

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.

Search

for

in **full text**

- first cited date
- first cited author
- first cited work
- definitions
- etymologies
- language names
- quotations**
- quotation date
- quotation author
- quotation work
- quotation text

Search

for

in **quotations**

10 words or fewer

before

after

before or after

[Fewer options]

Start search

◆ **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.

Oxford English Dictionary magnitude, n.

Search for in **full text**

Results for **magnitude, n.**

1. The quality or fact of being great, in various senses; = **GREATNESS** n. a. In physical sense: great size or extent. Of sound: loudness.

1640 **RE. J. WILKINS** Disc. New Planet II. (1684) 149 'Tis said, that Magnitude does always add to the swiftness of a violent motion. 1650 **J. BULLWER** Anthropometamorphosis 230 That which falls in magnitude is called small. 1727 **D. DERDE** Syst. Magick I. i. 10 The Height, and Strength, and Magnitude of their Building could only serve to make its Fall, more terrible. 1817 **T. CHALMERS** Series Disc. Christian Revel. I. (1852) 22 We have something more than the mere magnitude of the planets to allege in favour of the idea that they are inhabited. 1860 **J. TYNDALL** Glaciers of Alps I. xi. 82 And as our eye ranged over the broad shoulders of the mountain, the conception of its magnitude grew upon us. 1892 **R. L. STEVENSON** & L. OSBOURNE Wrecker xiii. 269 The Flying Scud, was some thrice the size of the *Norah Creina*, and she impressed us with a mountain magnitude. 1904 **J. LONDON** Sea-woof xxviii. 274 There broke upon our ears a continuous and mighty bellowing. It partook of the magnitude and volume of distant thunder. 1917 **E. R. BURROUGHS** Princess of Mars x. 92 Only a few peaks on all Mars exceed four thousand feet in height; the suggestion of magnitude was merely relative. 1937 *Discovery* Nov. 334/2 Though the Loch Ness n... fore him in all its magnitude. 1983 **V. TANZER** Call it Delmarvelous III. x. 118 You might think that vegetables of such magnitude would be stringy and bitter.

b. Greatness of character, rank, or position. Also as a humorous title of address. Now rare.

1495 **TREVISIA'S Bartholomaeus De Proprietatibus Rerum** (de Worde) I. 3 Our wytte maye be led to the consideracyon of the gretnesse, or magnytude, of the moost excellent bevetuous clarete dyuine & Inuysible. 1567 *Compend. Bk. Godly Songs* (1897) 115 Thy magnitude I will it put in dyte. 1609 **B. JONSON** Masque of Queens in *Wks.* (1616) I. 961 [Boadicea's] orations... wherein is expressed all magnitude of a spirit, breathing to the libertie and redemption of her Countrie. 1620 **T. SHELTON** tr. Cervantes *Don Quixote* III. xxxii. 231 And, for proof of this, let me tell you Magnitudes [etc.]. 1665 **T. MANLEY** tr. H. Grotius *Ann. Low-Country-Warres* 741 The United States did not omit forthwith to send an Embassy to congratulate him [sc. King James] for his new access of magnitude. 1702 *Clarendon's Hist. Rebellion* I. i. 50 The two Secretaries of State (which were not in those days Officers of that magnitude they have been since...) were [etc.]. 1874 **T. HARDY** *Far from Madding Crowd* I. xiii. 161 'What fun it would be to send it to the stupid old Boldwood...' said the irrepressible Liddy, indulging in an awful mirth, as she thought of the moral and social magnitude of the man contemplated. 1944 **M. McILHANN** *Let.* 18 Jan. (1987) 149 Those interested in sitting for you are of sufficient magnitude to keep the St. Louis situation both fluid and promising.

c. Of immaterial things: great degree or importance.

1526 **W. BONDE** *Pilgrimage of Perfection* III. sig. a"ii", And howe the effectes that suche loye of the spirit leaueth beynde it, sheweth the magnitude or

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◆ **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 **p?t**, finds **pat, pet, pit** etc.
- * represents the occurrence of any number of characters (including zero) **p*t**, finds **pat, paint, pragmatist**, etc.

SPECIAL CHARACTERS, HYPHENS, AND CASE:

- Accents are ignored – **cafe** finds **café**
- th** matches Old English **þ** and **ð**
- gh** matches Middle English **ȝ**
- Hyphens are treated as spaces
- Searching is not case-sensitive

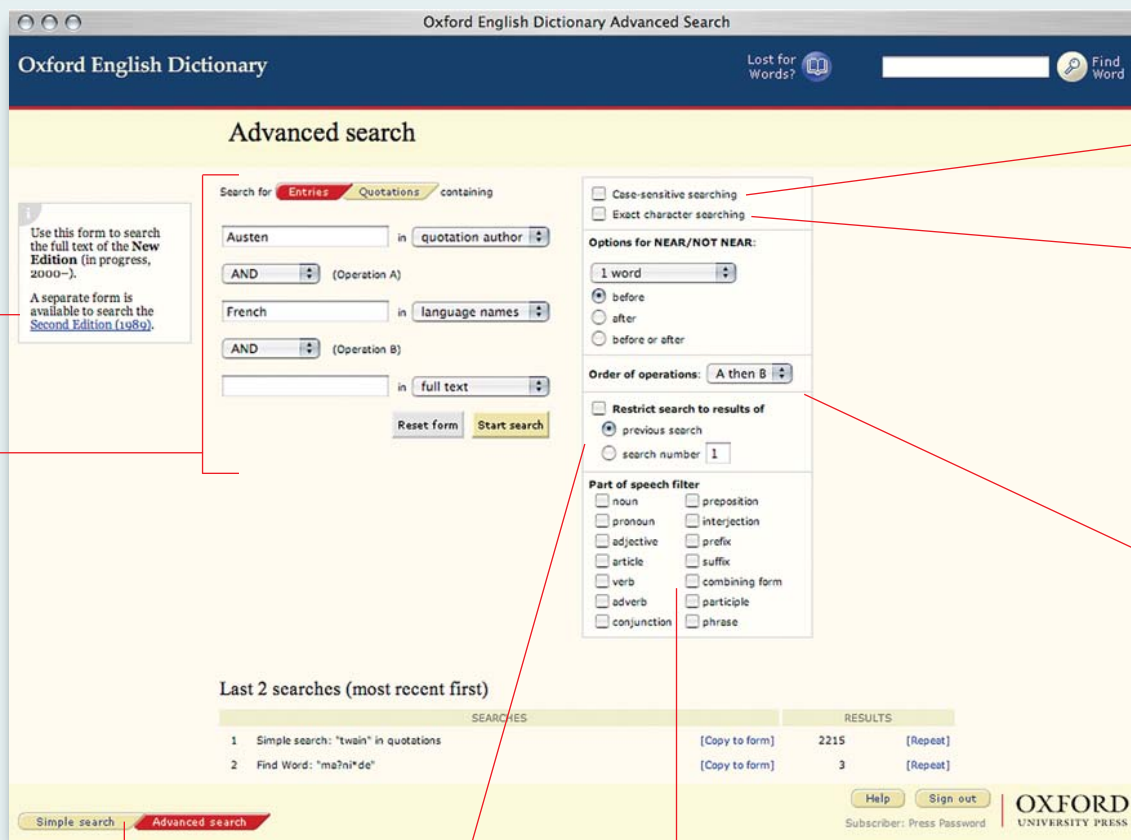
The **OED Online Advanced Search** enables you to use Boolean searching, allows for case sensitivity and special characters, and you can also choose to search within the results of previous searches.

◆ **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 for terms in different search areas within the same entry or quotation using the drop-down lists.

◆ **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 – **caf#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]eak finds **speak** and **steak**

s[^p]eak finds **sleak**, **sneak**, **steak**, etc., but not **speak**

walk{s,er,ing} finds **walks**, **walker**, and **walking**

Last 10 searches (most recent first)

SEARCHES
1 Find Word: "ma?ni*de"
2 Find Word: "Mexican wave"
3 Simple search: "etta"
4 Advanced search: Entries containing "Poussin" in language names
5 Simple search: "Poussin"
6 Advanced search: Entries containing "Austen" and "French"
7 Find Word: "buc*lic"
8 Simple search: "rastofarian"
9 Advanced search: Entries containing "*EtS" in pronunciations
10 Simple search: "uxorious" before "1851" (within 1 word)

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