



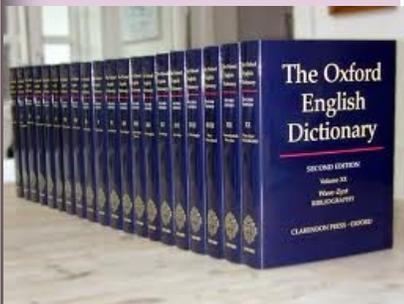
Tip O' the Week:

Oxford
English
Dictionary

The OED is updated four times a year, every March, June, September & December.

Tip #31

March 2014



Check out the [History of the OED](#) and sign up for the Word of the Day!

[OED Newsletter Archive](#) contains some great articles to share with your students!



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600,000 words ... 3 million quotations ... over 1000 years of English

“The *Oxford English Dictionary* (*OED*) is widely regarded as the accepted authority on the English language. It is an unsurpassed guide to the meaning, history, and pronunciation of 600,000 words— past and present—from across the English-speaking world.

As a historical dictionary, the *OED* is very different from those of current English, in which the focus is on present-day meanings. You’ll still find these in the *OED*, but you’ll also find the history of individual words, and of the language—traced through 3 million quotations, from classic literature and specialist periodicals to films scripts and cookery books.

The *OED* started life more than 150 years ago. Today, the dictionary is in the process of its first major revision. Updates revise and extend the *OED* at regular intervals, each time subtly adjusting our image of the English language.”

The material added to the dictionary includes revised versions of existing entries (which replace the older versions), and new words and senses both within the alphabetical sequence of revised entries and also across the whole A to Z range. Peruse the [list of new words added as of December 2013](#).

Also, not to be missed is the [Historical Thesaurus](#) which “groups senses and words in the *OED* according to their subject, and orders them by date of first use. It functions as a taxonomic index of language history.” Sign in to view the Thesaurus.



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We hope you found this tip helpful!

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