor's position this is dangerous, as the source may have been written up or otherwise emended later on, before it was actually published.

**OED3**

**hot cockles, n.**

1. A game in which one player lies face downwards, or kneels down with the eyes covered, and attempts to guess which of the other players has struck him or her on the back.

a1586 Sir P. SIDNEY Arcadia (1593) ii. sig. V4, Howe shepheardes spend their daies, At blowe point, hotcocoles, or els at keeles. 1602 2nd Pt. Returne fr. Parnassus Prol. 33 Its a Christmas toy indeede, as good a conceit as stanging hotcockles, or blinde-man buffe. 1676 A. MARVELL Mr. Smirke sig. C3, They..leave men, as if it were...

**post-house, n.**

1. A posting-house or inn where horses are kept for the use of travellers; (hence in extended use) an inn or other establishment providing accommodation for travellers. Now *arch.* or *hist.*

1611 T. CORYATE Crudities 116, I rod from Cremona..and came to a solitary post-house twenty miles off... the first wheat that I saw cut this yeare was at that postehouse. a1660 J. EVELYN Diary anno 1645 (1955) II. 318 We reposd this night at Piperno in the Post-house without the Towne. 1712 London Gaz. No. 5027/5, He [etc.].

The bibliography of Sidney's *Arcadia* is problematic, and it is safest to cite as from the date of Sidney's death (though even this could be regarded as insecure). Evelyn's diary was recopied and amended by the writer. We follow the dates suggested by Beer's edition.
**DEFINITIONS: 1**

Many *OED2* definitions are now over 100 years old, and so often feel outdated or contain idioms and terminology which are not appropriate in an updated, revised text:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OED1/2</th>
<th>OED3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ballistics</strong></td>
<td><strong>ballistics, n.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘The art of throwing heavy bodies’ (Chambers); the science of projectiles.</td>
<td>1. a. Chiefly with sing. concord. The branch of science and technology concerned with the propulsion and motion of projectiles, and <em>esp.</em> with the action and effects of firearms and bullets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>love-letter</strong></td>
<td><strong>love-letter, n.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A letter written by a lover to the beloved, and expressing amatory sentiments.</td>
<td>A letter expressing love or admiration; <em>esp.</em> one written by a lover to the object of his or her affection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>macaroni, n.</strong></td>
<td><strong>macaroni, n.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A kind of wheaten paste, of Italian origin, formed into long tubes and dried for use as food. The same ‘Italian paste’ is prepared also in the form of vermicelli, q.v.</td>
<td>A variety of pasta formed in short, narrow tubes, usually boiled and served with a sauce, <em>esp.</em> in Italian cookery; a dish consisting of this. (In quot. 1846 with plural concord.) Cf. earlier MACAROON <em>n.</em> 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**prig, n.**³</td>
<td>**prig, n.**³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. A precisian in speech or manners; one who cultivates or affects a propriety of culture, learning, or morals, which offends or bores others; a conceited or self-important and didactic person. (Only in later use including women.)</td>
<td>A person who is offensively punctilious and precise in speech or behaviour; a person who cultivates or affects supposedly correct views on culture, learning, or morals, which offend or bore others; a conceited or self-important and didactic person. Originally applied chiefly to men.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The definitions in the first edition of the *OED* were first published between 1884 and 1928, and so may well seem out of date today. These are examples which show how the former editors approached the problem of definition, and how we address the same issues today.
DEFINITIONS: 2

The definitions and associated quotations of more or less related terms were often merged in OED1/2. These are now typically separated, for ease of reference:

**OED1/2**

*offshoot*

1. A shoot springing from the stem or other part of a plant, a lateral shoot; a lateral branch projecting from the main part of anything material, as a nerve-trunk, mountain-range, street, etc.

   1814 J. Murray in Smiles *Life* (1891) I. xi. 254 Stunted offshoots of felled trees. 1851 Carpenter *Man. Physiol.* (ed. 2) 230 The vesicular matter of the retina is an offshoot (so to speak) from that of the optic ganglion. 1872 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 275 A constant succession of mountain ranges, spurs, and offshoots from the great central chains. 1872 Jenkinson *Guide Eng. Lakes* (1879) 242 Lonscale Fell is the most eastern offshoot of Skiddaw.

There are times when the treatment of a term in earlier editions of the dictionary seems too compressed. On such occasions we may split an existing sense into two or more senses, each with its own definition and collection of illustrative quotations.

The semantic distance from a side-shoot of a plant to branch of a river is quite large, and so sense 1 of *offshoot* has been unpacked in this way. In the new sense b the idea of a 'shoot' (part of a growing plant) has become largely lost.

**OED3**

*offshoot, n.*

3. a. A side shoot or branch springing from the trunk or other part of a plant; a lateral shoot.

   1814 J. Murray in S. Smiles Publisher & his Friends (1891) I. xi. 254 Stunted offshoots of felled trees. 1857 A. Henfrey *Elem. Course Bot.* 23 The rosette-like off-shoots of House-leeks. 1929 J. E. Weaver & F. E. Clements *Plant Ecol.* vi. 113 Dormancy is not confined to seeds, however, but is also characteristic of many offshoots such as rhizomes, bulbs, tubers, etc. 1991 J. Phillips *You'll never eat Lunch in this Town Again* 390 The cactus grows some offshoots. 2000 Z. Sardar *Consumption of Kuala Lumpur* 126 Papaya..grows rapidly and spawns offshoots readily in any garden.

3. b. A lateral branch projecting from the main part of a material thing, as a nerve trunk, road, mountain, etc.

   1851 W. B. Carpenter *Man. Physiol.* (ed. 2) 230 The vesicular matter of the retina is an offshoot (so to speak) from that of the optic ganglion. 1872 H. I. Jenkinson *Guide Eng. Lake District* (1879) 242 Lonscale Fell is the most eastern offshoot of Skiddaw. 1952 T. Armstrong *Adam Brunskill* vi. 193 Adam bore to the left, along a tramroad up an offshoot of the gill. 1999 Tampa (Florida) Tribune (Nexis) 11 Jan. 10 A lush, shaded walkway..along an offshoot of the San Antonio River.
word, *n.*

**8.** A promise, undertaking. Almost always with possessive, as in **to give** (pass, pledge) **one's word**, to keep (hold arch.) **one's word**, to break **one's word**; **to be as good as one's word**, to keep one's promise (so **to be worse than one's word**, to break one's promise); **a man of his word**, one who keeps his promises; also **on the word of** (a prince, etc.)

1390 **GOWER** Conf. I. 67 It sit wel every wiht To kepe his word in trowthe upryht. 1474 **CAXTON** Cheese II. i. (1883) 22 That the symple parole or worde of a prynce ought to be more stable than the oth of a marchaunt...

More difficult cases occur when a number of meanings, grammatical constructions, and phrases are all compressed into a single sense. This makes it hard to follow the history of each component item.

At word we have unbundled the sense into a number of component parts, making it easier to consider each of the units as a lexical item in its own right.

**7. a.** A promise, a pledge, an undertaking; a guarantee. Almost always with possessive.

OE **ÆLFRIC** Catholic Homilies: 1st Ser. (Royal) xxxii. 451 Se cyning [sc. Herod]... molde þeah for his ade ne for þam gebeorum his word awægen. OE **Anglo-Saxon Chron.** (Tiber. B.i) anno 1014, Man þa fulne freondsceipe gefæstnode mid worde & [etc.].

b. With possessive: an assertion, an affirmative, a declaration, an assurance; esp. as involving the veracity or good faith of the person who makes it.

1582 **R. MULCASTER** 1st Pt. Elementarie iii. 14 Doth not Euripides saie & Phorphyrie vpon his word, that a bodie of presence is best worthie to rule? a1616 **SHAKESPEARE** Tempest (1623) ii. i. 92 His word is more then the miraculous [etc.].

c. (a) **to give** (a person) **one's word**: (a) to make a promise, pledge, or undertaking; (b) to declare, state positively or certainly, assert, affirm (that).

1549 **T. LANQUET & T. COOPER** Epitome of Cronicles f. 3, That against synne Christe instituted his kyngdome, gaue his woorde, and that he shoulde come to take away sinne, and saue us. 1574 **T. TIMME** tr. J. de Serres Three Partes Comm. ix. 258 Dalbe yeelded so farre to their murderous enticementes, as he gaue his word [etc.].

e. **to keep one's word**: to honour one's promise; = **to be as good as one's word** at **GOOD adj.** 21c. Similarly (now arch.) to hold one's word.
OED3 often reflects advances in scientific understanding and development over the past 100 years:

**OED1/2**

**cancer, n.**

3. a. *Pathol.* A malignant growth or tumour in different parts of the body, that tends to spread indefinitely and to reproduce itself, as also to return after removal: it eats away or corrodes the part in which it is situated, and generally ends in death.

The earlier name was CANKER, q.v.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. Gloss., *Cancer* is a swelling or sore coming of melancholy bloud, about which the veins appeare of a blacke or swert colour, spread in manner of a Creifish clees. 1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* I. xlvii. 114 *Krebs*, Cancer is a hard round Tumour blew or blackish having pain and beating. 1747 HERVEY *Medit. & Contempl.* (1818) 254 On some a relentless cancer has fastened its envenomed teeth. 1768 G. WHITE *Selborne* xviii. (1853) 80 The wonderful method of curing cancers by means of toads. 1877 ROBERTS *Handbk. Med.* I. (ed. 3) 274 Cancer is decidedly a hereditary disease.

Some of the most striking alterations to definitions occur in the field of science, where developments since the late 19th mean that early OED definitions are no longer adequate.

Our understanding of cancer, for example, has changed considerably since the original OED definition was published 120 years ago in 1888.

[continued]

**OED3**

**cancer, n.**

3. a. *Med.* Originally: any of various types of non-healing sore or ulcer (cf. CANKER n. 1a). In later use (chiefly as mass noun): *spec.* malignant neoplastic disease, in which there is an uncontrolled proliferation of cells, typically with invasion and destruction of adjacent normal tissue, and often with metastatic spread to distant parts of the body via lymphatics or blood vessels; an instance of this, a malignant tumour. Freq. with distinguishing word, usually indicating the type or site of origin of the cancer.

In technical contexts, sometimes used specifically for malignant neoplasms of epithelial origin (see CARCINOMA n. 1). breast, chimney-sweeper's, colloid, lung cancer, etc.: see the first element.

1527 L. ANDREW tr. H. Brunswig *Vertuose Bk. Distyllacyon* cxx. following sig. H1i./1. The Cancer [Ger. krebs] washed with the same and clowtes wet ther in layde ther vpon, cawseth them to hele. 1565 J. HALL tr. Lanfranc *Most Excellent & Learned Woorke Chirurg.* III. ii. 33 Vnderstande that a Cancer is eyther vcerate or not. 1579 T. LUPTON *Thousand Notable Things* X. 289 It heales and cures all Fystulaes, Cancers, Noli me tangere, the Kings Euyll, and euery other eating Sore. 1587 A. HUNTON tr. B. Textor *Natures of Cancers* 57 in J. Guillemeau *Worthy Treat.* Eves (new ed.), Of vcered cancers those onely are cut & seared, whiche are in the vpvermost part of the body. 1601 P. HOLLAND tr. Pliny *Hist. World* II. Gloss., *Cancer* is a swelling or sore comming of melancholy bloud, about which the veins appeare of a blacke or swert colour, spread in manner of a Creifish [etc.].
nitrogen

A 'permanent' gas (symbol N), without colour, taste, or smell, which forms about four-fifths of the atmosphere.

1794 PEARSON in Phil. Trans. LXXXIV. 391 The remainder of the gas extinguished flame, and was concluded to be nitrogen or azotic gas. 1806 DAVY in Phil. Trans. XCVII. 11 Hydrogene, during its solution in water, seems to expel nitrogen. 1825 FARADAY Exp. Res. xxvii. 151, I have refrained from all reasoning on the probability of the compound nature of nitrogen. 1856 Orr's Circ. Sci., Pract. Chem. 306 Nitrogen, carbon, and hydrogen are to be found in all living bodies. 1870 EMERSON Soc. & Sol., Clubs, The flame of life burns too fast in pure oxygen, and nature has tempered the air with nitrogen.

This definition of nitrogen was published in 1907, and seems unnecessarily imprecise. The terminology of modern chemistry owes much to the work of Lavoisier and his contemporaries in France at the end of the 18th century. OED now cites oxygen from 1788, and nitrogen from 1791.

nitrogen, n.

A non-metallic chemical element, atomic no. 7, which, as a colourless, odourless gas with diatomic molecules (N₂), forms approximately four-fifths of the earth's atmosphere, and which is also a constituent of numerous compounds, including ammonia, nitric acid, nitrates, and proteins. (Symbol N).

Recorded earliest in nitrogen gas n. at Compounds 1a.

[1789 R. KERR tr. Lavoisier Elements Chem. I. iv. 53 It [sc. azotic gas] is proved to compose a part of the nitric acid, which gives as good reason to have called it nitrogen.] 1791 W. NICHOLSON tr. I. A. Chaptal Elem. Chem. I. p. xxxv, The denomination of Azotic Gas is not established according to the principles which have been adopted... In order to correct the nomenclature..I have presumed to propose that of Nitrogene Gas... It is deduced from the characteristic and exclusive property of this gas, which forms the radical of the nitric acid. 1794 Philos. Trans. (Royal Soc.) 84 391 The remainder of the gas extinguished flame, and was concluded to be nitrogen or azotic gas. 1806 H. DAVY in Philos. Trans. (Royal Soc.) 97 11 Hydrogene, during its solution in water, seems to expel nitrogen. 1825 M. FARADAY Exper. Res. xxvii. 151, I have refrained from all reasoning on the probability of the compound nature of nitrogen. 1856 Orr's Circle Sci.: Pract. Chem. 306 Nitrogen, carbon, and hydrogen are to be found in all living bodies. 1910 Science 16 Sept. 367/2 The oxidation of ammonia and other organic compounds of nitrogen to the state of nitrate was one of the first actions in the soil which was proved to be brought about by bacteria. 1953 Life 8 June 80/2 Known as 'airglow', this faint luminescence is emitted by sodium, oxygen and nitrogen molecules and atoms excited by sunlight during the day. 1990 Sunday Express Mag. 15 Apr. 31/3 If there is not enough leafy material around, extra nitrogen can be added in the form of manure, seaweed meal or dried blood.

[continued]
peregrine, a.

4. peregrine falcon (also 4-5 faucon peregryn(e)), and see B. 3): a typical species of falcon (Falco peregrinus) of very wide distribution, and formerly held in the greatest esteem for hawking.

There are numerous local races, varieties, or subspecies, some of which, as the American peregrine or Duck-hawk (Falco anatum) and the Australian F. melanogenys, are by many ornithologists ranked as distinct species.

c1386 CHAUCER Sqr.'s T. 420 A faukon peregryn [v.r. -gryne] thanne semed she Of fremde Land.
1486 Bk. St. Albans Diijb. Ther is a Fawken peregryne. And that is for an Erle.
1525 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart Chron. II. xlvi. 159 Fawcons pelegrynes, that haue stande and rested longe on the perche hath grete desyre to flye abrode.
1575 G. TURBERVILLE Bk. Faulconrie 123 Of all kinde of hawkes,.., as Sacres, Gerfalcons, peregrine Falcons, and Vilanes.
1774 RAY tr. F. Willughby Ornithol. 79 It is said to be lesser than a Peregrine Falcon.
1843 W. YARRELL Hist. Birds I. 32 The great docility of the Peregrine Falcon, and the comparative ease with which the birds are procured, has rendered them the most frequent objects of the falconer's care and tuition.
1875 W. McILWRAITH Guide Wigtownshire 139 These precipices are frequented by the peregrine falcon.

The dated variant forms in OED1's entry are now handled elsewhere in the entry and at falcon.

[continued]
psychiatry

The medical treatment of diseases of the mind.
1846 in WORCESTER, citing Monthly Rev.

psychiatry, n.

The branch of medicine concerned with the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental illness.
1828 N. Amer. Rev. Oct. 328 Psychiatry or treatment of the diseases of the mind. 1886 A. B. BRUCE Mirac. Elem. in Gospels v. 183 A problem in psychology and psychiatry. 1902 Brit. Med. Jnl. 3 May 1092 The intervention of psychiatry in the reform of criminals. 1952 M. ALLINGHAM Tiger in Smoke iv. 78 It took him...eighteen months to get himself moved up to the Scrubs, where they've got a psychiatry unit. 1976 Amer. Jnl. Psychiatry 133 96/1 In the last 25 years psychiatry has taken over many of the ‘healing’ functions of religion. 2003 Guardian 18 Jan. I. 22/2 No such aids [sc. histological, biochemical, or immunological tests] are available in psychiatry, which depends heavily on symptomatology and phenomenology to achieve a diagnosis.
NEW TERMS: 1

Many news words, new senses of words, and new phrases are being added to the OED:

breakbeat, *n.*

*Brit. /breɪkbiːt/*, *U.S. /breɪkbiːt/ [⟨ BREAK *n.¹ + BEAT *n.¹] *

1. *orig. U.S.* A sample of a drum break, esp. a funky or syncopated one, usually repeated to form a rhythm track; (also) a similar beat programmed on a drum machine, etc., rather than sampled. 

*1984* *Hip Hop on Wax: Vol. 1* (record label), *Break beat*. *1988* *Los Angeles Times* (Nexis) 13 Mar. 92 The Music Factory..is jammed with the latest New York-based label rap hits, breakbeat collections (which feature hit songs with extended breaks for rap deejays or record producers). *1991* *Sky Mag.* Feb. 8/1 Rap was tough, gritty, do-it-yourself music; all you needed was a break beat and a microphone and you were ready to go. *1996* *Loaded* Sept. 198/1 Weird-out electronic breakbeats. Not for softbag fans! *2000* A. *CALCUTT* Brit Cult 64/2 He also speeded up *Cornershop’s ‘Brinful of Asha’* and added the breakbeats, taking it from an *indie* cult record that reached No 65 in the charts to the No 1 spot.

2. *orig. Brit.* A genre of popular dance music characterized by the use of breakbeats, esp. as contrasted with dance music that has a very regular four-four beat.

*1990* *Guardian* 1 Nov. 27/5 Orbit believes that records like DNA's breakbeat version of Suzanne Vega's Tom's Diner represent a new way of thinking about songs and sound. *1995* *Melody Maker* 25 Mar. 27/1 After a frustrating period signed to major label Sony, Gerald discovered the glory of breakbeat. *2002* *Time Out N.Y.* 25 Apr. 121/3 It was a clarion call to the dance music world, coupling the standards of sampladelic breakbeat..with an urbane, cosmopolitan wit that Fatboy Slim was too much of a commoner to ever put forth.

chip and PIN, *n.*

*Brit. /tʃɪp ənd 'paɪn/*, *U.S. /tʃɪp ənd 'paɪn/ Forms: 20- chip and PIN, 20- chip and Pin, 20- chip and pin. *

A system for electronic transactions in which debit and credit cards containing a microchip are used in conjunction with a PIN rather than with the cardholder’s signature, to provide greater security when authorizing a purchase.

* [1995 Financial Times* (Nexis) 16 Oct. (Survey of Business Travel section) p. vii. France has switched over to smart-cards, with chips and pin numbers, and non-chip credit cards may be refused in some establishments.] *2001* *Computer Weekly* 12 Apr. 3/4 Although they are enthusiastic about the goals of the chip and Pin smartcard initiative, many retailers fear the technology could end up being slower than the current swipe-based system for authorising card transactions. *2003* *Cards Internat* (Nexis) 24 Jan. 16 The UK, which has experienced one of the fastest-growing fraud rates in recent years, has mandated the use of chip and PIN at the point of sale to try to curb this trend. *2004* *Drapers Rec. & Menswear* 24 Apr. 2 (advt.) As of January 1st 2005, retailers without EMV certification will be held liable for card fraud at their outlets. It’s never too late--minimise your risk by getting ready for Chip and PIN now.

[continued]
**incentivization, n.**


The action or process of making something (esp. a product, scheme, etc.) attractive by offering an incentive for purchase or participation; the provision of (usually financial) incentives.

1977 *Times* 30 July 23/1 [His] declared business policy was to encourage senior executives to maximum effort by what was repulsively expressed as ‘incentivization’—setting up companies which would deal with Slater Walker group shares for the benefit of executives. 1997 *Daily Tel.* 31 Mar. 35/2 Peter Kindersley...has given away 615,000 of his shares at the bargain price of 16p to company executives under his corporate ‘incentivisation scheme’. 2003 *Money Marketing (Nexis)* 9 Jan. 28 The biggest omission in the Green Paper is the lack of incentivisation. We keep telling the Government that the employer contribution is key.

**SARS, n.**


Severe acute respiratory syndrome, an infectious disease caused by a coronavirus, usually presenting with fever, malaise, and cough, and progressing in a proportion of cases to pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome or respiratory failure.

First recognized as an epidemic in China beginning late in 2002.

2003 *Observer* 16 Mar. 1/7 ‘This syndrome, Sars, is now a worldwide health threat,’ WHO director-general Gro Harlem Brundtland said. 2003 *Wired* July 66/2 The World Health Organization scrambles to contain SARS and inspectors search Iraq for evidence of bioterror. 2004 *M. M. SUÁREZ-OROZCO & D. B. QIN-HILLIARD Globalization* i. 8 The case of SARS forcefully illustrates this dynamic. Within a few months of its original appearance..., it became a worldwide health threat. 2005 *Daily Rec.* (Glasgow) (Nexis) 21 Feb. 9 Scientists can cure Sars, the lung disease which killed 774 in Asia two years ago.

**Wi-Fi, n. (and adj.)**

*Brit. *Wi-Fi/, *U.S. *Wi-Fi,*  Forms: *Wi-Fi* (h) Wi-fi/*

Any of several standards for the high-speed wireless transmission of data over a relatively small range. Also as *adj.:* designating or relating to appliances or systems using this standard.

Wi-Fi now usually refers to a family of standards for local area networks developed by the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) which specify a wireless interface between computing devices.

A proprietary name in the United States.

1999 *Business Wire (Nexis)* 15 Sept., The Wireless Ethernet Compatibility Alliance...unveiled Wi-Fi, the new consumer brand identity for the IEEE 802.11 High Rate (HR) Standard. 2001 *Wall St. Jnl.* 4 June A22/6 A host of new digital delivery systems, from broadband fiber to wireless Wi-Fi that will allow for infinite channels. 2002 *Guardian* 29 Aug. (Online section) 7/3 The range of a typical Wi-Fi network is generally too limited to be of much use when travelling around a city. 2005 *N.Y. Times* (National ed) 5 May C9/2 The F1000 is a Wi-Fi phone that uses a wireless connection.
NEW TERMS: 2

Previously overlooked terms with a long history in the language are being added for the first time:

**due process, n.**


*Law.*

Also more fully **due process of law**. The observation of the proper legal procedures in a particular context. Now: spec. the administration of justice in accordance with the established rules and principles of the land, typically in the context of protecting the rights of the individual; the principle of guaranteeing that this is observed in the courts.

In the United States the principle of due process is perceived to be guaranteed by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments (cf. quot. 1789, which represents a draft of the Fifth Amendment), and since the mid 20th cent. has also increasingly been used to regulate the actions of non-judicial government agencies.

1447 in S. A. Moore *Lett. & Papers J. Shillingford* (1871) 134 It is ordeigned...that no man shuld be putte to answere before the King..without presentment before Justice or matier of record or due processe and write originall.  

1634 E. COKE Second Pt. Inst. Lawes Eng. (1642) 50 Without being brought in to answere but by due Proces of the Common law.  

1650 MILTON *Eikonoklesæs* 68 That choleric, and vengefull act of proclaiming him Traitor before due process of Law.  


1736 H. CARE *Hist. of Popery* II. 137 Neither are they wont to massacre Christians, or to murder them without Sentence and due Process of Law.  

1789 J. MADISON in *Congress. Reg.* 8 June 428 No person shall be..deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.  

1819 *Times* 21 Apr. 2 They shall be condemned as lawful prizes, if brought into any port of the United States, after due process in any court having Admiralty jurisdiction.  

1898 *Harvard Law Rev.* 12 342 He applied for a writ of habeas corpus, claiming the statute was unconstitutional, in that by preventing his engaging in a lawful business..it deprived him of his liberty without due process of law.  

1942 B. F. WRIGHT *Growth of Amer. Consti. Law* 149 The increased importance of the civil liberties cases where state legislation was held invalid results from the Court's changed attitude toward the scope of due process in the Fourteenth Amendment.  

2005 *Morning Star* (Nexis) 9 Nov., Detention without trial or charge means the right of the police and, ultimately, the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister to ignore due process and tear up the existing rights of the citizen.

[continued]
hellwards, adv.

Towards hell, in the direction of hell; = HELLWARD adv.

1662 T. WATSON Pastors Love sig. C. Do not look Heaven-wards by a profession, and Hell-wards by your conversation. 1875 J. W. DE FOREST Honest John Vane xviii. 187 It was no wonder that, once temptation got him faced hellwards, he rode to the devil with astonishing rapidity. 1909 W. A. WHITE Certain Rich Man xviii. 250, I seen him throw that plug hat hellwards over the crowd and jump down from that band stand like a wild man. 1980 Daedalus Spring 247 The devils had been waiting in ambush..to drag them hellwards. 2006 Herald (Glasgow) 16 Nov. (Going out section) 2 This German psycho-chiller starts with a naked, serial-killing paedophile in a shootout with the police, and heads hellwards from there.

love-struck, a.

Of a person: overwhelmed by feelings of love and affection for someone.

a1652 R. BROME Damoselle (1653) III. i. sig. D, Yonder he is, Profoundly Love-struck too, J make no doubt. 1699 Woman's Malice 9 She Love-struck at first View could not withhold her Eyes, from the beloved Rodalus. 1770 Adventures of Actor xviii. 251 The famous Fortune-Teller could only do the ladies business, and aid the love-struck swain in his addresses to the cruel fair-one. 1841 Republican Compiler (Gettysburg, Pa.) 6 Apr. 1/6 A select number of love-struck and music-struck young gentlemen..took it into their heads..to serenade..an old house in Charles street, in which they believed a young lady to be. 1891 Times 1 Apr. 4/5 The girl, having an eye to the main chance, asks the love-struck Pierrot how much money he has got. 1936 Ironwood (Mich.) Daily Globe 20 Oct. 4/5 The next night, lovestruck Phil signed to appear in the show at one-third of his usual salary. He presented himself to Miss Cartwright and wooed her persistently.

per centum, adv.

= PER CENT adv.


1565 J. SPARKE Sir J. Hawkins' 2nd Voy. (1878) 34 Requesting to have the same abated, and to pay seven and a half per centum. a1634 W. AUSTIN Devotionis Augustiniana Flamma (1635) 240 Not as heere ten or fifteene per Centum. 1648 H. PARKER Of Free Trade sig. D2, They were to pay for wares brought in, and carried out one and a quarter per centum custome, and no more. 1720 London Gaz. No. 5825/3, The Interest of one Penny per Centum per Diem. 1782 T. JEFFERSON Notes Virginia xiv. 245 No person is allowed..to take more than five per centum per annum simple interest, for the loan of monies. 1825 Times 21 Sept. 2/4 The shipwrights shall be paid 20 per centum in addition to the prices set forth in their book of prices. 1888 Resol. Ho. Comm. 6 July, That the Consolidated Three Pounds per Centum Annuities and the Reduced Three Pounds per Centum Annuities shall be redeemable. 1933 Amer. Jrln. Internat. Law 27 164 The expenses of the Internal Revenue Inspection Service shall not exceed five per centum of internal revenue receipts. 1970 G. C. CAMERON Regional Econ. Devel. 142 Loan assistance shall not exceed 65 per centum of the aggregate cost to the applicant. 2000 Cape Times 19 July I. 16/4 (advt.) Payment: 10% (ten per centum) of the purchase price on the date of the sale.

[continued]
self-harm, *n.*

Injury done to oneself; (now) *spec.* deliberate injury inflicted upon oneself, esp. as a manifestation of a psychiatric or psychological disorder (cf. PARASUICIDE *n.*).

*a*1628 F. GREVILLE *Treatise of Monarchy* xi, in *Remains* (1670) 132 Man his profit will refuse And turn his waxen Mettal into Steel, Which, harming others, self-harm cannot feel. 1769 W. JACKSON *Beauties Nature* 180 May not this Soul, without Self-harm, communicate an adequate Portion of its own Essentia. 1817 S. T. COLERIDGE *Sibylline Leaves* 201 Ill beseems it me..To wander back on such unhealthful road, Plucking the poisons of self-harm! 1850 J. WILSON *Christopher under Canvass* 256 The Doctor desires that all means of self-harm may be kept out of her way. 1923 *Jrnl. Philos.* 20 86 The truth of this statement is sufficiently attested by the phenomenon..of the desire for self-harm. 1983 *Amer. Jrnl. Psychiatry* 140 867/2 The psychological symptoms of deliberate self-harm include..a sense of psychic relief after the act of self-harm. 1995 *Nursing Times* 22 Mar. 61/1 Staff nurses working with people who have a history of sexual, physical and emotional abuse, most of whom have a history of self-harm.

walled garden, *n.*

1. A garden enclosed by a wall, usually a high brick wall.

1680 T. OTWAY *Caius Marius* II. 17 (stage direct.) A walled Garden belonging to Metellus house. 1757 P. LUCKOMBE * Beauties Eng.* 111 A little walled Garden. 1798 W. BECKFORD *Azemia* I. iii. 77 Azemia found herself perfectly at ease and extremely glad..to breath the fresh air in a large walled garden. 1843 *Times* 26 Aug. 3/1 The beautiful walled garden adjoining the house. 1899 A. C. BENSON *Life E. W. Benson* I. v. 161 A small walled garden..with a rockery of broken carvings from the stone-yards. 1983 D. WHIPPLE *Priory* (2003) xxiv. 286 She went into the warm walled garden where the old medlar grew. 2002 *Cheshire Life* Aug. 45/4 The grounds have been restored to their Elizabethan splendour with a walled garden, herb garden and a traditional knot garden.

2. *Computing and Telecomm.* A pre-defined range of networked resources (usually Internet-based) to which subscribers to a particular service are given access.

1995 *Observer* 25 June (Schools Suppl.) 10/5 B.T..will provide ‘walled garden access’ to the Internet, bringing a vetted, but still extensive, information store within the reach of students online. 1998 *Los Angeles Times* (Nexis) 9 Nov. C1 Chairman John Malone has promoted the idea of a ‘walled garden’ of basic online information and retailing services for cable customers. 2005 *New Media Age* (Nexis) 3 Nov., While devices are getting smarter, the business model for mobile content in the US remains stalled in the walled garden, where network operators limit subscriber access to content, services and wireless Web sites on their home portals.
NEW TERMS: 3

Many terms from non-British varieties of English and other loanwords are being added for the first time:

**bento, n.**

A Japanese or Japanese-style packed lunch traditionally consisting of rice, vegetables, and Japanese specialities such as sashimi and teriyaki, and served in a lacquered or decorated wooden box. Freq. attrib., esp. in *bento box*; also, the box itself. Cf. *OBENTO n.*

1616 R. COCKS *Diary* 23 Nov. (1883) I. 211 Echero Dono..brought me a present of a bento, or box for 5 persons to eate in. 1895 *Harper’s New Monthly Mag.* Apr. 772 My heart was filled with covetousness as I saw the fine old lacquer bento boxes which they produced after carefully removing many silk wrappings. 1934 *Discovery* June 174/2 The bento, consisting of a box of cooked rice and another of oddments of fish and vegetables...takes the place of the luncheon basket for the Japanese. 1947 J. BERTRAM *Shadow of War* 192 We..broke open the bento of cold sweet potatoes. 1969 *Monumenta Nipponica* 24 328 He removed the lid from his bentō box and put it on the table. 1988 *Courier-Mail* (Brisbane) 14 Sept. Mr Parker said the average Aussie Bento was not the average bento (lunch) found in Japan. 2002 T. SHIMODA *Fourth Treasure* (2003) 238 He bought a bento boxed lunch that actually tasted good, not stale.

**moharrir, n.**

In South Asia: a clerk, esp. one in judicial, civil service, or police employment.

1765 H. VERELST *Let.* 13 Sept. in *View Eng. Govt. Bengal* (1772) App. 217 This is not only the custom of the heads, but is followed by every petty Mohooree in each office. 1834 A. PRINSEP *Baboo* II. iii. 54 One of the Mohurrirs was still with him. 1852 C. RAIKES *Notes North-Western Provinces India* vii. 221 The jemadar and mohurrir get about 8 or 10 rupees per mensem. 1883 C. RAIKES in H. B. SMITH *Lord Lawrence* I. iii. 57 Each of these [police] stations [in 1835] was under the charge of a thanadar, or chief of police, with a jemadar, or sergeant, a mohurrir, or scribe, and a dozen or so of police burkundazes. 1998 *Business Recorder* (Nexis) 19 Nov., Inspector Rana Ahmed Din, Taxation Officer Ehsan Zaidi, Head Clerk Malik Altaf, Incharge Inspector, Riaz Ahmed Baloch and two Moharrirs Muhammad Afzal and Mirza Sarwar. 2000 *Tribune* (Chandigarh, India) (Electronic ed.) 3 Sept., The special Judge..has directed the police to register a case against SHO and moharrir head constable and others.

**old lady, n.**

*U.S. Naut. colloq.* With the. A ship, esp. an old one.

1841 H. J. MERCIER & W. GALLOP *Life in Man-of-War* 76 We'll have to take some of the old lady's muslin off before supper. 1933 F. RIESENBERG *Log of Sea* 55 The old lady..was..driven almost beyond the power of endurance. 1967 W. LORD *Incredible Victory* 33 They certainly didn't wish the ‘Old Lady’ ill, but the damage from that bomb should keep her in dry dock for a long time. 1998 *Yachts & Yachting* 21 Aug. 10/3 While the ‘old lady’ was only slightly shaken by the collision, it was the end of ‘Biohat’s’ racing as her bow was split open.
HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

The availability of better evidence often allows us to restructure an entry in a way which more accurately fits the presumed semantic development. New evidence can sometimes validate the previous apparently achronological ordering of senses:

**OED1/2**

Marian, *a.*

1. Pertaining to the Virgin Mary, or characterized by special devotion to her.

1701 (title) An Account of Livonia with a Relation of the Rise, Progress, and Decay of the Marian Teutonick Order. 1829 SOUTHEY *Sir T. More* II. 106 The propagandists of the Monkish and Marian religion. 1865 PUSEY *Truth Eng. Ch.* 120 In Spain and Portugal devotion to the Blessed Virgin is in its natural home. They are familiarly called Marian Kingdoms.

2. Pertaining to Mary Queen of England or her time (1553-58).

1608 WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 61 The late daies of the Marian persecution in England. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* VII. i. §29 Of all the Marian Martyrs, Hooper, and Ridley suffered with most torture. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 647 In this way, with the help of some invention and exaggeration, was formed a copious supplement to the Marian martyrology.

3. Relating to Mary Queen of Scots (1542-87).

1902 A. LANG *Hist. Scot.* II. x. 267 A Marian conspiracy worked by Lennox.

New datable evidence overturns the 'hierarchical' ordering of sense in the first edition of the *OED*, and prompts a more structured presentation of the evidence.

[continued]

**OED3**

Marian, *a.*

1. a. Of or relating to Queen Mary I of England (1516-58) or her reign (1553-8).

1579 in J. G. Nichols *Narr. Reformation* (1859) 57 Thys noble gentleman...had hys dayes cutt of and hys vertuous lyff shortened by the Maryane persequutione. 1584 J. HOOKER *Catal. Bishops Excester sig. Iijv.* In all Q. Maries time, which were called the Marian daies, he travelled from place to place,...being not knowne to haue beene a preest. 1608 A. WILLET *Hexapla in Exodum* 61 The late daies of the Marian persecution in England. 1655 T. FULLER *Church-hist. Brit.* VII. 405 Of all the Marian Martyrs, Hooper, [etc.].

b. Of or relating to Mary, Queen of Scots (1542-87).

1868 E. EDWARDS *Life Sir W. Ralegh* I. vii. 108 The Marian faction and the Spanish faction had played into each other's hands. 1902 A. LANG *Hist. Scot.* II. x. 267 A Marian conspiracy worked by Lennox. 1927 Tablet 29 Jan. 134/2 A keen student of Mary Queen of Scots, he secured for the Scottish nation not only a number of holograph letters [etc.].

2. Christian Church. Of or relating to the Virgin Mary; characterized by special veneration for her.

1701 (title) An account of Livonia with a relation of the rise, progress, and decay of the Marian Teutonick Order. 1728 E. CHAMBERS Cyc. at Port-glaive, [The Sword-bearers] united themselves with the Teutonic, or Marian Knights, of the Pope's Authority. 1829 R. SOUTHEY *Sir* [etc.].
radiation, *n.*

1. a. The action or condition of sending out rays of light. Now rare (see note to 2).

1626 BACON *Sylva* §125 So it [sound] paralleleth in so many other things with the Sight, and Radiation of Things visible. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 260 As for Scieterical Dialls, whether of the Sunne or Moon, they are only of use in the actual radiation of those Luminaries. 1740 CHEYNE *Regimen* 123 The glorious Appearance and Radiation of our Saviour's Body on the Mount. 1773 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 525/2 Radiation, the act of a body emitting or diffusing rays of light all round, as from a centre.

b. A ray or quantity of light emitted by a radiant body (usu. in pl.). In mod. use (usu. in *sing.*), energy transmitted in the form or rays, waves, or sub-atomic particles; in non-techn. use *ionizing radiation.*

1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* bj, Perspective...demonstrateth the maner and properties, of all Radiations Direct, Broken, and Reflected. 1626 BACON *New Atl.* 39 Wee haue also Perspectiue-Houses, wher wee make Demonstrations of all Lights and Radiations. 1793 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 525/2 Radiation, the act of a body emitting or diffusing rays of light all round, as from a centre.

In this case the editors of the first edition of the dictionary felt that sense 1a ought logically to preceded sense 1b, despite the chronological mismatch.

New evidence shows that their suspicions were well-grounded, as evidence for 'the action or condition of sending out rays of light' is now dated from *a1500,* preceding the second sense by seventy years.

2. 1a. A ray or beam of emitted, reflected, or refracted light. Usu. in *pl.* Obs. exc. as in sense 2c.

1570 J. DEE in H. Billingsley tr. Euclid *Elements Geom.* Pref. sig. bj, Perspective...demonstrateth the maner and properties, of all Radiations Direct, Broken, and Reflected. 1626 BACON *New Atlantis* 39 Wee haue also Perspectiue-Houses, wher wee make Demonstrations of all Lights and Radiations. 1793 J. DALTON *Meteorol. Obs.* xii. 66 The beams lost their lateral motion, and were converted...into the flashing radiations.

1798 S. LEE & H. LEE *Young Lady's Tale* in *Canterbury Tales* II. 446 The setting sun...threw his long radiations even to the shore.

1837 D. BREWSTER *Treat. Magn.* 225 The part of the heavens where all these beams or radiations unite.
ENTRY STRUCTURE: 1

Several innovations in the way entries are presented have been introduced in the new edition:

**OED1/2**

*quit, n.²*

b. attrib. and Comb., as *quit-form*, *notice; quit rate*, the proportion of people in a section of society who voluntarily leave their jobs.

1966 ‘A. HALL’ 9th Directive xxii. 209 The hospital superintendent didn’t want to release me...but I forced a personal responsibility *quit-form out of him and signed it and left.* 1976 K. THACKERAY *Crownbird* vi. 111 If...he got a quit notice from the Kenyans, he’d wind up being stateless. 1970 *Women Speaking* Apr. 10/2 For both men and women workers, the lowest quit rates occur among skilled workers and professional and managerial workers. 1973 *N.Y. Law Jrnl.* 26 July 5/3, 41 per cent of married mothers do work; women’s ‘quit-rate’ is lower than men’s, making them most dependable workers. 1975 *Sci. Amer.* Jan. 21/1 Let us consider the indicator called the quit rate, which measures the number of people in manufacturing industries (per 100 employed) who voluntarily leave their jobs.

**OED3**

*quit, n.²*

**COMPOUNDS**

C1. *quit-form n.*

1966 ‘A. HALL’ 9th Directive xxii. 209 The hospital superintendent...didn’t want to release me...but I forced a personal responsibility *quit-form out of him and signed it and left.*

*quit notice n.*

1863 O. J. VICTOR *Hist. Amer. Conspiracies* v. 157 Receiving this *quit-notice Governor Martin immediately convened his Council.* 1976 K. THACKERAY *Crownbird* vi. 111 If...he got a quit notice from the Kenyans, he’d wind up being stateless. 2000 *Africa News* (Nexis) 3 July, Already, some of the local councils have given quit notices to prostitutes to vacate their areas.

C2. *quit rate n.* U.S. the proportion of people in a particular industry, area, etc., who voluntarily leave their jobs over a certain period of time.

1926 *Rev. Econ. & Statist.* 8 136/2 Keen interest is therefore being shown by employers in the course of voluntary *quit rates.* 1970 *Women Speaking* Apr. 10/2 For both men and women workers, the lowest quit rates occur among skilled workers and professional and managerial workers. 2006 *Tulsa* (Okla.) *World* (Nexis) 30 July E1 Job satisfaction is measured by several tangible and intangible factors in the civilian economy, but quit rates or turnover rates are the bottom line.

Restrictions on space meant that OED1/2 devised a system for compressing listings and definitions of compounds, and running on their illustrative quotations in a single paragraph of text. In larger entries this became extremely difficult to navigate.

OED3 is able to present each lemma and its associated illustrative quotations as a unit in its own right.

Note here that both *quit notice* and *quit rate* can now be seen emerging in the nineteenth (not the twentieth) century.
ENTRY STRUCTURE: 2

Large entries are now typically divided into sections dealing (when appropriate) with the various meanings of a word, phrases in which it plays a central part, compounds of which the word represents the initial element, and minor derivatives:

**OED1/2**

*balloon, n.*

- 16 senses and subsenses containing senses, phrases, compounds
- Unlabelled derivative section [7 derivative forms, many of which are upgraded to main-entry status in *OED3*.]

**OED3**

*balloon, n.*

- Senses: a ball or spherical object. [6 senses.]
- Senses: an air balloon, and related senses. [12 senses.]
- Phrases [1 phrase.] *the balloon goes up*
- Compounds [44 compounds in four sections.]
- Derivatives [2 derivatives.]

The more structured organization of *OED3* entries allows the user to navigate the entry more efficiently.

The date-sensitive ordering of the main senses of a word is largely replaced by alphabetical ordering in the other (phrase, compound, and derivative) sections.
ETYMOLOGY: 1

The etymology section details the pre-history of a word (before it enters English), often in ways which throw light on its use in English:

**OED1/2**

**angle, n.**

[a. Fr. *angle*:]-- L. *angul-un* (nom. *-us*)

corner, a dim. form, of which the prim. 

*a*ngus is not in L.; cf. Gr. ἀγκός a bend, a

hollow angle, and L. ang. *ȳre* to compress

in a bend or fold, to strangle; Aryan root

ank- to bend.]

The revised etymology for *angle* shows

that the word was known in Anglo-

Norman (i.e. the French used in

England during the Middle Ages) as

well as mainland French, and

document the range of meanings the

word already possessed in French and

Latin.

The fact that so many existing

meanings found their way into English

reinforces the view that we should not

regard words as being borrowed from

one language to another as a single

event, but as a continuing process

which may take a long time to complete.

**OED3**

**angle, n.**

[< Anglo-Norman *aungle*, Anglo-Norman and Old French, Middle French *angle* (French *angle*) corner, recess, nook, angle (all 12th cent.), geographical area, corner of the world (14th cent. or earlier), astronomical angle (a1324; compare sense 5) and its etymon classical Latin *angulus* angle or apex of a triangle or other plane rectilinear figure, junction of two edges or surfaces, corner, projecting point, corner of a room, building, or box, small part of a country, confined or narrow space, secluded corner of a house, nook, out-of-the-way spot, private retreat, a derivative formation (in *-ulus* -ULUS suffix) < the same Italic base as Umbrian *anglome* to the corner < the same Indo-European base as Armenian *ankiwn* corner, ultimately showing a variant of the same Indo-European base as ancient Greek ἄγκυν bend of the arm, nook, bend, angle, ἄγκυ *λος* crooked, curved, and angle n.]

With the sense history compare CORNER n.]

**sexuality**

[ad. mod.L. *sexuālītās*; see SEXUAL a. and -ITY. Cf. F. sexualité.]

*Sexuality* is now regarded as formed from English elements, rather than as a borrowing from modern Latin (as in OEDI/2). The revised etymology shows that the word was emerging at the same time throughout Europe.

**sexuality, n.**

[< SEXUAL adj. + -ITY suffix, probably after post-classical Latin *sexualitas* (1761 or earlier). Compare French *sexualité* (1822 or earlier), German *Sexualität* (1799 or earlier). With sense 1 compare earlier SEXUALIST n. In sense 5 after HOMOSEXUALITY n., heterosexuality n. at HETEROSEXUAL adj. and n. Derivatives.]
ETYMOLOGY: 2

More detailed derivational information is often available:

**OED1/2**

paparazzo

[It.] A freelance photographer who pursues celebrities to take their pictures. Also attrib.

1968* Daily Tel.* (Colour Suppl.) 29 Nov. 66/4
The anticipated horde of detested paparazzi—those scavenging Italian street photographers whose sole purpose appears to be to make every film celebrity’s life a misery. 1972* W. Garner* Ditto, Brother Rat!* xxii. 163
Pik...hoisted his camera and began zip-click-zipping at the delegation like a paparazzo who’s suddenly found nothing between him and royalty in the nude. 1972* N.Y. Times* 6 July 1 United States District Court Judge Irving Ben Cooper ruled yesterday that the activities of Ronald E. Galella, the self-styled ‘paparazzo’ photographer, had ‘relentlessly invaded’ the right to privacy of Mrs. Aristotle Onassis. 1974* V. Gielgud* In Such a Night* vii. 64
The Roman paparazzi are so frequently the terror of film-actors with thin skins. 1974* Times Lit. Suppl.* 20 Dec. 1439/4
The London Clinic which she had entered a week before with the defiant exclamation to the vulturine paparazzi at the entrance, ‘Don’t think I’m coming here to die, I’m not.’ 1977* Maclean’s Mag.* 21 Mar. 64/1
If Margaret was troubled by the publicity or the paparazzi that followed her during her New York stay, she certainly didn’t show it.

**OED3**

paparazzo, n.

[< Italian paparazzo (1961) < the name of the character Paparazzo, a society photographer in F. Fellini’s film *La Dolce Vita* (1960). See also PAPARAZZI n.]

The selection of the name Paparazzo (which occurs as a surname in Italy) for the character in Fellini’s film has been variously explained. According to Fellini himself, the name was taken from an opera libretto; the comment is also attributed to him that the word ‘suggests, a buzzing insect, hovering, darting, stinging’. It is also used as the name of a character by G. Gissing in *By the Ionian Sea* (1909), which appeared in Italian translation in 1957 and has been cited as an inspiration by E. Flaiano, who contributed to the film’s scenario. (For further possible expressive connotations of the name, it has also been noted that in the Italian dialect of Abruzzi, where Flaiano came from, paparazzo occurs as a word for a clam, which could be taken as suggesting a metaphor for the opening and closing of a camera lens; the Italian suffix -azio (variant of -accio < classical Latin *-actus*; see *-ACEOUS suffix*) also has pejorative connotations.)

A freelance photographer who pursues celebrities to take photographs of them, usually for sale to popular newspapers and magazines. Chiefly in *pl.* Also appositive, passing into adj.: that is a paparazzo.

1961* Time* 14 Apr. 59/1
Kroscenko...is a paparazzo, one of a ravenous wolf pack of freelance photographers who stalk big names for a living and fire with flash guns at point-blank range. 1961* Time* 14 Apr. 59/2
When Katharine Hepburn passed through town recently, the paparazzi mounted Vespa scooters...to waylay her at Fiumicino Airport. 1966* Newsweek* 10 Jan. 44/2
A remote chance that gossip columnists or paparazzi [etc.].

When this entry was first published in 1982 (in the *Supplement to the OED*), the editors were not aware of the connection between the word paparazzo and Fellini’s film.

[continued]
ecology

[mod. f. Gr. ὀἶκος house, dwelling + (O)LOGY; after ἀ-conomy.]

Modern work on etymology allows us to cite the German naturalist and philosopher Ernst Haeckel as the coiner of the term, and to reject a quotation of 1858 said to be the work of Henry Thoreau.

pickle-herring

[Found first as pickled herring, f. PICKLED ppl. a.; somewhat later pickle-herring, after MD. or early mod.Du. pêckel-harinck (1567 Junius Nomenclator), MLG. pêkel-herinck (Lübben-Walther), both in sense 1; mod.Du. pekel-haring, mod.G. pickelharing.]

The revised etymology presents dated evidence for use of the equivalent term in Dutch and German (for the purposes of comparison with English use).

It also provides Continental information relevant to OED's second sense of pickle-herring ('a clown, a buffoon').

pickle-herring, n.

[< PICKLE n. † + HERRING n. Compare Dutch pekelharing (1567 as pêckel-harinck), Middle Low German pekêlhinck, pickelhinck, German Pickelharing (1618 or earlier; < German regional (Low German)). Compare later pickled herring n. at PICKLED adj. Special uses.

The word was app. used as a nickname by several early comic entertainers (compare quot. 1716-20 at sense 2); its earliest attestation as such is in a German document of 1615 which refers to the English musician and entertainer George Vincent, who was at the time travelling in Europe, as 'Georg Vincent alias Pickelhering' (see Shakespeare Survey 36(1983) 139). The comic character Pickelharing quickly became a stock figure in German farce (compare Ein lustig Pickelherrings Spiel von der schönen Maria und alten Hanrey(1620), Engelsche Comedien und Tragedien...sampt dem Pickelharing(1620)), and German Pickelherring had acquired the generic sense 'clown' by the mid 17th cent.; compare also Dutch pekelharing (1637), Swedish pickelhäring (1665), in the same sense. Some English examples at sense 2 may be secondary borrowings from German or Dutch.

Attested slightly earlier as a surname: Hans Pekilheryng (1458-60).]
The IPA pronunciation transcriptions are enhanced by the provision of North American forms:

**OED1/2**

**Americanization, n.**

(əˈmɛrkənərˈzaʃən)

**electrical, a.**

(ɪˈlektrɪkl)

**myall, n.**

(ˈmeɪl)

**play-down, playdown**

(ˈpleɪdaʊn)

**radioactive, a.**

(ˈrədɪəʊˈæktɪv)

**webcast, n.**

[not available]

**OED3**

**Americanization, n.**

Brit. /əˈmɛrkənərˈzaʃən/, U.S. /əˈmɛrkənərˈzaʃən/.

**electrical, a.**

Brit. /ɪˈlektrɪkl/, U.S. /ɪˈlektrɪkl/.

**myall, n.**


**playdown, n.**

Brit. /ˈpleɪdaʊn/, U.S. /ˈpleɪdaʊn/, Canad. /ˈpleɪdaʊn/.

**radioactive, a.**

Brit. /ˈrədɪəʊˈæktɪv/, U.S. /ˈrədɪəʊˈæktɪv/.

**webcast, n.**

Brit. /ˈwebkast/, U.S. /ˈwebkast/.

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*OED3* provides both a representative British English and American English pronunciation, in the International Phonetic alphabet. Words which are characteristic of other varieties of English are also provided with their own regional pronunciations.
PRONUNCIATION: 2

More extensive discussion of significant historical pronunciations is available:

**OED1/2**

**machete**

[No discussion of historical pronunciation]

Additional information in the etymology discusses the emergence of the current three-syllable form of *machete* from the earlier two-syllable versions in the 19th century, and also addresses the variation in the pronunciation of its *-ch-* from the 17th century onwards.

**OED3**

**machete, n.**

[< Spanish *machete* (1550), probably < *macho* large hammer (probably variant of *mazo*, cognate with MACE n.) + *-ete*, diminutive suffix (see -ET suffix¹). In sense 2 after Portuguese *machete* (18th cent.). Early forms indicate disyllabic pronunciations with stress on the second syllable (forms in *-ette* are perhaps after other French words in the same termination, as they antedate the earliest attestation of French *machette* (1676)). Disyllabic pronunciations with stress on the first syllable (perhaps influenced by *hatchet n.*) appeared at the beginning of the 19th cent., and are still usual in Jamaica and the Bahamas. A trisyllabic pronunciation, ending in /aɪ/ (after the Spanish pronunciation), appeared in American usage before the end of the 19th cent. and was adopted into British usage during the 20th cent.; a variant of this in /i:/ became standard in both by the late 20th cent. The pronunciation with /∅/ for *-ch-* probably imitating French and now very common, seems from the written evidence to have appeared as early as the 17th cent. and to have been common by the 19th cent. The forms imitate Spanish words with similar terminations.]

**omniscient, a.**

[No discussion of historical pronunciation]

The revised text discusses the variation in the pronunciation of the medial *-sc-* throughout history.

[continued]
plait, n.

(plet, plat, plët)

For this n. and the vb. the dictionaries generally give the first pronunciation above; but in living English use, the third is usual in sense 1, and the second in sense 2; which amounts to saying that, as a spoken word, plait is obsolete, and supplied in sense 1 by pleat, in sense 2 by plat. The first pronunciation appears however to prevail in U.S.

Plait is a word whose pronunciation gives us problems even today. OED3 reports the history of variation in its pronunciation over the centuries.

This word has a complex phonological history, giving rise to a number of distinct types of written variant. Forms reflecting a diphthong are given here; for those ult. arising from Middle English long open ʌ, see pleat n. and compare pleat v.; for those reflecting pronunciation with short ʌ, see plat n. and compare plat v.; for those reflecting pronunciation with short ʌ, see plet n.

Alongside these, the written forms treated at this entry evidently retained a similar variety of pronunciations in the modern period. J. Walker Crit. Pronouncing Dict. (1791) s.v. Plait indicates that the word spelt thus was still sometimes pronounced /pliʌt/ (compare pleat n.) in the 18th cent., although this pronunciation was app. stigmatized: ‘There is a corrupt pronunciation of this word, as if written plete, which must be carefully avoided.’ Late 17th-cent. orthoepists also record a pronunciation of plait with short ʌ (compare plet n.), app. by shortening of the Middle English open ʌ of forms at pleat n. in a monosyllable before a single final consonant (compare e.g. bread n.; see further E.J. Dobson Eng. Pronunc. 1500-1700 (ed. 2, 1968) II. §30).

Orthoepists record the current pronunciation /plæt/ of this word (compare plat n., plat v.) from the second half of the 17th cent. (alongside pronunciations with the reflex of Middle English open ʌ). It app. arose by analogy with strong past tense and past participle forms of pleat v. (see ʌ forms and discussion at that entry and see further E.J. Dobson Eng. Pronunc. 1500-1700 (ed. 2, 1968) II. §233), perhaps partly reinforced by association with plat adv., plat adj., and related words.

N.E.D. (1907) notes that at this date (pʌɪt) /pliʌt/ was the pronunciation generally given by dictionaries for plait n. and plait v., but that ‘in living English use’, (plet) /plæt/ was the usual pronunciation of the noun in sense 1 (‘braid’, etc.; compare plat n., plat v.) and (pʌt) /pliʌt/ in sense 2 (‘fold’, etc.; compare pleat n., pleat v.), while (plæt) /pleɪt/ prevailed only in the U.S.