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There is no longer one English - there are many Englishes. Words are flooding into the language from all corners of the world. Only a dictionary the size of the OED can adequately capture the true richness of the English language throughout its history, and the developments in world English." - John Simpson, Chief Editor, OED

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- Search for words which have come into English via a particular language
- Compare revised entries with entries from the Second Edition to see how language has changed and how new scholarship has increased understanding of our linguistic and cultural heritage

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- **PROHUNCIATION, SPELLINGS, ETYMOLOGY** How is magnitude pronounced? Has the spelling of magnitude varied since it first came into the language? Where does the word come from? Find out by clicking these buttons.

- **SEARCH** Search for a specific word or phrase either in full text, or in any field of the Dictionary, or search for words or phrases in combination. For example search for Defoe within 5 words of magick in the quotations field, and follow the results display to the entry for magnitude where the key words will be highlighted.

- **LIST BY ENTRY** See magnitude within an A-Z list of entries.

- **LIST BY DATE** Reorder the entries in the side frame by date and discover which other words entered the language in the same year as magnitude.

- **SEARCH** Search for a specific word or phrase either in full text, or in any field of the Dictionary, or search for words or phrases in combination. For example search for Defoe within 5 words of magick in the quotations field, and follow the results display to the entry for magnitude where the key words will be highlighted.
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**FIND WORD** Type in this box for a quick word search. You don’t need to know exactly how to spell a word – use ? for a single unknown letter, and * to represent any number of letters. *ma?ni*de brings up a choice of magnitude or manide.

**ENTRY VERSION** Specifies the publication date of the entry and, in this case, indicates that there is an earlier version of the entry for magnitude from the Second Edition.

**DATE CHART** Turn on the date chart to see at a glance the spread of quotation evidence for magnitude.

**QUOTATIONS** Click this button to hide or display quotation evidence tracing the usage of magnitude from the first recorded occurrence around 1425 to the modern period.

**CROSS REFERENCES** Move to related entries with ease.

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**ENTRY MAP** Displays a list of all the main numbered senses of the entry, enabling you to navigate quickly through long entries.

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Charting the past, present, and future of English

The OED is changing

For the first time since it was completed in 1928, the Dictionary is being completely revised, and online publication enables the “treasure house of the English language” to move with the times as never before.

At least 1,000 new and revised words will be released each quarter, offering subscribers to OED Oaths unique access to the latest research.

What’s more, nothing will be discarded, nothing overwritten. Subscribers can compare revised entries with entries from the Second Edition to see how language has changed and how new scholarship has increased understanding of our linguistic and cultural heritage.

New Entries expand coverage of a wide variety of fields, including science and technology.

Compare and contrast newly revised entries with entries from the Second Edition at the touch of a button.

"A brief of thistle, poor, of India in 1009, thrown into long tubes and dried for use in Asia. — Peter Pye, a. 1720 (quoted by the editor of the OED)"

1. A type of thistle: poor, of India in 1009, thrown into long tubes and dried for use in Asia. — Peter Pye, a. 1720 (quoted by the editor of the OED)
Why update?
- The current Second Edition is an amalgamation of the original edition (published between 1884 and 1928) and 4 supplementary volumes, so the majority of material is unchanged since the early years of the century.
- Language is constantly evolving: new words appear, and meanings of existing words change.
- New scholarship enables all aspects of existing entries to be improved.

The revision programme – what is involved?
- Oxford University Press has committed £34 million to bringing the OED up to date - making the revision programme the world’s largest humanities research project.
- Every word and every sense is being fully updated to take account of the latest changes in language and scholarship.
- The project, which began in 1993, is scheduled to be completed in 2010, and is expected to double the size of the Dictionary.
- A staff of 80 lexicographers, researchers, systems engineers, managerial and administrative staff, plus approximately 200 specialist consultants and numerous other contributors, are working on the project.

You can help...
James Murray, the first editor of the OED, launched his famous "Appeal for Readers" in 1879. It was a great success. The many hundreds of contributors who came forward – from Minnesota to Melbourne – made the creation of the Dictionary possible. This is a tradition which continues to the present day.

Be part of the history of the English language...
John Simpson, Chief Editor of the Oxford English Dictionary
"I would like to invite readers to contribute to the development of the OED. Everyone can play a part in recording the history of the language by helping in the creation of the Dictionary."
For more details, and to find out how to submit material, please see www.oed.com.

Keep up to date with the latest OED research and developments...
Oxford English Dictionary News, our free newsletter, features fascinating and entertaining articles by editors, researchers, and contributors on their work for the OED. Each issue also contains an Appeals List, consisting of words and phrases for which further evidence from readers would be particularly welcomed.

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