The OED Online Simple Search allows you to find the word or phrase you need in the full text of the Dictionary, or in selected areas such as quotations or etymologies.

**FULL TEXT SEARCH:**
Type a word or phrase into the box to find it in the full text of the Dictionary, or in a selected area from the drop-down list.

**MORE OPTIONS:**
Search for two words or phrases occurring near each other.

**LIST BY ENTRY:**
See the current entry within an alphabetical listing.

**SIMPLE SEARCH:**
Opens the full text search window.

**LIST BY DATE:**
See the current entry within a chronological listing, and find out which other words entered the language in the same year.

**ADVANCED SEARCH:**
Opens the Advanced Search page.

**ENTRY MAP:**
Displays the main numbered senses of the entry to aid navigation.

**FIND WORD:**
To look up a word or phrase, simply type into the box, hit return or click the magnifying glass. You can use wildcards in all searches.

**ENTRY VERSION:**
Gives the version and publication date of the entry. A button links to an earlier version of the entry when available.

**LOST FOR WORDS?**
Get a random entry from the Dictionary.

**HELP:**
A comprehensive Help text is available by clicking this button.

**SEARCH TIPS**
- **WILDCARDS:**
  - ? represents a single occurrence of any character
  - * represents the occurrence of any number of characters (including zero)
  - p* finds pat, paint, pragmatist, etc.
- **SPECIAL CHARACTERS, HYPHENS, AND CASE:**
  - Accents are ignored - café finds café
  - Initial capital is ignored - Gazette finds Gazette
  - Hyphens are treated as spaces - middle class finds middle-class
  - Searching is not case sensitive
The OED Online Advanced Search enables you to use Boolean searching, allows for case sensitivity and special characters, and you can also choose to search within the results of previous searches.

- **BOOLEAN SEARCHING:** Combine search terms using the Boolean operators AND, OR, AND NOT, NEAR, and NOT NEAR. Retrieve either whole entries or individual quotations containing the search terms. Click the Entries or the Quotations tab to activate the selection.

- **SEARCH SPECIFIC EDITIONS:** Search either the new or the earlier Second Edition.

- **SIMPLE SEARCH:** Opens the Simple Search page.

- **RESTRICT SEARCH:** Narrow down the results of a search by restricting a subsequent search to those results. Previous searches are listed below the Advanced Search form.

- **PART OF SPEECH FILTER:** Check one or more boxes to return only entries with the selected parts of speech.

- **CASE-SENSITIVE SEARCHING:** Make a search case-sensitive by checking this box before starting the search.

- **EXACT CHARACTER SEARCHING:** Accents are ignored unless this box is checked. Enter the name of a special character between hash marks - café#eacu# finds café.

- **ORDER OF OPERATIONS:** Choose the order in which the operations are to be performed when two Boolean operators are used between three search terms - (bird OR mammal) AND australia is not the same as bird OR (mammal AND australia).

- **CHARACTER CLASSES**
  - `s [pt]` finds speak and steak
  - `{s,er,ing}` finds walks, walker, and walking
  - `^p` finds sneak, sneak, steak, etc., but not speak
  - `ή` finds weath, weather, and washing

"Quick to access and easy to use... A browser’s paradise." - THE TIMES