

You can use the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) online not just for looking up words but also to search any of the fields in the dictionary such as quotations, words of foreign origin, pronunciations, and first cited date.



## Example searches

### *Find Word* search

Enter your word in the top right hand box and hit return or click on the magnifying glass. Try **sky-scrapers**.



## When did a word or phrase first enter the English language?

Check the quotations under the definition to find the earliest recorded use.

### Using wild cards

You can use wildcards in a Find Word or full text search to make the search more flexible. The question mark ? represents any one single character, the asterisk \* represents any number of characters (or none at all).

Examples

- z????y will bring up a selection of 5 words for you to choose from.
- \*phobia will bring up all the words which end in phobia

### Advanced Search

Switch to Advanced Search mode by clicking the *Advanced Search* button at the base of the screen.

Choose from the tabs whether you want to retrieve entries or quotations.

Type the word or phrase you want to find into the box

Choose your search area

Click the **start search** button

The screenshot shows the Oxford English Dictionary's Advanced Search page in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The page title is "Oxford English Dictionary Advanced Search". The search area is titled "Advanced search" and includes a search box with the word "mobile" entered. Below the search box are two "AND" operation buttons and two more search boxes. To the right of the search area are several options: "Case-sensitive searching" (unchecked), "Exact character searching" (unchecked), "Options for NEAR/NOT NEAR:" (set to "1 word" with "before" selected), "Order of operations:" (set to "A then B"), "Restrict search to results of:" (set to "previous search"), and a "Part of speech filter" section with checkboxes for noun, pronoun, adjective, article, verb, preposition, interjection, prefix, suffix, and combining form. At the bottom of the search area are "Reset form" and "Start search" buttons. The browser's address bar shows the URL: http://dictionary.oxf.com/cgi/advsearch/Form/query\_type=word&query=word&fulltext=1&max\_no\_show=10&sort\_type=alphabetical&B=0. The taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications including "Inbox - Micro...", "Z OpenROAD...", "Z Microsoft A...", "Z Window Ex...", "Z Microsoft W...", "Microsoft Powe...", and "Oxford Engla...". The system clock shows 10:37.

## How many words in the dictionary have an Arabic origin?

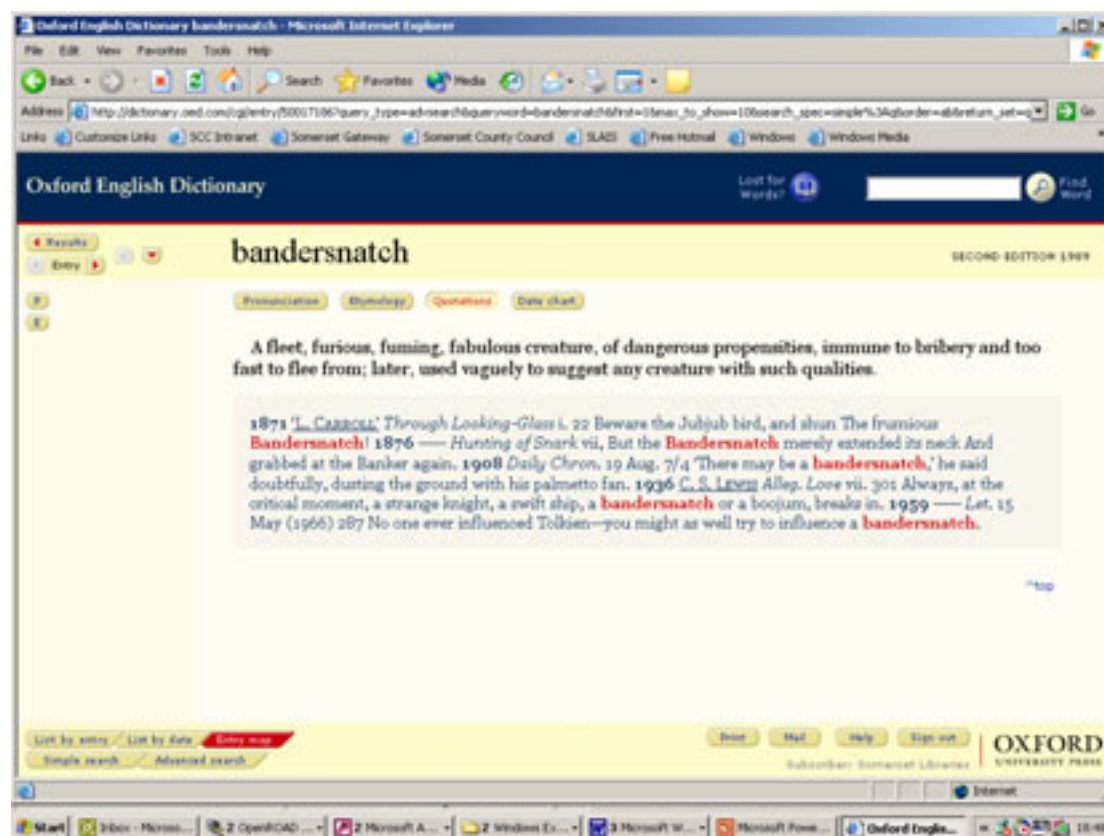
- Enter the search term *Arabic* in the first box above.
- Click on the first drop down arrow and choose language names. You will then see a list of all the arabic words in the OED.
- Look in the top right and you will see the total number

## How do I find where a quotation comes from?

Eg “shun the frumious bandersnatch”

Click the quotations tab

- Enter a word from the quotation in the first search box eg *bandersnatch*.
- Click start search



The screenshot shows the Oxford English Dictionary entry for 'bandersnatch'. The browser window title is 'Oxford English Dictionary bandersnatch - Microsoft Internet Explorer'. The address bar shows the URL: [http://dictionary.oed.com/cgi/entry/5001196?query\\_form=ad+search&query=word=bandersnatch&first=0&max\\_to\\_show=10&search\\_type=single%3A&border=0&return\\_set=0](http://dictionary.oed.com/cgi/entry/5001196?query_form=ad+search&query=word=bandersnatch&first=0&max_to_show=10&search_type=single%3A&border=0&return_set=0). The page title is 'bandersnatch' and it is the 'SECOND EDITION 1989'. The entry includes a definition: 'A fleet, furious, fuming, fabulous creature, of dangerous propensities, immune to bribery and too fast to flee from; later, used vaguely to suggest any creature with such qualities.' Below the definition is a list of quotations, starting with '1871 [L. CARROLL] Through Looking-Glass i. 22 Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun The frumious Bandersnatch! 1876 — Hunting of Snark vii, But the Bandersnatch merely extended its neck And grabbed at the Banker again. 1908 Daily Chron. 19 Aug. 7/4 'There may be a bandersnatch,' he said doubtfully, during the ground with his palmetto fan. 1936 C. S. Lewis Alleg. Love vii. 301 Always, at the critical moment, a strange knight, a swift ship, a bandersnatch or a boojum, breaks in. 1959 — Let. 15 May (1966) 287 No one ever influenced Tolkien—you might as well try to influence a bandersnatch.' The page also features navigation tabs for 'Pronunciation', 'Etymology', 'Quotations', and 'Data chart'. At the bottom, there are search options: 'List by entry', 'List by date', and 'Entry map'. The Oxford University Press logo is visible in the bottom right corner.