

# The New Oxford American Dictionary

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SECOND EDITION

FIRST EDITION

Elizabeth J. Jewell  
Frank Abate

SECOND EDITION

Erin McKean

**OXFORD**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

2005



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The first edition of the *New Oxford American Dictionary* was based on *The New Oxford Dictionary of English*, published in the United Kingdom in 1998.

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Published by Oxford University Press, Inc.  
198 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, 10016  
[www.oup.com/us](http://www.oup.com/us)  
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Oxford University Press

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
The new Oxford American dictionary.-- 2nd ed.  
p. cm.

ISBN-13 978-0-19-517077-1

1. English language--United States--Dictionaries. 2.  
Americanisms--Dictionaries.  
PE1628.N429 2005  
423'.1--dc22

2005000941

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theorists. he had the presence of mind to carry out a text-book emergency descent. —text-book-ish adj.

**text editor** ▶ *n.* Computing a system or program that allows a user to edit text.

**textile** /ˈtekstil/ ▶ *n.* 1 (usu. textiles) a type of cloth or woven fabric: a fascinating range of pottery, jewelry, and textiles. ■ (textiles) the branch of industry involved in the manufacture of cloth. 2 informal used by nudists to describe someone wearing clothes, esp. on a beach.

▶ *adj.* 1 [attrib.] of or relating to fabric or weaving: the textile industry. 2 informal used by nudists to describe something relating to or restricted to people wearing clothes. ▶early 17th cent.: from Latin *textilis*, from *tex* ‘woven,’ from the verb *texere*.

**text message** ▶ *n.* an electronic communication sent and received by cellular phone. —text messaging *n.*

**textphone** /ˈtekstfōn/ ▶ *n.* a telephone for use by hearing-impaired persons, having a small screen on which a message can be received and a keyboard on which an outgoing message may be typed to another textphone.

**text processing** ▶ *n.* Computing the manipulation of text, esp. the transformation of text from one format to another.

**textual** /ˈtekstʃuəl/ ▶ *adj.* of or relating to a text or texts: textual analysis. ▶late Middle English: from medieval Latin *textualis*, from Latin *textus* (see **TEXT**). —textually *adv.*

**textual criticism** ▶ *n.* the process of attempting to ascertain the original wording of a text.

**textualist** /ˈtekstʃuəlɪst/ ▶ *n.* a person who adheres strictly to a text, esp. that of the scriptures. —textualism /-lɪzəm/ *n.*

**textuality** /ˈtekstʃuəlɪti/ ▶ *n.* 1 the quality or use of language characteristic of written works as opposed to spoken usage. 2 strict adherence to a text; textualism.

**texture** /ˈtekʃər/ ▶ *n.* the feel, appearance, or consistency of a surface or a substance: skin texture and tone | the cheese is firm in texture | the different colors and textures of bark. ■ the character or appearance of a textile fabric as determined by the arrangement and thickness of its threads: a dark shirt of rough texture. ■ Art the tactile quality of the surface of a work of art. ■ the quality created by the combination of the different elements in a work of music or literature: a closely knit symphonic texture.

▶ *v.* [trans.] [usu. as *adj.*] (textured) give (a surface, esp. of a fabric or wall covering) a rough or raised texture: wallcoverings which create a textured finish. ▶late Middle English (denoting a woven fabric or something resembling this): from Latin *textura* ‘weaving,’ from *tex* ‘woven,’ from the verb *texere*. —textural /-rəl/ *adj.* —texturally /-rələ/ *adv.* —textureless *adj.*

**textured vegetable protein** ▶ *n.* a type of protein obtained from soybeans and made to resemble minced meat.

**texture mapping** ▶ *n.* Computing the application of patterns or images to three-dimensional graphics to enhance the realism of their surfaces.

**texturing** /ˈtekʃərɪŋ/ ▶ *n.* the representation or use of texture, esp. in music, fine art, and interior design.

**texturize** /ˈtekstʃəraɪz/ ▶ *v.* [trans.] impart a particular texture to (a product, esp. a fabric or foodstuff) in order to make it more attractive. ■ cut (hair) in such a way as to remove its weight and create extra fullness.

**text wrap** ▶ *n.* (in word processing) a facility allowing text to surround embedded features such as pictures.

**TF** ▶ *abbr.* Territorial Force.

**T-formation** ▶ *n.* Football a T-shaped offensive formation, with the halfbacks and fullback positioned in a line parallel to the line of scrimmage.

**tfr** ▶ *abbr.* transfer.

**TFT Electronics** ▶ *abbr.* thin-film transistor, denoting a technology used to make flat color display screens, usually for high-end portable computers.

**TG** ▶ *abbr.* ■ transformational grammar or transformational-generative grammar.

**t.g.** ▶ *abbr.* Biology type genus.

**TGIF** ▶ *abbr.* informal thank God it's Friday.

**T-group** ▶ *n.* Psychology a group of people undergoing therapy or training in which they observe and seek to improve their own interpersonal relationships or communication skills. ▶1950s: T for training.

**TGV** ▶ *n.* a French high-speed electric passenger train. ▶abbreviation of French *train à grande vitesse*.

**Th** ▶ *symbol* the chemical element thorium.

**Th** ▶ *abbr.* Thursday.

**-th<sup>1</sup>** (also **-eth**) ▶ *suffix* forming ordinal and fractional numbers from four onwards: fifth | sixty-sixth. ▶Old English *-oþa*, *-foþa*.

**-th<sup>2</sup>** ▶ *suffix* forming nouns: 1 (from verbs) denoting an action or process: birth | growth. 2 (from adjectives) denoting a state: filth | health | width. ▶Old English *-thu*, *-tho*, *-th*.

**-th<sup>3</sup>** ▶ *suffix* variant spelling of **-ETH<sup>2</sup>** (as in *doth*).

**Thackeray** /ˈθæk(ə)rē/; ˈθækə,rā/, William Makepeace (1811–63), British novelist, born in Calcutta. He established his reputation with *Vanity Fair* (1847–48), a satire of the upper middle class of early 19th-century society. Other novels included *The History of Henry Esmond* (1852).

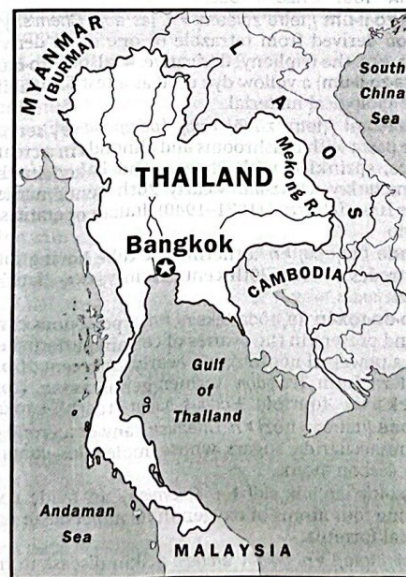
**Thad-dee-us** /ˈθadēəs/ an apostle named in St. Matthew's gospel, traditionally identified with St. Jude.

**Thai** /ti/ ▶ *adj.* of or relating to Thailand, its people, or their language.

▶ *n.* (pl. same or **Thais**) 1 a native or national of Thailand. ■ a member of the largest ethnic group in Thailand. ■ a person of Thai descent. 2 the Tai language that is the official language of Thailand. ▶Thai, literally ‘free.’

**Thailand** /ˈtiːlænd/ a kingdom in Southeast Asia, on the Gulf of Thailand; pop. 64,865,000; capital, Bangkok; language, Thai (official). Former name (until 1939) **SIAM**.

A powerful Thai kingdom emerged in the 14th century. In the 19th century, it lost territory in the east to France and in the south to Britain. Thailand was occupied by the Japanese during World War II; it supported the U.S. in the Vietnam War, later experiencing a large influx of refugees from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Absolute monarchy was abolished in 1932, and the king remains head of state.



**Thailand**, Gulf of an inlet of the South China Sea between the Malay Peninsula on the west and Thailand and Cambodia on the east. It was formerly known as the Gulf of Siam.

**Thai stick** ▶ *n.* strong cannabis in leaf form, twisted into a small, tightly packed cylinder ready for smoking.

**thalamus** /ˈθaləməs/ ▶ *n.* (pl. **-mi** /-mi/) Anatomy either of two masses of gray matter lying between the cerebral hemispheres on either side of the third ventricle, relaying sensory information and acting as a center for pain perception. ▶late 17th cent. (denoting the part of the brain at which a nerve originates): via Latin from Greek *thalamos*. —thalam-ic /ˈθələmɪk/ *adj.*

**thalassemia** /ˈθaləˈsēmiə/ (Brit. **thal-sae-mi-a**) ▶ *n.* Medicine any of a group of hereditary hemolytic diseases caused by faulty hemoglobin synthesis, widespread in Mediterranean, African, and Asian countries. ▶1930s: from Greek *thalassa* ‘sea’ (because the diseases were first known around the

**thalass-ic** /ˈlasi/ ▶ *adj.* poetic/literary or technical of or relating to the sea. ▶mid 19th cent.: from French *thalassique*, from Greek *thalassa* ‘sea.’

**thalassotherapy** /ˈθələsəˈθerəpi/; ˈθaləsə-/ ▶ *n.* the use of seawater in cosmetic and health treatment. ▶late 19th cent.: from Greek *thalassa* ‘sea’ + **THERAPY**.

**thale cress** /ˈtāl/ ▶ *n.* a small white-flowered plant of north temperate regions, widely used in genetics experiments due to its small number of chromosomes and short life cycle. • *Arabidopsis thaliana*, family Brassicaceae. ▶late 18th cent.: named after Johann Thal (1542–83), German physician.

**thaler** /ˈtælər/ ▶ *n.* historical a German silver coin. ▶German, earlier form of **Taler** (see **DOLLAR**).

**Thales** /ˈtālɪz/ (c.624–c.545 BC), Greek philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer, living at Miletus. Judged by Aristotle to be the founder of physical science, he is also credited with founding geometry. He proposed that water was the primary substance from which all things were derived.

**Thalia** /ˈθālɪə/ 1 Greek & Roman Mythology the Muse of comedy. 2 Greek Mythology one of the Graces. ▶Greek, literally ‘rich, plentiful.’

**thalidomide** /ˈθælɪdɒmɪd/ ▶ *n.* a drug formerly used as a sedative, but withdrawn in the early 1960s after it was found to cause congenital malformation or absence of limbs in children whose mothers took the drug during early pregnancy. ▶1950s: from (ph)thalic acid + (im)ido + (i)midide.

**thallii** /ˈθali/ ▶ plural form of **THALLUS**.

**thallium** /ˈθalɪəm/ ▶ *n.* the chemical element of atomic number 81, a soft silvery-white metal that occurs naturally in small amounts in pyrite, sphalerite, and other ores. Its compounds are very poisonous. (Symbol: **Tl**) ▶mid 19th cent.: modern Latin, from Greek *thallos* ‘green shoot,’ because of the green line in its spectrum.

**thallophyte** /ˈθaləˌfɪt/ ▶ *n.* Botany a plant that consists of a thallus. ▶mid 19th cent.: from modern Latin *Thallophyta* (former taxon), from Greek *thallos* (see **THALLUS**) + **-PHYTE**. —thallophytic *adj.*

**thallus** /ˈθaləs/ ▶ *n.* (pl. **thalli** /ˈθali/) Botany a plant body that is not differentiated into stem and leaves and lacks true roots and a vascular system. Thalli are typical of algae, fungi, lichens, and some liverworts. ▶early 19th cent.: from Greek *thallos* ‘green shoot,’ from *thallein* ‘to bloom.’ —thalloid /ˈθalɔɪd/ *adj.*

**thalweg** /ˈtälˌveg/ ▶ *n.* Geology a line connecting the lowest points of successive cross-sections along the course of a valley or river. ▶mid 19th cent.: from German, from obsolete *Thal* ‘valley, dale’ + *Weg* ‘way.’

**Thames** /tɛmz/ 1 a river that flows for 160 miles (260 km) across southern Ontario in Canada. It was the scene of an 1813 battle in which Tecumseh died. 2 a river in southern England that flows 210 miles (338 km) east from the Cotswolds in Gloucestershire through London to the North Sea. 3 /ˈθæmz; ˈtæmz; ˈtɛmz/ an estuarial river in southeastern Connecticut that flows from Norwich past New London and Groton to Long Island Sound.

**Tham-muz** /ˈtāmōz; ˈtāˈmōz/ (also **Tam-muz** pronounced same) ▶ *n.* (in the Jewish calendar) the tenth month of the civil and fourth of the religious year, usually coinciding with parts of June and July. ▶from Hebrew *tammūz*.

**than** /tʰan; θən/ ▶ *conj.* & *prep.* 1 introducing the second element in a comparison: [as *prep.*] he was much smaller than his son | [as *conj.*] Jack doesn't know any more than I do. 2 used in expressions introducing an exception or contrast: [as *prep.*] he claims not to own anything other than his home | [as *conj.*] they observe rather than act. 3 [conj.] used in expressions indicating one thing happening immediately after another: scarcely was the work completed than it was abandoned. ▶Old English *than(ne)*, *thon(ne)*, *thænne*, originally the same word as **THEN**.

**USAGE** Traditional grammar holds that personal pronouns following than should be in the subjective rather than the objective case: he is smaller than she (rather than he is smaller than her). This is based on an analysis of than by which than is a conjunction and the personal pronoun (‘she’) is standing in for a full clause: he is smaller than she is. However, it is arguable that than in this context is not a conjunction but a preposition, similar grammatically to words like with, between, or for. In this case, the personal pronoun is objective: he is smaller than her.