





Handwritten signature and number: 21210 / 11/

THE  
ADVANCED LEARNER'S  
DICTIONARY OF  
CURRENT ENGLISH

BY

A. S. HORNBY  
E. V. GATENBY  
H. WAKEFIELD

SECOND EDITION

LONDON  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

*Oxford University Press, Amen House, London E.C.4*

GLASGOW NEW YORK TORONTO MELBOURNE WELLINGTON

BOMBAY CALCUTTA MADRAS KARACHI LAHORE DACCA

CAPE TOWN SALISBURY NAIROBI IBADAN ACCRA

KUALA LUMPUR HONG KONG

© *Oxford University Press 1963*

FIRST PUBLISHED 1948

REPRINTED TWELVE TIMES

SECOND EDITION 1963

REPRINTED 1964 AND 1965 (TWICE)

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN  
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS, OXFORD  
BY VIVIAN RIDLER  
PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I AM indebted to correspondents in many parts of the world for calling attention to errors and omissions in the first edition, and in particular to Mr. W. S. Khoury, of Jerusalem, who sent useful comments on a large number of entries. I look forward to receiving further help of this kind.

For this new edition I also wish to acknowledge my debt to the Delegates of the Clarendon Press for generous permission to make use of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* and the list of words and quotations now being compiled for a new edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary Supplement*.

The task of revision has been almost entirely my responsibility. Professor Gatenby died in 1955. Mr Wakefield was fully occupied in educational work in Malaya until 1959. On his return to England he became ill, and died in 1962. I was, however, fortunate enough to have the help of Mrs M. Alden, who shared in the preparation of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*. Mrs Alden gave the typescript a thorough scrutiny, and I gratefully acknowledge her valuable services.

I have also had the advantage of being able to use the work done by Mr E. C. Parnwell for the *English-Reader's Dictionary*, and am still further in his debt for checking the final proof of this new edition.

A. S. HORNBY

October 1962

## ABBREVIATIONS

abbrev.	abbreviation, abbreviated	hist.	history; historic(ally)
abs.	absolute	hum.	humorous
acc.	accusative	illustr.	illustration
adj., adjj.	adjective(s)	imper.	imperative
adv., advv.	adverb(s)	impers.	impersonal(ly)
adv. part.	adverbial particle	in.	inch(es)
affirm.	affirmative(ly)	ind.	indirect
alg.	algebra	inf.	infinitive
anat.	anatomy	int.	interjection
anom. fir.	anomalous finite	interr.	interrogative(ly)
A.P.	adverbial particle	iron.	ironical(ly)
arch.	archaic	It.	Italian
archit.	architecture	joc.	jocular(ly)
arith.	arithmetic	Lat.	Latin
attrib.	attributive(ly)	lit.	literal(ly)
A.V.	authorized version (of the Bible)	liter.	literary
bibl.	biblical (i.e. in the style of the A.V., not of later versions)	masc.	masculine
bot.	botany	maths.	mathematics
Brit.	British	med.	medical, medicine
c.	century	mil.	military
cap.	capital (letter)	mod.	modern
cc.	centuries	mus.	music
C. of E.	Church of England	myth.	mythology
cf.	compare	n., nn.	noun(s)
chem.	chemistry	naut.	nautical
cin.	cinema(tography)	nav.	naval
collect.	collective(ly)	neg.	negative
colloq.	colloquial(ly)	non anom.	non anomalous
comb.	combination	N.T.	New Testament
compar.	comparative	obj.	object
conj.	conjunction	occ.	occasional(ly)
conn.	connective	opp.	opposite
cub.	cubic	orig.	original(ly)
def.	definition	O.T.	Old Testament
def. art.	definite article	part.	participle
demonstr.	demonstrative	partic. adj.	participial adjective
derog.	derogatory	pass.	passive (voice)
dial.	dialect	phot.	photography
electr.	electricity	phr.	phrase
emot.	(used to mark words which rouse) emotion	poet.	poetical(ly)
emph.	emphatic	pop.	popular use; popularly
Eng.	England, English	poss.	possessive
esp.	especial(ly)	pl.	plural
euphem.	euphemistic(ally)	p.p.	past participle
exc.	except	predic.	predicative(ly)
F.	French	pref.	prefix
fem.	feminine	prep(s).	preposition(s)
freq.	frequent(ly)	pres.	present
ft.	foot, feet	pron.	pronoun
fut.	future	prov.	proverb(ial)
G.	German	psych.	psychology
geol.	geology	p.t.	past tense
geom.	geometry	q.v.	(= Lat. <i>quod vide</i> ) which see
Gk.	Greek	R.C.	Roman Catholic
gram.	grammar	refl.	reflexive
Gt. Brit.	Great Britain	rel.	relative
		rhet.	rhetorical(ly)
		sb.	somebody
		sci.	science



Scot.	Scotland, Scottish	trig.	trigonometry
sing.	singular	usu.	usual(ly)
sl.	slang	v., vv.	verb(s)
Sp.	Spanish	v.l.	verb intransitive
spec.	especially	v.t.	verb transitive
sth.	something	vulg.	vulgar
superl.	superlative	zool.	zoology

The mark × (in verb patterns, etc.) means 'followed by'.

For the use of [C] and [U], and the sign Δ, see the *Notes on the Use of this Dictionary*.

# KEY TO PRONUNCIATION AND STRESS

## VOWELS AND DIPHTHONGS

Symbol	Examples	
i:	<i>green</i> [gri:n]	<i>three</i> [θri:]
ɪ	<i>sit</i> [sɪt]	<i>this</i> [ðɪs]
o	<i>desk</i> [desk]	<i>leg</i> [leg]
ɒ	<i>man</i> [mæn]	<i>back</i> [bæk]
a:	<i>glass</i> [glɑ:s]	<i>father</i> ['fɑ:ðə*]
ɒ	<i>hot</i> [hɒt]	<i>clock</i> [klɒk]
o:	<i>ball</i> [bɔ:l]	<i>draw</i> [drɔ:]
o <sup>1</sup>	<i>obey</i> [o'bei]	<i>November</i> [no'vembə*]
u	<i>book</i> [buk]	<i>put</i> [put]
u:	<i>moon</i> [mu:n]	<i>too, two</i> [tu:]
ʌ	<i>son, sun</i> [sʌn]	<i>come</i> [kʌm]
ə:	<i>word</i> [wɜ:d]	<i>first</i> [fɜ:st]
ə	<i>ago</i> [ə'gou]	<i>under</i> ['ʌndə*]
eɪ	<i>day</i> [deɪ]	<i>name</i> [neɪm]
ou	<i>nose</i> [nouz]	<i>go</i> [gou]
aɪ	<i>five</i> [faɪv]	<i>high</i> [haɪ]
au	<i>how</i> [hau]	<i>mouth</i> [mauθ]
ɔɪ	<i>boy</i> [bɔɪ]	<i>noise</i> [nɔɪz]
ɪə	<i>here, hear</i> [hɪə*]	<i>near</i> [nɪə*]
ɛə	<i>chair</i> [tʃɛə*]	<i>there</i> [ðɛə*]
oə <sup>2</sup>	<i>four</i> [fɔə*]	<i>more</i> [mɔə*]
uə	<i>poor</i> [puə*]	<i>fewer</i> [fjuə*]

<sup>1</sup> This occurs as a variant only. It may occur in place of the diphthong [ou] in unstressed syllables, as in *obey*. For *obey* three pronunciations may be heard: [ə'bei, o'bei, ou'bei]. The second and third pronunciations may be indicated thus: [ou'bei].

<sup>2</sup> This also occurs as a variant. *Four* and *more* may be pronounced [fɔ:'] and [mɔ:'].

## CONSONANTS

Symbol	Examples	
p	<i>pen</i> [pen]	<i>top</i> [tɒp]
b	<i>bag</i> [bæg]	<i>rub</i> [rʌb]
t	<i>ten</i> [ten]	<i>wet</i> [wet]
d	<i>desk</i> [desk]	<i>head</i> [hed]
k	<i>cap</i> [kæp]	<i>back</i> [bæk]
g	<i>get</i> [get]	<i>dog</i> [dɒg]
m	<i>map</i> [mæp]	<i>come</i> [kʌm]
n	<i>nose</i> [nouz]	<i>nine</i> [naɪn]
ŋ	<i>sing</i> [sɪŋ]	<i>English</i> ['ɪŋɡlɪʃ]
l	<i>leg</i> [leg]	<i>well</i> [wel]
f	<i>face</i> [feɪs]	<i>knife</i> [naɪf]
v	<i>very</i> ['veri]	<i>five</i> [faɪv]
θ	<i>thin</i> [θɪn]	<i>mouth</i> [mauθ]
ð	<i>these</i> [ði:z]	<i>mother</i> ['mʌðə*]
s	<i>six</i> [sɪks]	<i>face</i> [feɪs]
z	<i>zero</i> ['zɪərəʊ]	<i>nose</i> [nouz]
ʃ	<i>shoe</i> [ʃu:]	<i>fish</i> [fɪʃ]
ʒ	<i>pleasure</i> ['pleʒə*]	<i>measure</i> ['meʒə*]
r	<i>right</i> [raɪt]	<i>very</i> ['veri]
h	<i>hat</i> [hæt]	<i>head</i> [hed]
tʃ	<i>church</i> [tʃɜ:tʃ]	<i>teach</i> [ti:tʃ]
dʒ	<i>jump</i> [dʒʌmp]	<i>judge</i> [dʒʌdʒ]
w	<i>we</i> [wi:]	<i>went</i> [went]
j	<i>yes</i> [jes]	<i>you</i> [ju:]



## Notes

If a symbol is in italic type the sound it stands for is, by many speakers, and usually in rapid speech, not pronounced. The transcription ['poustmən] (for *postman*) indicates that both ['poustmən] and ['pousmən] are used. The transcription ['signəl] (for *signal*) indicates that both ['signəl] and ['signl] (with *-al* as a syllabic consonant) are used. The transcription ['memərəbl] (for *memorable*) indicates that both ['memərəbl] and ['memrəbl] are used. The pronunciations ['pousmən, 'signl, 'memrəbl] are the more usual.

The asterisk (as in [wɔɹ\*]) indicates the possibility of *r*-linking. Compare:

*Where was it?* [wɔɹ wɔz it?]  
*Where is it?* [wɔɹɪz it?]

The [r] is sounded when the word that immediately follows begins with a vowel sound.

## Stress

A primary stress is indicated by a short vertical stroke above the line and a secondary stress by a stroke below the line. Thus, *veneration* [vɛnə'reɪʃən], with a secondary stress on the first and a primary stress on the penultimate syllable, and *valetudinarian* ['væli,tju:di'nɛəriən], with primary stresses on the first and fifth syllables and a secondary stress on the third syllable.

Secondary stress may cause a shift in the normal position of syllable stress. The numbers *thirteen*, *fourteen*, etc. are transcribed with double stress (['θɜ:'ti:n, 'fɔ:'ti:n] etc.). In different contexts either ['θɜ:'ti:n] or [θɜ:'ti:n] may occur.

Stresses in compounds for which phonetic transcriptions are not supplied are marked in the ordinary spelling, thus: *'thunder-struck*, *'tideway*, *'tight-fisted*, *'thought-reader*. Stresses are not usually marked in the very numerous instances of one noun modified by another noun, printed and written without a hyphen, as *woman driver*, *actor manager*. In these double stress is normal. Compare *'slave-driver*, primary and secondary stresses. The absence of firm rules for the use of the hyphen, however, makes it difficult to be consistent in this matter. *Bank manager* is written and printed without a hyphen, but the stresses are, in this type of collocation, like those of *slave-driver*, primary followed by secondary. The learner must, if he wishes to use stresses correctly, acquire his knowledge by observation or by a study of the relationship between stress, meaning and sentence rhythm.

## NON-ENGLISH SOUNDS

Symbol	Examples
a	as in F. <i>mal</i> [mal]
y	" " <i>lune</i> [lyn]
ɥ	" " <i>huile</i> [ɥil]
ø	" " <i>peu</i> [pø]
œ	" " <i>neuf</i> [nœf]
œ̃	" " <i>brun</i> [brœ̃]
ɛ̃	" " <i>vin</i> [vɛ̃]
ã	" " <i>cent</i> [sã]
ɔ̃	" " <i>bon</i> [bɔ̃]
ɲ	" " <i>signe</i> [sɲ]
χ	" Scot. <i>loch</i> [lɔχ]
ç	" G. <i>Reich</i> [raɪç], <i>ich</i> [ɪç]