

A Guide to English Lexicon

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# A Guide to English Lexicon

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A Guide to English Lexicon

**Recenzovali:**

## Obsah

Úvodem .....	1
1. General concepts .....	2
Basic lexicological notions .....	5
2. Lexicography and English dictionaries .....	16
3. Origin of English word stock .....	26
4. Word frequency .....	43
5. Word formation .....	46
6. Word formation processes in detail .....	50
Derivation .....	50
Compounds .....	71
Conversion .....	76
Abbreviations .....	80
7. Multi-word expressions .....	86
Collocations .....	86
Proverbs .....	91
Idioms .....	92
Phrasal verbs .....	95
Prepositional verbs .....	100
Phraseological units .....	103
Catch phrase .....	105
Slogans .....	105
Lexical bundles (lexical phrases) .....	106
8. Englishes .....	110
9. American English word stock .....	118
10. Sense relations .....	133
Synonymy .....	133
Antonymy .....	135
Polysemy .....	137
Homonymy .....	138
Hyponymy and hyperonymy .....	140
Other sense relations .....	141
False friends (paronyms) .....	141
Transfer of meaning .....	142
11. Slang .....	146
12. Taboo words and swear words .....	149
Taboo words .....	149
Swearwords .....	150
13. Archaisms .....	155
14. Diminutives .....	156

A Guide to English Lexicon

Bibliography and further reading.....159

## Úvodem

Toto stručné kompendium anglické lexikologie je určeno studentům bakalářského stupně oboru anglický jazyk v učitelském i filologickém programu a slouží jako doprovodný text k přednáškovému cyklu. Tím se ovšem nevylučuje, že by v něm nemohli najít žádoucí informace i ti, kteří se o angličtinu zajímají hlouběji mimo rámec vysokoškolského studia.

Protože čas na přednášku je limitován, publikace má studujícím poskytnout data v požadované šíři. Učební text se zabývá nejen původem anglické slovní zásoby, ale klade důraz především na aktuální slovní zásobu. Přitom se neomezuje pouze na britskou angličtinu, ale snaží se pokrýt co nejširší spektrum tzv. „angličtin“, což vyplývá ze současných migračních trendů a z nich vyplývajících jazykových potřeb.

## 1. General concepts

By its origin **lexicology** has Greek roots, which are as follows:

Λεξικόν - dictionary

Λόγος - discourse

### **Definition**

Lexicology refers to the overall study of a language's vocabulary (including its history) – its lexicon, which studies all its aspects:

- naming
- formation
- development
- usage
- lexical phrases
- meaning

### **Classification of lexicology**

Lexicology, like any linguistic field, has several branches:

- General lexicology (dealing with general problems of the field irrespective of a particular language)
- Special lexicology (dealing with the lexical aspects of a particular language)
- Historical lexicology (dealing with the evolution of vocabulary)
- Synchronic lexicology (dealing with the structure of vocabulary, properties and functions of words of the current period)
- Other approaches to the classification of lexicology: Contrastive, Confrontational, etc.

### **Definition of the lexicon**

All the words that are used in a particular language are called the lexis, lexicon or word stock.

### Size of the lexicon

There are approximately 450,000 lemmas in Webster's Third New International Dictionary, while the Oxford English Dictionary presents 500,000 items. This is caused by the fact that the OED has more British dialects and more historical references. A combined lexicon covering all Englishes would exceed three quarters of a million words.

In terms of a single individual we speak about the personal lexicon, which can be:

- active
- passive

It is obvious that people do not use the same scope of the lexicon. The scope depends on their professional position and education.

In the following table we can see the size of respective lexicons according to occupation.

<b>Job</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Passive</b>
an office secretary	31 500	38 300
a business woman and voracious reader	63 000	73 350
lecturer	56 250	76 250

After Crystal (1995)

According to Marvin Spevack Shakespeare used a lexicon of some 30,000 units (Systematic Concordance of the Works of Shakespeare, 1968-80).

The central vocabulary, called the **core** of the language, has circa 15,000 items.

Fairly often we can come across words we are not likely to be familiar with. In the paragraphs that follow we can see whether we can effectively use the words which are somewhat beyond the standard scope.

*Fob off, enigmatic, collate, awry, vixen, traduce, maladroït, panegyric, jape, hyperventilate, fortuitous, aversion, avant-garde, ennui, permutation, indoctrinate, demise, validate, euphemism, facsimile*  
(Reader's Digest 1985 – The right word at the right time)

The words quoted above are probably intelligible to an educated person, irrespective of whether he speaks English or not. For a foreigner it is the short words which cause serious problems in understanding.

Short words:

*snaffle, snafu, snag, snare, snarl, snatch, sneak, sneer, sneeze, snide, sniff, snigger, snipe, snitch, snivel, snob, snoop, snooty, snort, snot, snout, snub, snuffle*

### **Lexicography**

We should not mix the term lexicology with the notion of lexicography (Gr. Λεξικόν – dictionary, γραθεῖν – to write), which refers to the art and science of dictionary creation.



## Basic lexicological notions

### Lexeme

Lexeme is the bearer of meaning. It is a unit of vocabulary, a **lexical item**. As such it covers more than just a single word. If we consider the lexeme *nut*, it can have semantic representation in several words: *nut (food)*, *nut (engineering)*, *nut (enthusiastic, foolish, silly)*, *nut (head)*, etc.

### Sememe

The meaning of the lexeme is the sememe (a set of semantic elements - **semes**).

The sememe can consist of various elements: emotional, denotative, referential, cognitive, aesthetic, etc.

Every word has some meaning which can be classified in two basic categories as follows:

### Denotative meaning

It is an equivalent of referential or cognitive (*dog: canine, quadruped*) aspect. It is an objective link between a lexeme (a reflection of reality in the language) and the reality.

### Connotative meaning

It is an equivalent of the emotional aspect (*dog: helper, friend, faithful*). It represents the personal dimension of the lexical meaning.

Example:

*Bus: a public transport vehicle (denotation). Something cheap, convenient, inconvenient, comfortable, uncomfortable (connotation).*

If a lexeme is highly charged with connotations we say that it is **loaded**. Two typical models of loaded language are the language of politicians and the usage of colours in the language.

### **Examples of loaded language:**

Politics: *capitalism, nationalism, fascism, radical, federalism, democracy, bureaucracy, politician, dogma, fundamentalist*

### **Connotations of colours:**

<i>red</i>	confident, assertive, exciting, aggressive, domineering, bossy, threatening
<i>pink</i>	feminine, gentle, accessible, pathetic, unimportant, safe, underconfident
<i>blue</i>	peaceful, trustworthy, constant, orderly, tiresome, predictable, conservative
<i>brown</i>	earthy, homely, gregarious, boring, unsophisticated
<i>yellow</i>	cheerful, hopeful, active, uninhibited, impulsive, tiresome, volatile, whirlwind
<i>green</i>	self-reliant, tenacious, nurturing, stubborn, risk-averse, predictable
<i>orange</i>	vital, funny, enthusiastic, sociable, uninhibited, superficial, common, faddish, giddy
<i>violet</i>	imaginative, sensitive, intuitive, unusual, unselfish, weird, impractical, immature, superior
<i>grey</i>	respectable, neutral, balanced, non-committal, deceptive, uncertain, safe
<i>black</i>	formal, sophisticated, mysterious, strong, mournful, aloof, negative, lifeless
<i>white</i>	pure, clean, fresh, futuristic, clinical, colourless, cold, neutral

### **Semantic field**

It is a named area of meaning in which lexemes interrelate and define each other in specific ways. Thus it is possible to classify words like *banana, mouth* or *bicycle*. Semantic fields are organized according to various principles (oppositeness, hierarchy, etc.). In any case they are joined by a common semantic component (*family, food, kinship, colour*). A particular word can be understood only within the structure of the semantic field. Thus the meaning of the word *captain* can be semantically understood within other army ranks (*private, corporal, sergeant, non-commissioned officer, commissioned officer*, etc.). Yet it is much more difficult with, for example, abstract words (*good, difficult, taste, flavour*, etc.). We should also be aware of the fact that semantic fields are not identical in different languages (limited scope and overlap in

Gaelic, *red* missing in Latin, Shona language in Zimbabwe with only three colours, two expressions for *blue* in Russian, etc.).

### **Thesaurus**

Developments in natural history and its system of classification had a great influence even on language studies. Peter Mark Roget pioneered the language thesaurus that we know today. Roget's thesaurus was first published in 1852 and it divides the lexicon into six main areas: abstract relations, space, the material world, intellect, volition, and sentiment/moral powers, each of which is sub-classified giving a total of 1000 semantic categories. Students find the thesaurus indispensable when writing essays because it provides them with a systematic offer of a particular semantic field.

Jan Ámos Komenský, who pioneered the field with a systematic classification of semantic fields, should be mentioned here with his *Janua Linguarum Reserata* (Leszno 1627).

### **Lexical structure** (Ferdinand de Saussure)

The lexical structure model analyses words from the angle of two dimensions:

- the **horizontal dimension** in which we sense the relationship between lexemes in a sequence, i.e. we know intuitively which words occur together (also called **syntagmatic level**)
- **vertical dimension** in which one lexeme can be substituted by another (**paradigmatic level**)





### Componential analysis

It is a very useful method by which we can analyse the meaning of words by single components – series of semes. Each seme is allocated a dichotomic value (present/non-present). Some words, namely those organized in semantic fields, have certain features in common.

	<b>human</b>	<b>adult</b>	<b>male</b>	<b>female</b>
<i>mother</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>father</i>	+	+	+	-
<i>son</i>	+	+/-	+	-
<i>daughter</i>	+	+/-	-	+
<i>cow</i>	-	+	-	+
<i>bull</i>	-	+	+	-
<i>calf</i>	-	-	+/-	+/-

*bachelor:*

#### **human**

- academic degree
- male who has never been married
- young knight serving under the standard of another king

#### **animal**

- male fur-seal without a mate

The componential analysis as a more accurate approach will help us bypass common one-to-one translation errors. Unlike a closed series of words (furniture, ranks, colours, family, etc.), which is fairly small, the open series of words represent a more complex and suitable object.

	<b>shocking</b>	<b>sex</b>	<b>humour</b>	<b>loudness</b>	<b>vulgarity</b>	<b>intensity</b>
<i>bawdy</i>	+	+	+	+	+	3
<i>ribald</i>	?	+	+	+	+	4
<i>smutty</i>	+	+	+	-	+	8
<i>lewd</i>	+	+	-	-	-	2
<i>coarse</i>	+/-	-	-	-	+	6
<i>vulgar</i>	+	-	-	-	+	7
<i>indecent</i>	+	+/-	-	-	-	5
<i>obscene</i>	+	+/-	-	-	-	1

After Newmark (Approaches to Translation)

*bawdy*:

**essential components** (functional)

- shocking (emotional)
- related to sex act (factual)
- humorous (emotional)

**secondary components** (descriptive)

- loud
- vulgar (in relation to social class)

The synonymic area is much wider: *lascivious, salacious, prurient, earthy, risqué, ribald, coarse, licentious, raunchy, crude, rude, rough, vulgar, gross, crass, indelicate*, etc.

If we try to translate the title of a famous Hollywood film *Indecent Proposal* to Czech, we will have to find a more intensive equivalent.

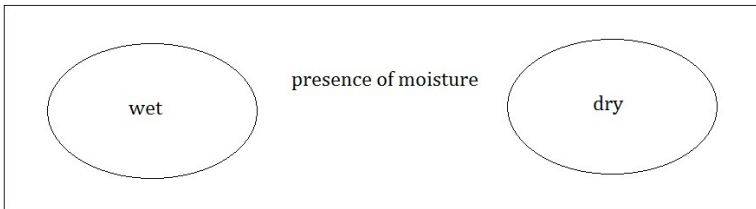


## Other methods of semantic representation

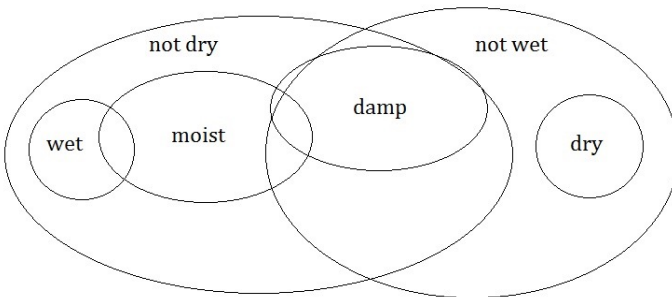
### Diagrammatic

Diagrammatic representation of the semantic field appears a very useful method of semantic analysis due to its visual representation.

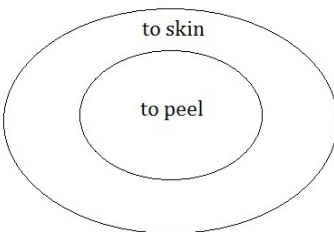
#### 1. Without overlap



#### 2. Overlapping



#### 3. Inclusive



## Semantics

Semantics in general is closely related to two aspects:

- **perception of the world** (segmentation of reality)
  - the reality must be segmented
  - the segments are iterative
  - the segments are not absolutely identical (inherent ambiguity)
  
- **creation of verb reality**
  - *dog* (barking, hairy, body shape)
  - *car* (shape, four wheels, noises)
  - *mother* (smell, feel, voice, face, etc.)

The meaning of a word is actually a dynamic process:

*mother*: for a child, in family law, for a husband

During mental development a further segmentation takes place and a human individual enters the area of semantic relations.

### Semantic relations:

- synonymy (*boy, lad*)
- antonymy (*truth, lie*)
- polysemy (*nut, bear*)
- homonymy (*john*)
- hyperonymy (*flower, tulip*)
- hyponymy (*tulip, flower*)

**Key words:**

lexicology, classification of lexicology, lexicon, passive and active lexicon, lexicography, lexeme, lexical item, sememe, seme, denotative meaning, connotative meaning, loaded language, semantic field, thesaurus, lexical structure (de Saussure), componential analysis, diagrammatic representation, semantics

**Questions:**

What is lexicology?

What are the essential branches of lexicology?

What is the lexicon of a language?

In real life we use two types of the lexicon. What are they?

What is lexicography?

What is the lexeme?

What is the classification of the meaning?

What is the language highly charged with connotations called?

Render the connotations of at least five colours.

What is the semantic field?

What is the thesaurus based on?

How did F. de Saussure analyse the word structure?

What is the componential analysis?

Give an example of this method.

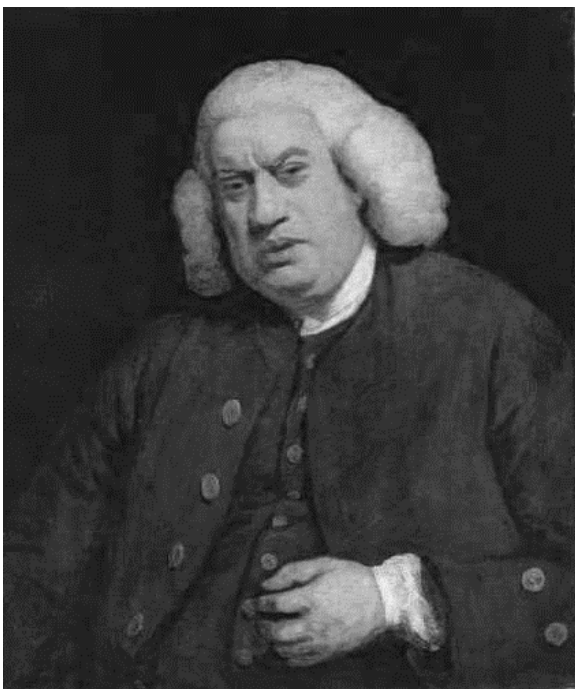
Why is the diagrammatic representation of the meanings of words useful?

What is the semantics of the language based on?

Render the semantic relations.

## 2. Lexicography and English dictionaries

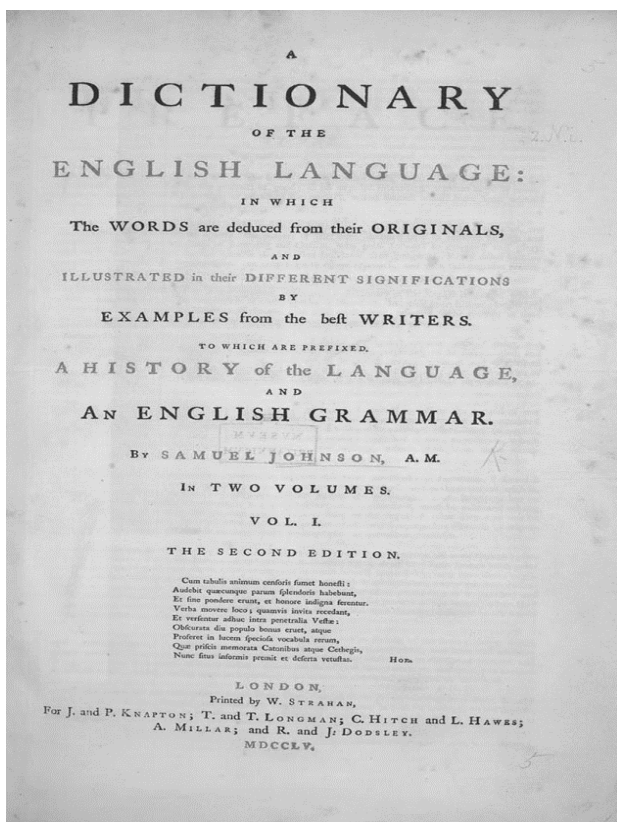
Among many English lexicographers at least three have an indispensable place in history: Johnson, Webster and Murray.



**Samuel Johnson** (1709-1784) spent over seven years in writing definitions of about 40,000 words, and his activities resulted in the publication of *A Dictionary of the English Language* in 1755.

He was not the first in the field. Nathaniel Bailey pioneered the field with his *Universal Etymological English Dictionary*. Bailey's *Dictionarium Britannicum*, which contains 48,000 words, was first published in 1730. Bailey's dictionaries were extremely popular. They were larger and more comprehensive than any other dictionaries of the day, and they also sold

well. Samuel Johnson owned a copy which he scribbled over, underlining sections and adding his own ideas. It would later help him to write his own dictionary. Johnson's definitions were far more discriminating and sophisticated and his selection wider-ranging. In the preface he claimed that his aim was "not to form but register the language".



### Examples from Johnson's dictionary:

**LEXICO'GRAPHER.** *n.s.* [?] *lixicographe*, French.] A writer of dictionaries; a harmless drudge, that busies himself in tracing the original, and detailing the signification of words.

Commentators and *lexicographers* acquainted with the Syriac language, have given these hints in their writings on scripture. *Watt's Improvement of the Mind*

**LEXICO'GRAPHY.** *n.s.* [?] The art or practice of writing dictionaries.

**LE'XICON.** *n.s.* [?] A dictionary; a book teaching the signification of words.

Though a linguist should pride himself to have all the tongues that Babel cleft the world into, yet if he had not studied the solid things in them as well as the words and *lexicons*, yet he were nothing so much to be esteemed a learned man as any yeoman competently wise in his mother dialect only. *Milton*

**OATS.** *n.s.* [?, Saxon] A grain, which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people. It is of the grass leaved tribe; the flowers have no petals, and are disposed in a loose panicle: the grain is eatable.

The meal makes tolerably good bread. *Miller*

The oats have eaten the horses. *Shakespeare*

It is bare mechanism, no otherwise produced than the turning of a wild oat beard, by the insinuation of the particles of moisture. *Locke*

For your lean cattle, fodder them with barley straw first, and the oat straw last. *Mortimer*

His horse's allowance of oats and beans, was greater than the journey required. *Swift*

**PENSION** An allowance made to anyone without an equivalent. In England it is generally understood to mean pay given to a state hireling for treason to his country

## **Noah Webster (1758-1843)**

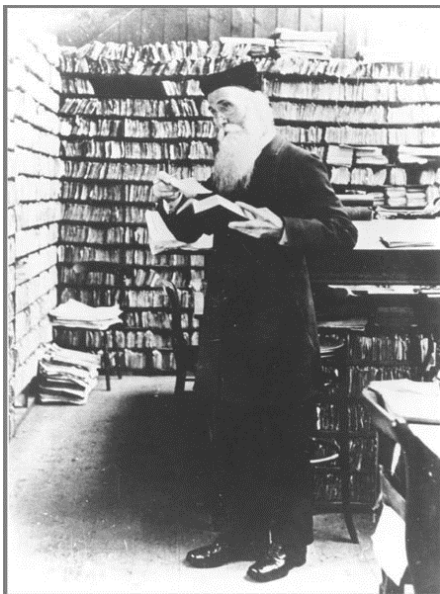
Webster published his *An American Dictionary of the English Language* in 1828. It took twenty-seven years to complete. Webster learned twenty-six languages, including Old English (Anglo-Saxon), German, Greek, Latin, Italian, Spanish, French, Hebrew, Arabic, and Sanskrit because he wanted to be fully competent in etymology of words. He also hoped to standardize American speech, since Americans in different parts of the country spelled, pronounced, and used English words differently.

Webster completed his dictionary in 1825 in Paris, France, and at the University of Cambridge. His book contained 70,000 words - 12,000 had not appeared in a published dictionary before. He was a spelling reformer and believed that English spelling rules were unnecessarily complex, so his dictionary introduced American English spellings, replacing *colour* with *color*, substituting *wagon* for *waggon*, and printing *center* instead of *centre*. He also added American words like *skunk* and *squash* that were not presented in British dictionaries. Webster published his dictionary in 1828 when he was seventy.

After his death the rights were purchased by Charles and George Merriams and the dictionary was then published under a new name – Merriam-Webster. The third edition of the *New International Webster* came out in 1963 and caused a controversy by its emphasized descriptive approach. During the War of Dictionaries the critics attacked citations from popular sources (domestic novels, magazines) and many Americans thought that it went too far. It did not for example condemn the substandard form *ain't*.

In the 1990s the company merged with the Random House publishing house and the dictionaries have a third name.

## James Murray (1837-1915)



In 1857 the Philological Society of Great Britain adopted a decision to publish a dictionary which would record the history of the language from historical times. After some twenty years they signed an agreement with Oxford University Press and appointed James A.H. Murray as editor. Murray was a son of a village tailor. He was an auto-didact and left school at the age of 14. Before his lexicographic activities he worked as a clerk and a teacher. He was the father of *The New English Dictionary* and he personally edited more than 50% of the first entries. It is said that he worked 80-90 hours a week, often without a break, rising at 5 a.m. and getting through a great deal of his day's load before breakfast. Yet Murray and his colleagues managed only the section from A to ANT. Soon after they found out that the dictionary was far beyond their capacities. Additional editors were appointed and the *Oxford English Dictionary* was produced in fascicles (folio format) for 44 years (the final fascicle published in 1928). The whole dictionary was comprised of 12 volumes

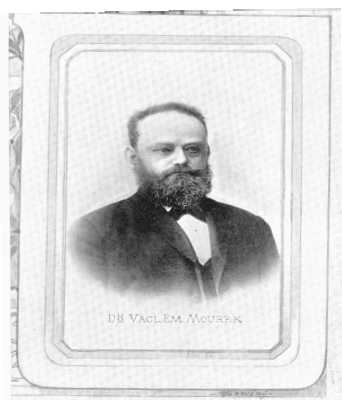


and 414,825 lexical items. Today the dictionary is available in an electronic form (CD).

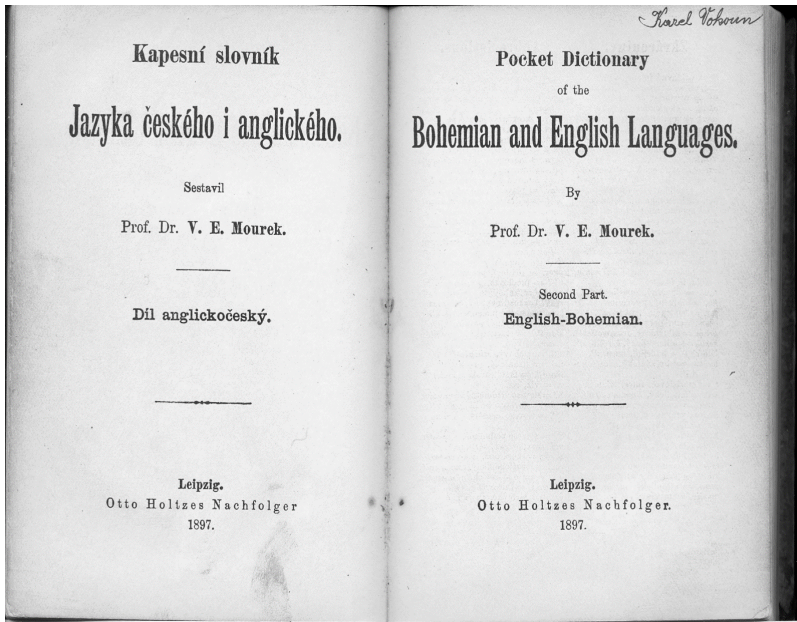
According to Murray the most prolific contributor to OED was Dr. William Minor (1834-1920), originally a military surgeon, later a Broadmoor asylum client.

### **Czech pioneer in English dictionary making**

#### **Josef Emanuel Mourek (1846-1911)**



Mourek first dealt with some specific features of the Gothic language and contributed to *Ottův slovník naučný* (Horace Walpole). The climax of his linguistic activities is represented by the first English-Czech Dictionary published in Leipzig in 1896. This genuine piece of work addressed a wide public of scholars, readers and translators and coincided with the needs of the most prolific translation period in Czech cultural history.



## Types of dictionaries

Dictionaries usually apply alphabetic arrangement. Yet some dictionaries do not follow this approach. Roget's Thesaurus is organized on the basis of semantic fields and the same method was adopted by the authors of the Longman Lexicon in the 1980s.

### General dictionaries:

Oxford English Dictionary, 3rd ed. 2000. (600,000 words)

The New Shorter English Dictionary, 6th ed. 2007.

The Random House Webster's College Dictionary 2nd rev. ed. 2005.  
(315,000 words)

Merriam-Webster's 11th Collegiate Dictionary. 2003.  
(225,000 words)

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English 6th rev. ed. 2014.

Collins English Dictionary 11th ed. 2011.

### Specialized Dictionaries – language:

Dictionary of synonyms:

- Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms. 1984.
- The Oxford Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms. 2007.
- The Penguin Modern Guide to Synonyms and Related Words.

Dictionary of idioms and phrasal verbs:

- Cowie-Mackin-McCaig: Oxford. Collins Cobuild Phrasal Verbs Dictionary. 2012.
- Collins Cobuild Idioms Dictionary. 2012.

Dictionary of collocations:

- Benson, Benson, Ilson: The BBI Combinatory Dictionary of the English Language. 1996.
- Oxford Collocations Dictionary for Students of English. 2009.

Dictionary of neologism:

- The Oxford Dictionary of New Words. 1999.

Dictionary of Pronunciation:

- Jones, Roach: Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary. 2011.
- Wells: Longman Pronunciation Dictionary 3rd ed. 2008.

Dictionary of etymology:

- Oxford Concise Dictionary of English Etymology. 1996.

Dictionary of frequency:

- West: A General Service List of English Words. 1980. Thorndike, Lorge: The Teacher's Book of 30,000 Words. 1944.

Dictionary of slang:

- Partridge: A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English. 1988.
- Ayto, Simpson: The Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang, 2nd ed. 2008.

Dictionary of dialects:

- Ramson: The Australian National Dictionary. 1983.
- Cassidy: Longman Dictionary of American English. 1985.

Dictionary of catch phrases:

- Farkas. A.: Oxford Dictionary of Catch Phrases. 2003.

**Specialized Dictionaries – learner’s dictionaries:**

- Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary 8th ed. 2010. (3000 key-word defining dictionary) Level B2-C2
- Oxford Learner’s Dictionary of Academic English
- Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English. 2005.
- Collins Cobuild Dictionary 2nd ed. 2005.
- Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary 4th ed. 2013. Level C1-C2
- word builders, word finders

**Thesauruses:**

- Waite: Oxford Paperback Thesaurus 2nd ed. 2001.
- Roget's International Thesaurus. 7th ed. 2011.
- McArthur: Longman Lexicon of Contemporary English. 2004.

**Dictionaries for research:**

- LDO3-NLP Database (Longman).

**Professional dictionary:**

- Oxford Dictionary of Business English. 1993.

**Czech Dictionaries of English:**

- Poldauf: Velký česko-anglický slovník. 1997.
- Fronek: Anglicko-český a česko-anglický slovník. 2004.
- Hais, Hodek: Velký Anglicko-český slovník. 2000.

Czech Dictionaries of English: professional language (law, biology, marketing, information technology): Česko-anglický technický slovník; Anglicko-český technický slovník 1983.

**Key words:**

lexicography, general dictionaries, defining dictionaries, specialized dictionaries, learners' dictionaries, thesaurus, dictionaries for research, professional dictionaries, translation dictionaries

**Questions:**

Who were the first English and American lexicographers?

How did Dr S. Johnson contribute to the art of lexicography?

Specify the contribution of Noah Webster.

What were the origins of the Oxford English Dictionary and the role of James Murray?

What was the War of Dictionaries?

Render the typology of dictionaries.

What is the name of the most extensive dictionary in the USA?

Which dictionaries would you recommend to students of English?

What dictionary will you consult if you look for the etymology of a particular word?

Render some dictionaries of synonyms, idioms and phrasal verbs.

What is the dictionary of catch phrases?

Do you know any dictionary of collocations?

What is the difference between a thesaurus and a dictionary?

Render the names of four major Czech lexicographers of English and their contribution.

Render the names of British publishers of dictionaries.

Render the names of American publishers of dictionaries.

What was Ogden's Basic English?

### 3. Origin of English word stock

We can follow the etymology of the current English lexicon back to the inhabitants of the British Isles: the Celts, Saxons, Romans, Scandinavians, Normans and others. What is even more interesting is the fact that there are traces of the inhabitants of the British Isles in the place names. Here you can see the major influencers in the chronological arrangement:

#### **Celts**

<i>Bally-, Balla-, Bal-</i>	<i>farm, village</i>
<i>Derry-, -derry, -dare</i>	<i>oak wood</i>
<i>Glen-</i>	<i>narrow valey</i>
<i>Loch</i>	<i>lake</i>

*crag, cumb – deep valley, binn – bin, carr – rock, dunn – grey, brock – badger, torr – peak, bannoc – piece, rice – rule, gafeluc – small spear, bratt – cloak, luh – lake, dry – sorcere, clucge – bell, rivers: Thames, Avon, Don, Exe, Usk, Wye* (approximately two dozen)

#### **Romans** (1<sup>st</sup> century B.C. – 5<sup>th</sup> century, Latin I)

<i>Chester, -cester</i>	<i>fortified camp, Roman town</i>
<i>Villa</i>	<i>house</i>
<i>Legion</i>	
<i>Century</i>	
<i>Capital</i>	

*pise – pea, plante – plant, win – wine, cyse – cheese, catte – cat, cetel – kettle, disc – dish, candel – candle, belt – belt, cemes – shirt, sutere – shoemaker, tige – tile, weall – wall, ceaster – city/camp, stræt – road, wic – camp, diht – saying, scrifan – decree, mangian – trade, ceapinan – buy, pund – pound, mæsse – mass, munuc – monk, mynster – minster* (200 words at the beginning of the Anglo-Saxon period)

### **Angles, Saxons, Jutes (6<sup>th</sup> century – 9<sup>th</sup> century)**

<i>Ac-, Aik-, Oak-, Oke-, -ock</i>	<i>oak</i>
<i>Barrow-, -bere, -beare, -ber</i>	<i>grove, wood</i>
<i>Bar-, Berg-, -borough, -burgh, -bury</i>	<i>fortified place</i>
<i>Dun-, Down-, -down, -don, -ton</i>	<i>hill, down</i>
<i>-ing</i>	<i>place of</i>
<i>-sted, -stead</i>	<i>place, site</i>

### **Word formation: derivation and compounding**

- compounding: *ciricgang* – churchgoing, *forliggang* – adultery, *gangewifre* – spider, *hindergenga* – crab, *godspel* – gospel, *mynsterman* – monk, *sunnadæg* – Sunday
- derivation: *beganga* - inhabitant, *begangan* – visit, *foregān* – go before, *ingān* – go in, *ingang* – entrance, *tōgān* – go into, *upgang* – rising, *ūtgang* – go out

Synonyms of the sea: *sæ, mere, brim, lagu, wæter*

### **Scandinavians (Vikings I)**

<i>Dal, -dale</i>	<i>dale, valley</i>
<i>-ey, -ay</i>	<i>island</i>
<i>-ness, Nas-, Nes-</i>	<i>cape, headland</i>
<i>-thorpe, -throp, -trop</i>	<i>farm, village</i>
<i>-Thwaite, -thwaite</i>	<i>glade, clearing</i>

### **Words of the Scandinavian origin:**

*landing, score, beck, fellow, take, hunting, steersman, skirt, skin, sky, both, same, get, give, they, them, their; Anglo-Saxon sindon replaced by to be, again, anger; awkward, bag, band, bank, birth, brink, bull, cake, call, clip, crawl, crook, die, dirt, dregs, egg, flat, fog, freckle, gap, gasp, get, guess, happy, husband, ill, keel, kid, knife, law, leg, loan, low, muggy, neck, odd, outlaw, race, raise, ransack, reindeer, rid, root, rugged, scant, scare, scowl, scrap, seat, seem, silver, sister, skill, skirt, sly, smile, snub, sprint, steak, take, thrift, Thursday, tight, trust, want, weak, window*

**Duplication of words** (etymological doublets):

<b>Old Norse</b>	<b>Old English</b>
<i>dike</i>	<i>ditch</i>
<i>hale</i>	<i>hole</i>
<i>raise</i>	<i>rise</i>
<i>scrub</i>	<i>shrub</i>
<i>sick</i>	<i>ill</i>
<i>skill</i>	<i>craft</i>
<i>skin</i>	<i>hide</i>
<i>skirt</i>	<i>shirt</i>
<i>garth</i>	<i>yard</i>
<i>kirk</i>	<i>church</i>
<i>laup</i>	<i>leap</i>
<i>nay</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>trigg</i>	<i>true</i>

**Scandinavian family names** (-son ending):

*Davidson, Jackson, and Henderson*

**Latin loans before 1000**

*abbadissa, altar, apostolus, culpa – cylpe, missa, nonnus – monk, offerre, offrian – sacrifice, praedicare – preach, scola – school, versus – verse, calendae – month, cavellum, caul – basket, epistula – letter, fenestra, fenester – window, lilium – lily, organum, orgel – organ, picus, pic – pike, rosa, rose – rose, studere, studdian – take care of*



## Normans (Vikings II – French speaking)

After the Norman Conquest the society in England was divided by two languages: Old English and French.

### Two level society (French/Anglo-Saxon)

nobility – English/French	peasant – English/German
<i>beef/boef</i>	<i>cow/Kuh</i>
<i>veal/veau</i>	<i>calf/Kalb</i>
<i>pork/porc</i>	<i>swine/Schwein</i>
<i>mutton/mouton</i>	<i>sheep/Schöps</i>
<i>lamb/venison</i>	<i>lamb/Lam</i>

### French loans:

**Administration:** *authority, bailiff, baron, chamberlain, chancellor, constable, coroner, council, court, crown, duke, empire, exchequer, government, liberty, majesty, manor, mayor, messenger*

**Law:** *accuse, adultery, advocate, arrest, arson, assault, assize, attorney, bail, bar, blame, chattels, convict, crime, decree, depose, estate, evidence, executor, felon, fine, fraud, heir*

**Religion:** *abbey, anoint, baptism, cardinal, cathedral, chant, chaplain, charity, clergy, communion, confess, convent, creator, crucifix, divine, faith, friar, heresy, homily, immortality, incense*

**Military:** *ambush, archer, army, barbican, battle, besiege, captain, combat, defend, enemy, garrison, guard, hauberk, lance, lieutenant, moat, navy, peace, portcullis, retreat*

**Food and drink:** *appetite, bacon, beef, biscuit, clove, confection, cream, cruet, date, dinner, feast, fig, fruit, fry, grape, gravy, gruel, herb, jelly, lettuce, mackerel, mince, mustard, mutton, olive, orange, oyster, pigeon, plate, pork, poultry, raisin, repast, roast, salad, salmon, sardine, saucer, sausage, sole, spice, stew, sturgeon, sugar, supper, tart, taste, toast, treacle, tripe, veal, venison, vinegar*

**Fashion:** *apparel, attire, boots, brooch, buckle, button, cape, chemise, cloak, collar, diamond, dress, embroidery, emerald, ermine, fashion, frock, fur, garment, garter, gown, jewel, lace, mitten, ornament, pearl, petticoat, pleat, robe, satin, taffeta, tassel, train, ceil, wardrobe*

**Science and learning:** *alkali, anatomy, arsenic, calendar, clause, copy, gender, geometry, gout, jaundice, leper, medicine, metal, noun, ointment, pain, physician, plague, pleurisy*

**The home:** *basin, blanket, bucket, ceiling, cellar, chair, chamber, chandelier, chimney, closet, couch, curtain, cushion, garret, joist, kennel, lamp, lantern, latch, lattice, pantry, parlour, pillar, porch, quilt, scullery, towel*

**General nouns:** *action, adventure, affection, age, air, city, comfort, country, courage, courtesy, cruelty, debt, deceit, dozen, envy, error, face, fault, flower, forest, grief, honour, hour, joy*

**General adjectives:** *active, amorous, blue, brown, calm, certain, clear, common, cruel, curious, eager, easy, final, foreign, gay, gentle, honest, horrible, large, mean, natural, nice, original, perfect*

**General verbs:** *advise, allow, arrange, carry, change, close, continue, cry, deceive, delay, enjoy, enter, form, grant, inform, join, marry, move, obey, pass, pay, please, prefer, prove, push, quit, receive, refuse, remember, reply, satisfy, save, serve, suppose, travel, trip, wait, waste*

**Phrases:** *by heart, come to a head, do homage, do justice, have mercy on, hold one's peace, make compliant, on the point of, rake pity on*

## 14th century England – difference between the North and the South

Despite the fact that England was one realm with one king at the end of 14<sup>th</sup> century, the language had not been unified. There were differences in vocabulary distinguishing the north from the south. Here is a story and situation that William Caxton had to face. (The Egg Story - Prologue to Virgil's Book of Eneydos, circa 1490).

[...] *In so moche that in my dayes happened that certayn marchauntes were in a shippe in tamyse for to haue sayled ouer the see into zelande and for lacke of wynde thei taryed atte forlond. And wente to lande for to refreshe And one of theym named sheffelde a mercer can into an hows and axed for mete. And specyally he axyd after eggys And the good wyf answerde. That she coude speke no frenshe. And the marchuant was angry. For he laso coude speke no frenshe. But wold haue hadde egges/ and she vnderstode hym not / And thenne at laste a nother sayd that he wolde haue eyeren / then the good wyf sayd that she vndersod hym wel [...]*

Key to the lexicon: *eyren* – southern form; *egges* – northern form

Actually he and his contemporaries had to sort out the following issues:

- Should they use foreign words in translations or replace them by native English words?
- Which variety of English should they follow (northern or southern)?
- How should the words be spelled?

## Latin and Greek

### **Late Latin loans (after 1000):**

*apostat – apostate, chrisma, crisma – chrism, clericus, cleric – clerk, credo, creda – creed, crucem, cruc – cross, daemon, demon – demon, discipulus, discipul – disciple, paradisus, paradis – paradise, prior – prior, sabbatum, sabbat – sabbath, bibliotheca, bibliotheca – library, chorus, chor – choir, chorus, declinare, declinian – decline, delphinus, delfin – dolphin, grammatical – grammar, hymnus, ymen – hymn, mechanicus, mechanisc – mechanical, persicum, persic – peach, scutula, scutel – scuttle, dish*

By 1400 about 10,000 new lexemes had come into the language from French, and just several thousand from Latin – the surviving Old English lexicon was in the minority.

## Renaissance Loan Words in English

**From Latin and Greek:** *absurdity, adapt, agile, alienate, allusion, anachronism, anonymous, appropriate, assassinate, atmosphere, autograph, benefit, capsule, catastrophe, chaos, climax*

**From or via French:** *alloy, anatomy, battery, bayonet, bigot, bizarre, chocolate, colonel, comrade, detail, docility, duel*

**From or via Italian:** *balcony, ballot, carnival, concerto, cupola, design, fuse, giraffe, grotto, lottery, macaroni, opera, piazza, portico, rocket, solo, sonata, sonnet, soprano, stanza, stucco, trill, violin, volcano*

**From or via Spanish or Portuguese:** *alligator, anchovy, apricot, armada, banana, barricade, bravado, cannibal, canoe, cockroach, cocoa, corral, desperado, embargo, guitar, hammock, hurricane, maize, mosquito, mulatto, Negro, potato, port (wine), rusk, sombrero, tank, tobacco, yam*

English has many words with similar meaning but different origin, which are used according to a particular register. For example medical register requires words of Latin or Greek origin (*renal, dental, auricular*) or the veterinary register is characteristic of words like *bovine, equine* or *ovine*.

#### Lexical twins

Old English	French	Latin
<i>guts</i>	<i>courage</i>	-
<i>clothes</i>	<i>attire</i>	-
<i>climb</i>	-	<i>ascend</i>
<i>sweat</i>	<i>perspire</i>	-
<i>happiness</i>	-	<i>felicity</i>
<i>house</i>	<i>mansion</i>	-
<i>wish</i>	<i>desire</i>	-

#### Lexical triplets

Old English	French	Latin
<i>rise</i>	<i>mount</i>	<i>ascend</i>
<i>ask</i>	<i>question</i>	<i>interrogate</i>
<i>fast</i>	<i>firm</i>	<i>secure</i>
<i>kingly</i>	<i>royal</i>	<i>regal</i>
<i>holy</i>	<i>sacred</i>	<i>consecrated</i>
<i>fire</i>	<i>flame</i>	<i>conflagration</i>

#### Latin and Greek adjectives

English	Classical
<i>home</i>	<i>domestic</i>

<i>earth</i>	<i>terrestrial</i>
<i>tooth</i>	<i>dental</i>
<i>head</i>	<i>capital</i>
<i>eye</i>	<i>ocular</i>
<i>ear</i>	<i>auricular</i>
<i>tongue</i>	<i>lingual</i>
<i>mouth</i>	<i>oral</i>
<i>kidney</i>	<i>renal</i>
<i>heart</i>	<i>cordial</i>
<i>dog</i>	<i>canine</i>
<i>cow</i>	<i>bovine</i>
<i>sheep</i>	<i>ovine</i>
<i>horse</i>	<i>equine</i>

### Some types of the semantic change in history

The elements of the lexicon are not semantically fixed, but they are subject to development. Here are some processes which can be applied.

**Extension or generalisation** – A word widens its meaning. For example in Latin *virtue* was a male quality (cf. *vir* = *man*). Today it applies to both sexes.

**Narrowing or specialisation** – A word becomes more specialized in meaning. For example in Old English *mete* referred to food in general (a meaning which is retained in *sweetmeat*).

**Shift** – A word moves from one set of circumstances to another. For example *navigator/pilot* once applied only to ships, but it now applies to planes, and even to cars.

**Figurative use** – A shift in meaning based on an analogy or likeness between things. For example *crane*, a bird with long neck, has led to the use of *crane* as a piece of equipment for lifting weights.

**Amelioration** – A word loses an original sense of disapproval. For example *mischievous* has lost its strong sense of disastrous, and now means the milder playful annoying.

**Pejoration or deterioration** – A word develops a sense of disapproval. For example *notorious* once meant widely known, and now means widely and unfavourably known.

Fairly often people have wrong assumptions about some etymologies. They make their judgements according to the surface appearance of a particular word.

### Some surprising etymologies

<i>treacle</i>	↔↔	<i>wild animal</i>
<i>villain</i>	↔↔	<i>farm labourer</i>
<i>taxation</i>	↔↔	<i>fault finding</i>
<i>bonnet</i>	↔↔	<i>man's hat</i>
<i>furniture</i>	↔↔	<i>equipment</i>
<i>pretty</i>	↔↔	<i>ingenious</i>
<i>cheater</i>	↔↔	<i>rent collector</i>
<i>naughty</i>	↔↔	<i>worth nothing</i>
<i>vulgar</i>	↔↔	<i>ordinary</i>
<i>sly</i>	↔↔	<i>wise</i>
<i>publican</i>	↔↔	<i>public servant</i>
<i>orchard</i>	↔↔	<i>garden (without fruit trees)</i>

### Folk etymology (not real)

*sparrow-grass (asparagus)*: has nothing to do with sparrows  
*sirloin*: a legend has it that one English king found this joint of meat so splendid that he gave it a knighthood – *sir* = *sur*).



## Generations and the meaning

It is quite surprising that two close generations like grandparents and grandchildren have problems in understanding the same word. This can be due to political and various other reasons.

Examples:

	pre-war generation	post-war generation
<i>fast food</i>	food eaten in lent	food from MacDonald's
<i>grass</i>	only grass	marihuana (1968 and later)

*We were born before television, before **penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, frisbees and the Pill.** We were before **radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens;** before **dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes** and before man walked on the moon.*

*We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought "**fast food**" was what you ate in Lent, a "**Big Mac**" was an oversized raincoat and "**crumpet**" we had for tea. We existed before **house husbands, computer dating, dual cars** and when a "**meaningful relationship**" meant getting along with cousins and "**sheltered accommodation**" was where you waited for a bus.*

*We were before **day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies.** We never heard of **FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt,** or young men wearing earrings. For us "**time sharing**" meant togetherness, a "**chip**" was a piece of wood or fried potato, "**hardware**" meant nuts and bolts and "**software**" wasn't a word.*

*Before 1945 "**Made in Japan**" meant junk, the term "**making out**" referred to how you did in your exams, "**stud**" was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and "**going all the way**" meant staying on a double-decker to the bus depot. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of in our day, cigarette smoking was "**fashionable**", "**grass**" was mown, "**coke**" was kept in the coal house, a "**joint**" was a piece of meat you eat on Sundays and "**pot**" was something you cooked in. "**Rock music**" was a fond mother's lullaby, "**Eldorado**" was an ice cream, a "**gay person**" was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while "**aids**" just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble. (Quoted from the web).*

## English names

The etymology of English names can easily be traced back because they are usually semantically meaningful. The following list gives you an idea of their onomastic function.

### Common English names

#### Toponyms:

**Hills and slopes:** *bank, barrow, borough, breck, cam, cliff, crook, down, edge, head, hill, how, hurst, ley, ling, lith, mond, over, pen, ridge, side, tor* – *Barrow, Blackdown, Longridge, Thornborough, Windhill*

**Valleys and hollows:** *bottom, clogh, combe, dale, den, ditch, glen, grave, hole, hope, slade* – *Cowdale, Denton, Hoole, Longbottom, Thorncombe*

**Woods and groves:** *bear, carr, derry, fen, frith, greave, grove, heath,holt, lea, moor, oak, rise, scough, shaw, tree, well, with, wold, wood* – *Blackheath, Hazlewood, Oakley, Southwold*

**Rivers and streams:** *batch, beck, brook, burn, ey, fleet, font, ford, keld, lade, lake, latch, marsh, mere, mouth, ore, pool, rith, wade, water, well* – *Broadwater, Fishlake, Mersey, Rushbrooke, Saltburn*

**Dwellings and farms:** *barton, berwick, biggin, bold, by, cote, ham, hampstead, hamton, house, scale, sett, stall, thorpe, toft, ton, wick* – *Fishwick, Newham, Potterton, Westby, Woodthorpe*

**General locations and routes:** *bridge, ford, gate, ing, mark, path, stead, stoke, stow, street, sty, way* – *Epping, Horsepath, Longford, Ridgeway, Stonebridge*

**Coastline elements:** *ey, holme, hulme, hythe, naze, ness, port, sea* – *Bardsey, Greenhithe, Sheerness, Southport, Southsea*

**Fields and clearings:** *combe, croft, den, erh, field, ham, haugh, hay, ing, land, lease, lock, meadow, rick, ridding, rode, shot, side, thwaite, wardine, worth, worthy* – *Applethwaite, Cowden, Smallworthy, Southworth*

**Buildings and stones:** *brough, burton, caster, church, cross, kirk, mill, minster, stain, stone, wark* – *Crossthwaite, Felixkirk, Newminster, Staines, Whitchurch*

## Personal Names

### Surnames:

**Derived from a particular location:** *Norman, Moor, Hall, Chesterfield, Street, Wood*

**Derived from occupation:** *Barber, Butcher, Carpenter, Clark, Cook, Cooper, Farmer, Plumber, Smith, Tailor, Turner*

**Expressing kinship, relationship to a parent or ancestor:** *Johnson, Watkins, Nicholas, Thomas*

**Nicknames:** *Long, Little, Moody, Fox, Brown, Young, Rich*

### First names:

**Physical characteristic:** *Kevin* (handsome at birth), *Maurice* (dark skinned), *Thomas* (twin)

**Relate to time and place of origin or activity:** *Barbara* (foreign), *Francis, Noel, George* (farmer)

**Desirable characteristic:** *Peter* (rock), *Agnes* (pure), *Hilary* (cheerful)

**Parent's feelings:** *Amy* (loved), *Abigail* (father rejoices), *Lucy* (light)

**Variations of Jehovah and other designations for God:** *John, Jonathan, Josephine, Joan, Jeremy, Emanuel, Elisabeth*

**Plants, gemstones, etc.:** *Crystal, Fern, Heather, Holly, Rosemary, Ruby, Susan* (lily).

**Surnames as first names** (19<sup>th</sup> century custom): *Baron, Beverly, Fletcher, Maxwell, Clifford, Douglas, Shirley*

### Nicknames

They date back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century – *an eke name* = additional name to express such attitudes as familiarity, affection and ridicule. They do not apply only to people but also to places and things: *Silicon Valley, Motown, Emerald Isle, Red Planet, Costa Geriatrica* – south England, *Jolly Jogger* – pirate flag, *Black Thursday*.

**Personal nicknames** are very common: *Chalky* – *White*, *Nobby* – *Clark*, *Spider* – *Web*, *Chuck* – *Charles*, *Menace* – *Dennis*, *Spike* – *Michael*, *Baldy*, *Four-eyes*, *Tubby* – *fatty*), *Iron Duke* – *Wellington*, *Merry Monarch* – *Charles II*, *Old Hickory* – *President Andrew Jackson*

### Key words:

lexical twins, lexical triplets, extension of meaning, narrowing, shift, figurative use, amelioration, pejoration, toponyms, nicknames

**Questions:**

Render some traces of Gaelic in British place names.

Render at least four English place names whose origin comes from Latin *castra* (with the pronunciation).

Render examples of Anglo-Saxon word formation.

What do the following word components have in common: *Derry-*, *-derry*, *-dare*, *Ac-*, *Aik-*, *Oak-*, *Oke-*, *-ock*?

What is the meaning of Anglo-Saxon *down*, *dun*?

What is the meaning of Anglo-Saxon *borough*, *burgh*, *bury*?

There is a duplication of words (etymological doublets). Fill in the missing words.

Old Norse	Old English
<i>dike</i>	
<i>raise</i>	<i>rise</i>
<i>scrub</i>	<i>shrub</i>
	<i>ill</i>
<i>skill</i>	
<i>skin</i>	
	<i>shirt</i>
	<i>yard</i>
<i>kirk</i>	
<i>nay</i>	

Render three common Scandinavian family names in English.

Which parts of social life were influenced most by Normans?

Render examples.

How did Latin and Greek influence English?

Current English has synonymy of English and Latin/Greek adjectives. Fill in the missing words and explain the usage.

<b>English</b>	<b>Latin/Greek</b>
<i>home</i>	
<i>earth</i>	
<i>tooth</i>	
<i>head</i>	
<i>eye</i>	
<i>ear</i>	
<i>tongue</i>	
<i>mouth</i>	
<i>kidney</i>	
<i>heart</i>	
<i>dog</i>	
<i>cow</i>	
<i>sheep</i>	
<i>horse</i>	

Render examples of semantic changes in history:

What are English toponyms derived from in terms of meaning?

What are English surnames derived from in terms of meaning?

What are English first names derived from in terms of meaning?

What is the origin of nicknames in English?

Render some examples.

Are there any Czech words in the English lexicon?

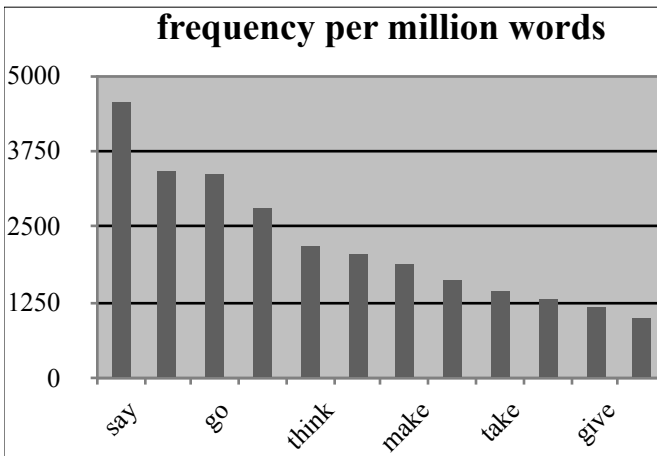
## 4. Word frequency

The statistics of the word stock are invaluable in the design of an English textbook lexicon. Until recently the frequency was analysed, irrespective of a particular register, with the result of a dictionary of frequency. Today the situation is different and much more plausible owing to the fact that recent studies are based on extensive linguistic corpora and their results can be filtered by respective functional styles. One of the best appears the LSWE corpus which pays attention to the following registers:

- conversation
- news
- fiction
- academic style

Here are some findings published in Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English (Biber et al., 1999).

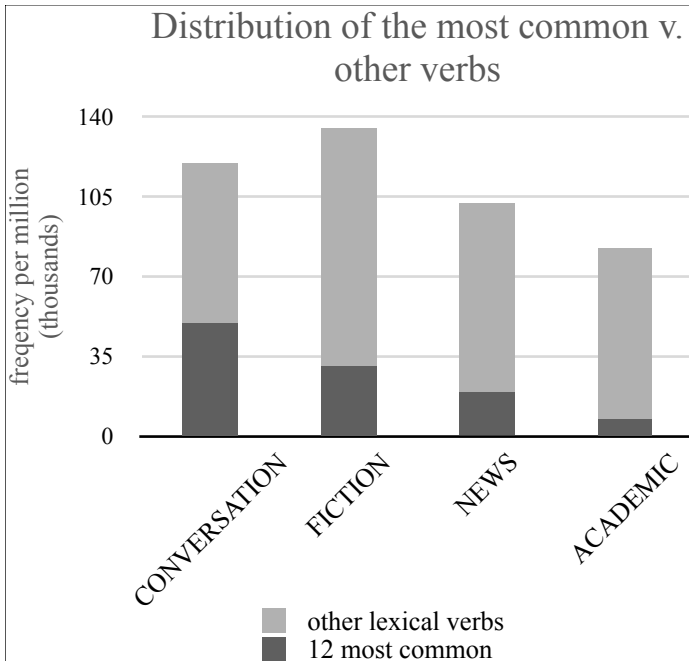
### Most common lexical verbs in LSWE Corpus



## Findings

- The 12 most common lexical verbs all occur over 1000 times per million words.
- These very common verbs are unevenly distributed across the semantic domains:
  - six are activity verbs: *get, go, make, come, take, give*;
  - five are mental verbs: *know, think, see, want, mean*
  - one is a communicative verb: *say*, which is the single most common lexical verb overall

## Frequency and register





## **Findings**

- Taken as a group, the 12 most common lexical verbs occur much more frequently in conversation than the other three registers. They account for nearly 45% of all lexical verbs in conversation.
- Conversely, this group of very common verbs occurs least commonly in academic prose, where they account for only 11% of lexical verbs.

## **Key words:**

dictionary of frequency, register, functional style, lexical verb, even distribution, uneven distribution, activity verbs, mental verbs, communicative verbs

## **Questions:**

Do lexical verbs have the same frequency in all four registers?

Which are 12 most common lexical verbs in English?

Render the most common activity verbs.

Render the most common mental verbs.

Render the most common communicative verbs.

## 5. Word formation

### Processes

Today's English applies principal and minor processes of word formation.

#### A. Principal types of word formation

##### Compounding:

Two or more words or their parts put together.

Typology:

simple: *blackbird*

blends: *brunch, breathalyser, smog*

multi compounds: *at-no-cost-to-you gift, a state-of-the art T-shirt*

Orwelian blends: *Pornsec - pornography section, Ficdep – fiction department, Recdep, Thinkpol – thought police*

##### Derivation:

Word building by means of affixes: **inflectional** (grammatical) and **derivational** (lexical).

- suffixation
- prefixation

##### Conversion:

Change of the part of speech.

*a chair* v. *to chair*

*export* v. *to export* (stress placement)

*young* v. *the young* (adjective and noun)

*food* v. *feed* (gradation)

## B. Minor types of word formation

### **Invention:**

Free choice of sounds.

*dreft* (soap powder), *Kodak*

### **Shortening** (Acronyms, Abbreviations, Clips):

*NATO, UNO, UNPROFOR, UNRRA, Telly, Pop*

### **Reduplication:**

A type of compounding with a slight change in spelling:

*criss-cross, mishmash, humpty-dumpty*

### **Back-formation:**

Original word is longer.

*a baby-sitter*     *v. to baby-sit*

*television*     *v. to televise*

*double-glazing*     *v. to double-glaze*

*accreditation*     *v. to accredit*

### **Neologisms**

**Nonce words** created just for once:

*fluddle* = bigger than a puddle and smaller than a flood

**Real** neologisms:

*Aginda* = a pre-conference drink

*circumtreeviation* = a tendency of a dog to pass trees on the opposite side

*agonize* = wait anxiously for the suitcase in the baggage claim area

### **Nonsense words**

100-letter blends (Mary Popins, Finnegan's wake)

*Bothallchoractorschumminaroudgansumuminarumdrumstrumtruminahu  
mptadumpwaultpoofooloopderamaunsturnup!*

## Productivity

English is rather limited in its morphological forms. In terms of productivity the following principles can be adopted:

- noun plural, 3rd person singular, possessive case, past tense, past participle, participle -ing
- we cannot rely on what was productive in the past (*goose/geese*)
- we cannot rely on the foreign derivations (*abattoir - abattre + oir*, *karate - kara + te*)
- we have to study words like *workaholic*, *motel*, *bionic*, etc.

## Phonological constraints

Initial: SF, MR, DL, etc.

Final: H

## Pragmatic constraints

*armchairs* – \**legchairs*

Examples of constraints in the word formation:

*mrvogol* (phonological)

*gracedis* (morphological – DIS is a prefix)

*emptyless* (semantic and grammatical – LESS cannot be added to adjectives)

*snow-cream* (possible but unused)

*untall* (unused)

**Key words:**

compounding, derivation, suffix, prefix, infix, invention, acronym, abbreviation, clip, reduplication, conversion, back-formation, neologism, nonsense word, productive forms, phonological constraints, pragmatic constraints

**Questions:**

Render the most productive forms in English morphology.

Are the original word components in borrowed words relevant?

Are historical forms applicable to modern lexicon?

What role do phonological constraints play?

What role do pragmatic constraints play?

## 6. Word formation processes in detail

Word formation is a process – a dynamic process. New words are formed irrespective of a wish of a single individual without the general consensus. Any sort of forceful influence will eventually have a zero effect. Here we can read a short passage from Orwell's 1994.

“The Eleventh Edition is the definite edition,” he said. “We're getting the language into its final shape – the shape it's going to have when nobody speaks anything else. When we're finished with it, people like you will have to learn it all over again. You think, I daresay, that our chief job is inventing words. But not a bit of it! We're destroying words – scores of them, hundreds of them, every day. We're cutting the language down to the bone. The Eleventh Edition won't contain a single word that will become obsolete before the year 2050.”

[...] “It's a beautiful thing, the destruction of words. Of course the great wastage is in the verbs and adjectives, but there are hundreds of nouns that can be rid of as well. It isn't only synonyms; there are also the antonyms. After all what justification is there for a word which is simply the opposite of some other word? A word contains opposite in itself. Take “good“, for instance. If you have a word like “good”, what need is there for a word like “bad”? “Ungoodly” will do just as well – better, because it's an exact opposite, which the other is not. (George Orwell, Nineteen Eighty-Four, p.44)

### Derivation

**Derivation** (affixation) is a very productive form of word building by means of adding a prefix or a suffix to the already existing base. Despite the fact that there are almost twice as many suffixes (terminal affixes) than prefixes, they are less productive. A suffix can change the lexical meaning, its grammatical meaning and even the word class.

## Suffixes

### 1. Noun suffixes

a) Denominal nouns (noun + suffix)

Suffix	Meaning	Example
STER, EER	occupational	<i>gangster, gamester, trickster, engineer, profiteer, racketeer, marketeer, pamphleteer</i>
ER	occupational	<i>glover, teenager, Londoner, double-decker</i>
IST	occupational	<i>therapist, novelist, rapist, geologist</i>
LET	diminutive, feminine	<i>booklet, piglet, starlet, leaflet</i>
ETTE	small	<i>kitchenette, cigarette</i>
	imitation	<i>leatherette, flannelette</i>
	female	<i>usherette, suffragette, Yankette</i>
LING	small	<i>princeling, duckling</i>
ESS STRESS	female	<i>waitress, lioness, tigress seamstress, songstress</i>
Y often IE		<i>daddy, auntie, Johnny, pussy, pinkie</i>
HOOD	status	<i>boyhood, brotherhood, widowhood</i>
SHIP	status	<i>friendship, membership, lectureship, dictatorship</i>
DOM	domain	<i>kingdom, stardom</i>
OCRACY	status	<i>plutocracy, democracy,</i>

ERY	status, domain	<i>slavery, nunnery, refinery, machinery,</i>
ING	domain	<i>tubing, panelling</i>
FUL	amount	<i>mouthful, spoonful, plateful</i>



Noun/adjective → noun/adjective suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
ITTE	member of tribe, sect	<i>Israelite, Brooklynite, Stalinite, Labourite</i>
(I)AN	belonging to	<i>Indonesian, Parisian, Elisabethan, republican</i>
'ESE	nationality, language	<i>Chinese, Portuguese, journalese, Obamese. Initial stress in attributive position</i>
IST	party member, occupation	<i>masochist, Budhist, violinist, physicist</i>
ISM	doctrine	<i>Calvinism, idealism, impressionism</i>

b) Deverbal nouns (verb + suffix)

Suffix	Meaning	Example
ER	agential	<i>worker, writer, driver, employer, receiver, silencer, thriller, washer-up, tin-opener, cooker (passive - cooking apples, active - kitchen cooker)</i>
OR	agential (neo-classical words)	<i>inspector, actor, survivor</i>
AR	agential	<i>liar, beggar</i>
ANT	agential	<i>inhabitant, contestant, informant, lubricant, disinfectant</i>
EE (stressed)	passive	<i>draftee, payee, appointee, trainee, employee</i>
ATION	state, action	<i>fixation, exploration, victimisation, ratification, starvation</i>
	institution	<i>foundation, organization</i>

MENT	state, action	<i>arrangement, amazement, embodiment, puzzlement</i>
AL	action	<i>refusal, revival, dismissal, upheaval</i>
ING	activity, state, result	<i>bathing, driving, betting, earnings, shavings</i>
AGE	extent, amount	<i>coverage, wastage, leverage</i>

## 2. Adjective suffixes

### a) Verb + suffix

Suffix	Meaning	Example
ABLE	passive or worthy meaning	<i>acceptable, readable, drinkable, commendable, liveable with</i>
IBLE	neo-classical words	<i>perfectible, edible, feasible</i>

### b) Noun, adjective, number + suffix

Suffix	Meaning	Example
Y	quality of	<i>bushy, dirty, hairy, smelly</i>
ISH	somewhat (informal)	<i>reddish, latish, tallish, tenish, poorish, youngish</i>
ED	having ...	<i>walled, wooded, pointed, fair-haired, blue-eyed, simple-minded, full-flavoured, odd-shaped</i> <i>Also with syllabic pronunciation: dogged, wretched, ragged, three-legged</i>
AL, IAL	stress on the penultimate syllable of the base	<i>criminal, cultural, editorial, preferential</i>
ESQUE		<i>picturesque</i>
IC, ICAL		<i>atomic, emphatic, heroic, problematic, specific</i> <i>Languages: Celtic, Arabic</i> <i>Nationality: Arab, Arabian</i>
IVE, ATIVE, ITIVE	having quality	<i>attractive, expansive, explosive, productive, talkative, imaginative, sensitive</i>
FUL	amount	<i>spoonful, mouthful</i>

LESS		<i>restless</i>
LIKE		<i>birdlike</i>
LY		<i>friendly</i>
OUS		<i>ambitious, erroneous, courteous, grievous, virtuous, vivacious</i>
SOME		<i>bothersome</i>
WORTHY		<i>praiseworthy</i>

### Adjectives with IC and ICAL

#### Some adjectives ending in IC

*academic, artistic, athletic, catholic, domestic, dramatic, emphatic, energetic, fantastic, linguistic, majestic, neurotic, pathetic, phonetic, public, semantic, syntactic, systematic, tragic*

New words which come into the language generally end with IC.

#### Some adjectives ending with ICAL

*biological, chemical, critical, cynical, grammatical, logical, mathematical, mechanical, medical, musical, physical, radical, surgical, tactical, topical*

#### Adjectives with both forms (no difference in meaning)

*algebraic(al), arithmetic(al), egoistic(al), fanatic(al), geometric(al), strategic(al)*

#### Adjectives with both forms and difference in meaning

Examples	Meaning
a <i>classic</i> performance, wine	famous or supreme
<i>classical</i> languages	referring to ancient Rome and Greece
a <i>comic</i> performance	adjective for artistic comedy
his <i>comical</i> behaviour	old fashioned word meaning funny

<i>economic</i> model	in the economy
<i>economical</i> car	money-saving
<i>electric</i> light , motor, blanket	powered by electricity
<i>electrical</i> fault, engineering	of electricity
<i>historic</i> date	making history
<i>historical</i> research	connected with or existing in history
his <i>politic</i> behaviour	tactful, wise, prudent
<i>political</i> parties	connected with politics

### 3. Verb suffixes

Nouns, adjectives + suffix

Suffix	Meaning	Example
IFY	causative	<i>beautify, diversify, codify, amplify, simplify, certify, identify, electrify, purify, dandify</i>
IZE, ISE	causative	<i>decimalise, symbolize, hospitalise, publicise, popularise, legalise, modernise</i>
EN	resultative (less productive now)	<i>ripen, widen, deafen, sadden, quicken</i>

### 4. Adverbs suffixes

Adjective, adverb, noun + suffix

Suffix	Meaning	Example
LY	in a manner	<i>happily, strangely, comically, oddly</i>
WARDS WARD (AmE)	manner and direction	<i>onwards, backwards, homewards, eastwards</i>
WISE	in a manner, concerning	<i>crabwise, clockwise, weather-wise, education-wise</i>



**Questions:**

Render at least 11 suffixes which form denominal nouns (with examples).

Render at least 7 suffixes which form deverbal nouns (with examples).

Render two suffixes which form deverbal adjectives (with examples).

Render at least 13 suffixes which form adjectives derived from nouns, adjectives and numbers (with examples).

Explain the difference between the IC and ICAL forms of the following adjectives.

<b>Examples</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
a <i>classic</i> performance, wine	
<i>classical</i> languages	
a <i>comic</i> performance	
his <i>comical</i> behaviour	
<i>economic</i> model	
<i>economical</i> car	
<i>electric</i> light , motor, blanket	
<i>electrical</i> fault, engineering	
<i>historic</i> date	
<i>historical</i> research	
his <i>politic</i> behaviour	
<i>political</i> parties	

Render 3 verb suffixes (with examples).

Render 3 adverb suffixes (with examples).





## Prefixes (initial affixes)

Prefixation is a process of word building by adding a prefix to the already existing base. The prefix usually changes the lexical meaning but unlike suffixes only seldom changes the part of speech.

### a) Negative prefixes

Prefix	Example	Meaning
NON	<i>non-smoker, non-drip, non-conformist</i>	1. <i>Unrepairable, unreplaceable, unmovable</i> - more absolute than <i>irreparable</i> . 2. <i>Non</i> expresses binary contrast without gradability rather than the opposite end of a scale. Not <i>non-American</i> but rather <i>un-American</i> behaviour. 3. Member and sentence negation: <i>The house was not occupied.</i> <i>The house was unoccupied.</i>
IN	<i>insane, incomplete, inattentive</i>	
IL (before l)	<i>illegal</i>	
IM (before labials)	<i>improper, immovable</i>	
IR (before r)	<i>irregular, irreversible</i>	
DIS	<i>disobey, disloyal, disorder, discontent</i>	
A /æ/, /eɪ/	<i>amoral, asexual, asymmetry, anarchy, atheist /eɪ/</i>	

### b) Reversative and privative prefixes

Prefix	Example
UN	<i>undo, untie, unzip, unpack, unwrap, unleash, unhorse, unmask</i>
DE /di:/	<i>decentralise, decode, defrost, decapitate, deforestation</i>
DIS	<i>disconnect, dispossess, discoloured, discontent</i>



c) Pejorative prefixes

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
MAL	<i>maltreat, malformed, malfunction, malnutrition</i>	badly Verbs with -mal, and -mis tend to be gradable.
MIS	<i>miscalculate, mishear, misfire, misinform, mislead, misconduct</i>	wrongly <i>He very much miscalculated the time required.</i>
PSEUDO	<i>pseudo-classicism, pseudo-intellectual, pseudo-Gothic</i>	imitation

d) Prefixes of degree and size

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
ARCH	<i>archduke, archbishop</i>	Also pejorative meaning: <i>arch-enemy, arch-hypocrite</i> <i>archangel</i> /a:k/ - the prefix stressed.
SUPER	<i>superman, supermarket, supersensitive, superstructure</i>	very special, more than, superior
MEGA	<i>megastore</i>	originally 10 <sup>6</sup> , extremely big
OUT	<i>outrun, outlive, outgrow, outnumber</i>	surpass
OVER	<i>oversimplify, overeat, overestimate, overdressed, overreact, overplay, overconfident, overconscientious</i>	excessive
SUR	<i>surcharge, surtax</i>	over and above
HYPER	<i>hypersensitive, hypercritical, hyperactive</i>	extreme

ULTRA	<i>ultraviolet, ultra-modern, ultra-conservative</i>	extreme, beyond
MINI	<i>minimarket, minibus, miniskirt, minidisc,</i>	
MAXI	<i>maxi-length, maxi-cab, maxilingua</i>	rare - Latin words
MIDI, MID	<i>midnight, midday, mid-season, mid-manager, midicase, midicoat, midiskirt</i>	
SUB	<i>substandard, subnormal, sublet, subdivide</i>	under
UNDER	<i>undercook, underfeed, underprivileged</i>	

e) Prefixes of orientation and attitude

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
CO	<i>co-education, co-operate, co-pilot, co-heir, co-opt, co-ordinate, coexist</i>	jointly, on equal footing
ANTI	<i>anti-social, anti-clerical, anti-clockwise, anti-war</i>	/ænti, æntai/ <i>antibody</i> - stress on the first syllable *Suggests attitude of opposition while <i>counter</i> response to a previous action.
CONTRA	<i>contraindicate, contrafactual, contraproductive, contraflow</i>	opposite
COUNTER	<i>counter-espionage, counter-clockwise, counteract, counterrevolution</i>	*
PRO	<i>pro-Castro pro-communist, pro-American</i>	

f) Locative prefixes

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
FORE	<i>foreground, foreshore forearm, foreleg, forename</i>	front part of
INTER	<i>international, interlinear, intercontinental, intertwine, interweave</i>	
SUB	<i>subway,</i>	under
SUPER	<i>superstructure, superscript</i>	above
TRANS	<i>transatlantic, trans-Siberian, transplant</i>	<i>transport</i> - initial stress
INTRA	<i>intra-uterine, intra-venous</i>	Latin words
EXTRA	<i>extramural, extra-territorial, extra-terrestrial, extrasolar, extra-linguistic</i>	more productive

g) Prefixes of time and order

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
EX	<i>ex-president, ex-husband,</i>	former
FORE	<i>foretell, forewarn, foreknowledge, foreplay, foretaste</i>	before
POST	<i>post-war, post-election, post-classical,</i>	after
PRE /pri:/	<i>pre-war, pre-school, pre-19<sup>th</sup> century, pre-marital pre-heat, pre-cook</i>	before, in advance Also ANTE - <i>antenatal, antediluvian</i>
RE /ri:/	<i>rebuild, reclaim, re-use, recycle</i>	again, back NB. <i>Recover my cushion.</i> vs. <i>Re-cover my cushion.</i>

h) Number prefixes

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
UNI, MONO	<i>unisex, univalve, unilateral, unidirectional monorail, monoplane, monogamy, monolith, monologue, monophthong</i>	one NB. <i>monoxide</i>
BI, DI	<i>biplane, bicycle bilateral, bifocal, bilingual, dichotomy, diode, dioxide, bi-annual</i>	two NB. <i>duo</i>
TRI	<i>tripod, tricycle, trimaran, trimester, trident,</i>	three NB. <i>trio</i>
MULTI, POLY	<i>polyglot, polygon, polygamy, polyandry, polysemy, polytechnic, multi-storey, multilateral, multiracial, multipurpose</i>	many
OTHER	<b><i>quadrangle, quartet, quintet, sextet, pentagon, hexagonal, heptagonal, octagonal, decathlon</i></b>	

i) Miscellaneous neo-classical prefixes

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>AUTO</b>	<i>autosuggestion, autobiography, automation, autocrat</i>	self
<b>NEO</b>	<i>neo-classicism, neo-Gothic, neo-Nazi</i>	revived
<b>PALEO</b>	<i>palaeography, Palaeolithic</i>	old
<b>PAN</b>	<i>pan-African, Pan-American, pan-European</i>	all, universal
<b>PROTO</b>	<i>protoplasm, prototype</i>	first, original
<b>TELE</b>	<i>telegram, telephone, telescope</i>	distant
<b>SEMI</b>	<i>semidetached</i>	half
<b>VICE</b>	<i>vice-president, vice-admiral, viceroy, vice-chairman</i>	deputy



**Key words:**

negative prefixes, reversative prefixes, privative prefixes, pejorative prefixes, prefixes of degree and size, prefixes of orientation and attitude, locative prefixes, prefixes of time and order, number prefixes, neo-classical prefixes

**Questions:**

- Render at least 5 negative prefixes (with examples).
- Render reversative and privative prefixes (with examples).
- Render 3 pejorative prefixes (with examples).
- Render 10 prefixes of degree and size (with examples).
- Render 5 prefixes of orientation and attitude (with examples).
- Render at least 5 locative prefixes (with examples).
- Render 4 prefixes of time and order (with examples).
- Render at least 5 number prefixes (with examples).
- Render the meaning and examples of the following neo-classical prefixes.

**Miscellaneous neo-classical prefixes**

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
AUTO		
NEO		
PALEO		
PAN		
PROTO		
TELE		

SEMI		
VICE		

### **Infixes**

English, unlike other languages, does not have a system of infixes. But people fairly often, if being emphatic or swearing, use this word formation type:

*absobloominglutely*

*kangabloodyroo*

*I don't like intebloodyminillectuals.*

They occur especially with taboo words and have intensifying function.

*Fanfuckingtastic!*

*Infuckingcredible!*

*Unfuckingbelievable!*

## Compounds

### Definition

It is a unit of at least two bases with one primary stress.

### Orthography

- solid: *bedroom*
- hyphenated: *tax-free*
- open: *reading material*

The orthography of compounds is not fixed; it is often influenced by a geographical variant of English or personal stance of the writer.

Example: *flowerpot, flowerpot, flower pot*

### Geographical variants:

BrE: *airbrake, callgirl, drydock, letterwriter*

AmE: *air brake, call girl, dry dock, letter writer*

### Phonology

English compounds are distinguished from syntagmas by means of the **stress**.

There are compounds which, unlike their syntagmatic counterparts, have the **primary stress** on the **first element**:

*blackbird x black bird, greenhouse x green house, blackcap x black cap, childbed, gentleman, bluebell, background, broadcast, typewriter, carferry, sunrise, suitcase, teacup, bell ringer, alms giving, blue jacket, brown shirt, skin head, Yellow Stone, Greenland*

The second group is characteristic of the **secondary stress** on the **first element** and the primary stress on the other:

*loudspeaker, badtempered, secondclass, threewheeler, fancy-dress, cooking apples*

### Classification

#### a) Noun compounds

*subject + deverbial noun*

SUNRISE (*bee-sting, daybreak, earthquake, headache, heartbeat, rainfall, toothache*)

*verb + object*

RATTLESNAKE (*driftwood, flashlight, hangman, playboy, popcorn, tugboat, turntable, watchdog*)

*verbal nouns + subject*

DANCING GIRL (*cleaning woman, firing squad, washing machine*)

## **b) Verb and object compounds**

*object + deverbial noun*

BLOODTEST (*haircut, birth-control, crime report, handshake*)

*object + verbal noun*

SIGHTSEEING (*air-conditioning, book-keeping, brainwashing, housekeeping, story-telling, dressmaking*)

*object + agential noun*

TAXPAYER (*cigar smoker, gamekeeper, matchmaker, songwriter, stockholder, window-cleaner*)

*verb + object*

CALL-GIRL (*drawbridge, knitwear, pin-up girl, punch card, treadmill*)

*verbal noun + object*

CHEWING GUM (*cooking apples, drinking water, reading material*)

### **c) Verbal and adverbial compounds**

*verbal noun + adverbial*

SWIMMING POOL (*diving board, drinking cup, freezing point, frying pan, living room, waiting room, baking powder, sewing machine*)

*adverbial + verbal noun*

DAYDREAMING (*churchgoing, horse riding, sunbathing, sleepwalking, handwriting*)

*adverbial + agential noun*

BABY-SITTER (*backswimmer, city-dweller, factory-owner, playgoer*)

*adverbial + deverbal noun*

HOMEWORK (*filed-work, moon walk, daydream, gunfight*)

*verb + adverbial*

SEARCHLIGHT (*springboard, workbench, grindstone*)

### **d) Verbless compounds**

*noun + noun*

(*cable car, steam engine, oil well, silkworm, tear gas, bloodstain, gaslight, hay fever, doorknob, arrowhead, bottleneck, piano keys, shirt-sleeves, table leg, telephone receiver, window pane, girlfriend, pussy-cat, blinker light, frogman, goldfish, tissue paper, bread-crumbs, fishpond, safety belt*)

*adjective + noun*

(*blackboard, blueprint, dry-dock, madman, madhouse*)

### **e) Adjective compounds**

*object + ing participle*

MAN-EATING (*breath-taking, heart-breaking, life-giving*)

### **f) Verb and adverbial compounds**

*adverbial + ing participle*

OCEAN-GOING (*law-abiding, lip-sucking, fist-fighting*)

*adverbial + ed participle*

HOME-MADE (*suntanned, thunder-struck, airborne, handmade*)

*adjective/adverb + ing participle*

HARD-WORKING (*easy-going, good-looking, everlasting*)

*adjective/adverb + ed participle*

QUICK-FROZEN (*far-fetched, new-laid, wide-spread*)

### **g) Verbless compounds**

*noun + adjective*

CLASS-CONSCIOUS (*rustproof, fireproof, carsick, air-tight, grass-green, bottle-green, ocean-green*)

*adjective + adjective*

SWEDISH-AMERICAN (*bitter-sweet, deaf-mute, Anglo-American, socio-economic*)

### **h) Verb compounds**

*object + verb*

SIGHTSEE (*housekeep, lip-read, brain-wash*)

*adverbial + verb*

SPRING-CLEAN (*baby-sit, bottle-feed, chain-smoke, day-dream, window-shop*)

### **i) Orwellian compoundspeak**

His newspeak uses two kinds of words:

- vocabulary that consists of everyday items
- vocabulary that is ideological

Ideological vocabulary has only compound words, which according to Orwell is a verbal shorthand: *doublethink*, *goodthink*, *oldthink*, *crimethink*, *oldspeak*, *speakwrite*, *thoughtcrime*, *sexcrime*, *prolefeed*, *dayorder*, *blackwhite*, *duckspeak* with no irregular forms in newspeak.

### **Questions:**

How can you identify a compound?

Is the orthography of compounds fixed?

Does the stress placement have any relevance?

How can you classify compounds?

## **Conversion**

### **Definition**

It is a process of forming new words of a different part of speech without affixation.

### **Classification**

#### **a) Primary word class conversion**

##### **Verb ⇒ Noun**

*desire, dismay, doubt, love, smell, taste, want, attempt, fall, hit, laugh, release, search, shutdown, swim*  
*answer, bet, catch, find, hand-out*  
*bore, cheat, coach*  
*cover, wrap, wrench*  
*walk, throw, lie*  
*divide, retreat, rise, turn*

##### **Adjective ⇒ Noun**

*bitter, natural, final, daily, comic, regulars, roast, marrieds*

##### **Noun ⇒ Verb**

*bottle, corner, catalogue, floor, garage, position, coat, commission, grease, mask, muzzle, plaster, core, peel, skin, brake, elbow, fiddle, finger, glue, knife, father, nurse, parrot, pilot referee, cash, cripple, group, mail, ship, telegraph, boat, canoe, motor*

##### **Adjective ⇒ Verb**

*calm, dirty, humble, lower, soundproof, dry, empty, narrow, weary, yellow*

##### **Noun ⇒ Adjective (attributive and predicative)**

*a brick garage ← The garage is brick.*  
*reproduction furniture ← This furniture is reproduction.*  
*Worcester porcelain ← This porcelain is Worcester*  
*a very Oxbridge accent ← His accent is very Oxbridge.*

#### **b) Secondary word-class conversion**



## NOUNS:

### Mass noun ⇒ count noun

*two coffees, two cheeses, some paints, a better bread  
a difficulty, a miserable failure*

### Count noun ⇒ mass noun

*an inch of pencil, a few square feet of floor*

### Proper noun ⇒ common noun

*a Jeremiah, a latter day Plutarch, a Rolls-Royce, ten Players  
Edinburgh is the Athens of the north.*

*He wore Wellingtons.*

*There are several Cambridges in the world.*

### Stative predication ⇒ dynamic predication

*He is a fool.      He is being a fool.*

*He is a hero.      He is being a hero.*

## VERBS:

### Intransitive verb ⇒ transitive verb

*run the business, march the prisoners, dive one's head into the water, fly,  
slither, stop, turn, twist*

### Transitive verb ⇒ intransitive verb

*The clock winds up at the back.*

*Your book reads well.*

*The table polishes up badly.*

*Have you washed yet? (shave)*

*We have eaten already. (cook, drink, hunt, knit, sew, write)*

## ADJECTIVES:

### Non-gradable adjectives ⇒ gradable adjectives

*He's more English than the English.*

## **Pronunciation**

**Lenis and fortis consonants** (lengthening of preceding vowel in verbs and shortening in nouns)

<b>Noun</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Noun</b>	<b>Verb</b>
<i>house</i>	<i>house</i>	<i>thief</i>	<i>thieve</i>
<i>advice</i>	<i>advise</i>	<i>belief</i>	<i>believe</i>
<i>use</i>	<i>use</i>	<i>relief</i>	<i>relieve</i>
<i>abuse</i>	<i>abuse</i>	<i>mouth</i>	<i>mouth</i>
<i>grief</i>	<i>grieve</i>	<i>sheath</i>	<i>sheathe</i>
<i>shelf</i>	<i>shelve</i>	<i>teeth</i>	<i>teethe</i>
<i>half</i>	<i>halve</i>	<i>wreath</i>	<i>wreathe</i>

## **Change in vowel (gradation)**

<b>vowel change</b>	<b>noun</b>	<b>verb</b>
e ⇒ i:	<i>breath</i>	<i>breathe</i>
ɪ ⇒ aɪ	<i>emphasis</i>	<i>emphasise</i>
ʌ ⇒ i:	<i>blood</i>	<i>bleed</i>
u ⇒ i:	<i>food</i>	<i>feed</i>

**Shift of stress** (nouns, adjectives on the first syllable / verbs on the second syllable)

*abstract, compound, compress, conduct, confine, conflict, conscript, consort, construct, contest, contrast, convert, convict, digest, discard, discount, discourse, escort, export, extract, ferment, import, impress, incline, increase, insult, misprint, perfume, permit, pervert, present, produce, progress, protest, rebel, record, refill, refit, refund, regress, reject, resit, segment, survey, suspect, torment, transfer, transform, transplant, transport, upset*

### **Questions:**

What is conversion?

What role does it play in English compared with Czech?

What is the primary and the secondary word class?

Render examples of the primary word class conversion.

Render examples of the secondary word class conversion.

What role does the pronunciation of segments play in the word *class conversion*?

What role does the placement of the stress play in the word *class conversion*?

## Abbreviations

Basically there are two types of abbreviations: initialisms and acronyms.

### Initialism

Particular items which are spoken as individual letters - also called alphabetism. Some use only one initial letter (e.g. *TB*), some two (e.g. *PhD*), and some use even first two letters of the second element (e.g. *GHQ*).

### Acronyms:

Initialisms which are pronounced as single words (e.g. *NATO*, *UNESCO*, *UNPROFOR*). They are always without periods.

Other types of abbreviation are **clipping**, **blending** and **consonantism** .

### Clipping

It is a subtraction of one or more syllables from a word.

Original word	Clipped on the left	Clipped on the right	Clipped on either side
<i>telephone</i>	<i>phone</i>		
<i>airplane</i>	<i>plane</i>		
<i>omnibus</i>	<i>bus</i>		
<i>photograph</i>		<i>photo</i>	
<i>advert</i>		<i>ad</i>	
<i>taxicab</i>		<i>taxi</i>	
<i>examination</i>		<i>exam</i>	
<i>memorandum</i>		<i>memo</i>	
<i>refrigerator</i>			<i>fridge</i>
<i>influenza</i>			<i>flu</i>



## Blending

It is a similar process to compounding but at least one constituent is fragmentary.

<b>Blend</b>	<b>Expression in full</b>
<i>bit</i>	<i>binary digit</i>
<i>breathalyser</i>	<i>breath analyser</i>
<i>electrocute</i>	<i>electro execute</i>
<i>heliport</i>	<i>helicopter airport</i>
<i>motel</i>	<i>motor hotel</i>
<i>paratroops</i>	<i>parachute troops</i>
<i>smog</i>	<i>smoke and fog</i>

## Consonantism and facetious forms

Words are formed by consonants with a minimum use of vowels. They are used mainly in chats and mobile messaging (texting).

Example:

*Luvtlk: Ltl Bt of Luv Txt*  
*Wan2tlk? Ltl Bt of Txt Msgs*  
*u nvr no mght b usfl*  
*Cllr = councillor*

Abbreviations used in texting:

<i>tgif</i>	thank god it's friday	<i>brb</i>	be right back
<i>cmg</i>	call me god	<i>btdt</i>	been there done that
<i>kcmg</i>	kindly call me god	<i>btw</i>	by the way
<i>afaik</i>	as far as I know	<i>cm</i>	call me

<i>atw</i>	at the weekend	<i>cul8r</i>	see you later
<i>bbl</i>	be back later	<i>dk</i>	don't know
<i>bcnu</i>	be seeing you	<i>f?</i>	friends
<i>b4</i>	before	<i>fotcl</i>	falling off the chair laughing

<i>fwiw</i>	for what it's worth	<i>np</i>	no problem
<i>fy</i>	for you	<i>oic</i>	oh I see
<i>fya</i>	for your amusement	<i>otoh</i>	on the other hand
<i>fyi</i>	for your information	<i>pmji</i>	pardon my jumping in
<i>g</i>	grin	<i>rofl</i>	rolling on the floor
<i>gal</i>	get a life	<i>rofl</i>	rolling on the floor laughing
<i>gd&amp;r</i>	grinning, ducking and running	<i>smtoe</i>	sets my teeth on edge
<i>gmta</i>	great minds think alike	<i>s!mt!!oe!!</i>	stronger version of smote
<i>gr8</i>	great	<i>swdyt</i>	so what do you think
<i>hhok</i>	ha ha only kidding	<i>thx, tnx, tx</i>	thanks
<i>ianal</i>	I am not a lawyer, but ...	<i>tia</i>	thanks in advance
<i>icwum</i>	I see what you mean	<i>tmot</i>	trust me on this
<i>imho</i>	in my humble opinion	<i>ttyl</i>	talk to you later
<i>imnsho</i>	in my not so humble opinion		
<i>imo</i>	in my opinion	<i>ttyt</i>	to tell you the truth
<i>iow</i>	in other words	<i>wadr</i>	with all due respect
<i>jam</i>	just a minute	<i>wrt</i>	with respect to
<i>jk</i>	just kidding	<i>wu</i>	what's up?
<i>kc</i>	keep cool	<i>x!</i>	typical woman
<i>lol</i>	laughing out loud	<i>y!</i>	typical man



*AAAAAA – Association for the Alleviation of Asinine Abbreviations and Absurd Acronyms*

**Key words:**

abbreviation, initialism, acronym, consonantism, blending

## 7. Multi-word expressions

### Collocations

#### Definition

A habitual co-occurrence (or mutual selection) of lexical items.

Collocations take into account the **node** (key word) and the **span** (lexical variety the node is linked to).

Can all the lexical juxtapositions be considered collocations? In fact there are also **free combinations**, such as *I like apples / potatoes /*, etc. Lexical items in lexical collocations are always, to some degree, mutually predictable. We *commit a murder* but we do not *commit a home assignment*. Sequences with minimal variety like *run amok* are referred to as **fixed expressions** or **idioms**.

#### LINE (the **node**)

*draw a ~, broken ~, contour ~, crooked ~, curved ~, dotted ~, fine ~, thin ~, heavy ~, thick ~, horizontal ~, parallel ~, perpendicular ~, solid ~, unbroken ~, straight ~, vertical ~, wavy ~ (the **span**)*

#### POLICY

*adhere to a ~, follow a ~, hew to a ~, pursue a ~, take a ~, firm ~, hard ~, official ~, party ~*

#### FLATTERING TALK

*give someone a ~, hand someone a ~*

#### WIRE, PIPE, CONDUIT

*fuel ~, oil ~, sewage ~, steam ~, telegraph ~, telephone ~, high-voltage ~, power ~*

#### BOUNDARY

*city ~, county ~, snow ~, squall ~, state ~, town-ship ~, tree ~, base~, end ~, foul ~, goal ~, service ~, side ~, at a ~, on a ~*

ESTABLISHED POSITION

*hold a ~, battle ~, cease-fire ~, enemy ~s, at a ~, on a ~*

CONVEYOR BELT

*assembly ~, production ~,*

OCCUPATION

*what ~ are you in?*

CONTOUR

*~s of a ship*

LIMIT

*hold the ~, draw the ~, keep the ~*

TURN, ORDER

*in ~ for*

ALIGNMENT

*in ~, out of~*

CONFORMITY

*to the ~, bring someone into ~, keep someone in~, get into ~, get out of~,  
in ~ with*

DYNASTY

*establish a ~, found a ~, unbroken ~, fine ~, nebulous ~, thin ~*

TENDENCY

*along certain ~s, on certain ~s*

DIVISION

*cross a ~, colour ~*

ROPE

*throw a ~ to someone, plumb ~*

### CORD, FISHING DEVICE

*cast a ~, reel in a ~, reel out a ~, fishing ~*

### NOTE

*drop a someone a ~, get a ~ on someone, carry a ~, handle a ~, introduce a ~, discontinue a ~, drop a ~, complete ~, full ~*

### TELEPHONE CONNECTION

*get a ~, give someone a ~, the ~ is busy, the ~ is engaged, outside ~, party ~, hot ~*

### PATH

*follow a ~ (of reasoning), follow the ~ (of least resistance)*

### ROUTE

*introduce a new ~, discontinue a ~, feeder ~, main ~, bus ~, commuter ~, high-speed ~, steamship ~, streetcar ~, tram ~, supply ~s*

### UNIT OF TEXT

*deliver a ~, go over one's ~s, rehearse one's ~s, fluff one's ~s, dull ~*

### ROW OF CHARACTERS

*indent a ~, insert a ~, read between the ~s*

### ROW

*form a ~, picket ~, police ~, receiving ~*

### QUEUE (AmE)

*form a ~, buck (push into) a ~, get into ~, wait in ~, checkout ~, chow (= food) ~*

(Benson, Benson, Ilson: The BBI Combinatory English Dictionary of English, 1986)

In principle we can classify collocations in terms of their occurrence in the phrase.

### **Collocations in the noun phrase**

*She has blond hair.*

*\*She has a blond car.*

*\*She has beige hair.*

*She has a beige car.*

*large/big/great/ problem, amount, shame, town, city, country*

### **Collocations in the verb phrase**

**Do:** *the housework, some gardening, the washing up, homework, your best, the shopping, the cooking, business with*

**Make:** *arrangements, an agreement, a suggestion, a decision, a cup of tea, war, love, an attempt, a phone call, the best of, an effort, an excuse, a mistake, a bed, a profit, a loss, the most of, a noise, an impression, a success of, a point of,*

**Come to:** *allowance for; a gesture, a face, fun of, a fuss of, a go of an agreement, a conclusion, a standstill, an end, a decision, blows, to terms with, one's senses*

**Come into:** *bloom, flower, contact, a fortune, money, a legacy, operation, sight, view, power, existence, fashion, use*

**Put:** *your foot down, all your eggs in one basket, your mind to, two and two together; something in a nutshell, someone's back up, a put-up job*

**Set:** *his heart/sights on, fire to, on fire, foot in, in her ways, a good example*

The knowledge of collocations is the knowledge of which words are most likely to occur together. It is a question of typicality and that is why statements about collocations cannot be absolute (the marked and the unmarked meaning).

**Collocations in poetry – creative collocations**  
(usually adjective-noun collocations are broken)

*After the Funeral* (Dylan Thomas)

[...]

*Her flesh was meek as milk*  
*But this **skyward statue***  
*With the wild breast and*  
*Blessed and **gigant skull***  
*Is carved from her in a room*  
*With a **wet window***  
*In a fiercely mourning house*  
*In a **crooked year.***

[...]

*Fourteen Carols, XIV* (Lawrence Durrell)

[...]

*The puffins sit in a book: the muffins are molten:*  
*The crass clock chimes,*  
*Timely the hour and deserved.*

[...]

muffins + molten

crass + clock

deserved + hour

**Humour**

*I can hear neighing; it must be your mother.*

**Blankety-blank**

It was a very popular show on BBC in the 1980s. Participants had to fill in a missing item in a phrase. It was based on everyday knowledge of collocations. British public considered it a most egalitarian of TV games.

## **Proverbs**

### **Definition**

It is a short, pithy, rhythmical saying expressing a general belief (using alliteration, rhythm, rhyme).

### **General**

*Children should be seen and not heard.*

*Still waters run deep*

*Once bitten, twice shy.*

*Look before you leap.*

*An apple a day keeps the doctor away.*

*A friend in need is a friend indeed.*

*Curiosity killed the cat.*

*Ask no questions, hear no lies.*

*The pen is mightier than the sword.*

### **Scottish**

*Fuils and bairns never ken when they're weel aff.*

*(Fools, children, well off)*

*You canna tak clean water out o a foul wall.*

### **American**

*There's no such thing as a horse that can't be rode or a cowboy that can't be thrown.*

*Another day, another dollar.*

*A friend in power is a friend lost.*

*Never trust a fella that wears a suit.*

*Puttin' feathers on a buzzard don't make it no eagle.*

*Too many Eskimos, too few seals.*

Here are a few common English proverbs. We can analyse them in comparison to the mother tongue.

*Don't count your chickens before they hatch.*

*Never judge a book by its cover.*

*Never look a gift horse in the mouth.*

*Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves.*

*When the cat's away, the mice will play.*

*You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink.*

*One swallow doesn't make a summer.  
There is no smoke without fire.  
Too many cooks spoil the broth.  
People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.  
Many hands make light work.  
A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.  
All that glitters is not gold.  
Absence makes the heart grow fonder.*

## **Idioms**

### **Definition**

The expression that is a unit of meaning and that is grammatically and lexically fixed/frozen. Its meaning cannot be deduced by examining the meanings of the constituent lexemes. Foreign language speakers have to be cautious in the usage of idioms due to a seeming similarity.

Examples:

*cast (one's) pearls before swine*  
(not Czenglish *throw pearls to swines*)

*Put a sock in it!*

(only the fixed form is acceptable; not *on, stockings, etc.*)

### **Classification**

#### **Adjectives and adverbs**

*bad blood, big mouth, dead drunk, high and low, an old flame*

#### **Nouns**

*in the end, on/off line, bottom line, in a word*

#### **Pairs of adjectives**

*alive and kicking, rough and ready, safe and sound*



**Pairs of nouns**

*aches and pains, beer and skittles, board and lodging, body and soul, by dribs and drabs, give and take, hustle and bustle, man to man*

**Pairs of adverbs**

*back to front, by and large, more or less, to and fro*

**Pairs of verbs**

*do or die, forgive and forget, live and let live, sink or swim, wait and see*

**Verbal idioms**

*wipe the floor with someone, sit on the fence*

**Animals**

*a busy bee, an early bird, a home bird, a cat nap, bug someone, chicken feed, chicken out, be no chicken, count one's chickens, dog tired, you can't teach an old dog new tricks, barking dogs seldom bite, a fly in the ointment, cook someone's goose, hold your horses*

**Colours**

*be in the black, black and blue, a black list, a black sheep, a black spot, blue blood, true blue, be green, be in the red, see red*

**Number, size, measurement**

*one's number two, one's opposite number, one at a time, be in two minds*

**Parts of the body**

*twist someone's arm, with open arms, blood is thicker than water, in cold blood, new blood, the brain drain, be all ears, keep an eye on something, have egg on one's face, get one's fingers burnt, set a foot wrong, at first hand, from head to toe, by heart, pull someone's leg, by the skin of one's teeth, step on someone's toes, hold one's tongue, fight tooth and nail*

### **Comparisons**

*as bald as a coot, as black as coal, as black as pitch, as busy as a bee, as clean as a new pin, as drunk as a lord, as fresh as a daisy, as greedy as a pig, as mad as a hatter; be like a bull in a china shop, be like a cat on hot bricks, fit like a glove, drink like a fish, fight like cats and dogs, have a memory like a sieve, sleep like a log*

### **Occurrence**

Quite surprisingly English idioms show a rather low frequency, even in conversation. If we come across them, they rather represent a stereotyped dialogue in fiction than in real conversation.

The **most common verbs** which form idioms in the combination with nouns are **have, take, and make**.

Foreign speakers of English should be aware of the fact that books and dictionaries of idioms usually contain idioms which are slangy, rare or even out of date.

## Phrasal verbs

### Definition

A phrasal verb is a unit comprised of a verb and an adverb particle.

Examples:

*The pain gradually **wore off**.*

*I had to **look after** the children.*

*They **broke out** of prison.*

*Kroop tried to **talk her out of** it.*

### Syntactic aspects

#### transitive verb + adverb

*Don't give the story away, silly!*

*I wouldn't want to give away any secrets.*

#### object = pronoun

*He cleaned it up.*

*I answered him back and took my chances.*

#### transitive verb + adverb + preposition

*Multinational companies can play individual markets off against each other:*

*I'll take you up on that generous invitation.*

#### placement of the object

*She switched off the light.*

*She switched the light off.*

*Give me back my watch.*

*She switched it off.*

Particles can go before or after noun objects (except multi-word objects which go always after the particle). But particles can only go after pronoun objects.

**List of inseparable phrasal verbs** (the adverb particle cannot be separated from the verb by another sentence element):

*back out of* – desert, fail to keep a promise  
*bear down on* - lean on, browbeat  
*bear on* – have, to do with  
*bear up under* – endure  
*break in on* – interrupt  
*break into* – interrupt  
*call for* - come to get, require  
*care for* – like, guard, supervise, maintain  
*carry on with* – continue  
*catch up with* - cover the distance between oneself and  
*check up on* – examine, verify  
*come across* - find accidentally  
*come along with* – accompany, make progress  
*come by* - find accidentally  
*come down with* - become ill with  
*come out with* – utter, produce  
*come up with* – utter, produce  
*count on* - rely on  
*cut in on* – interrupt  
*disagree with* - cause illness or discomfort to  
*do away with* – abolish  
*do without* - deprive oneself of  
*drop in at/on* – visit casually without planning  
*drop out of* – leave, quit  
*face up to* – acknowledge  
*fall behind in* – lag, not progress at required pace  
*fall back on* - use for emergency purpose  
*fall out with* - quarrel with  
*fill in for* - substitute for  
*get ahead of* – surpass, beat  
*get around* – evade, avoid  
*get away with* - do without being caught or punished

*get by with* - manage with a minimum of effort  
*get down to* - become serious about, consider  
*get in* - enter (a vehicle)  
*get off* - descend from, leave  
*get on* - enter (a vehicle), mount  
*get on with* - proceed with  
*get through with* - terminate, finish  
*go back on* – desert, fail to keep (a promise)  
*go for* - like a great deal  
*go in for* - be interested in, participate in  
*go on with* – continue  
*go over* – review  
*go with* - harmonize with, look pleasing together  
*go without* - abstain from  
*hang around* - remain idly in the vicinity of  
*hear from* - receive a communication from  
*hear of* - learn about (sometimes accidentally)  
*hit on* - discover accidentally  
*hold on to* - grasp tightly  
*hold out against* – resist  
*keep at* - persevere at  
*keep to* - persist in, continue  
*keep up with* - maintain the pace  
*lie down on* – evade, fail to do  
*live on* - support or sustain oneself by means of  
*live up to* - maintain the standard demanded of  
*look after* - take care of  
*look back on* - remember nostalgically  
*look down on* - feel superior to  
*look forward to* – anticipate

*look up to* – respect, admire  
*make up for* - compensate for  
*pass on* – transmit  
*pick on* – tease, bully  
*play up to* - flatter for personal advantage  
*put up with* – tolerate  
*read up on* - search out information on  
*run against* - compete against in an election  
*run away with* – leave, escape from  
*run for* - campaign for  
*see about* – consider, arrange  
*see to* – arrange, supervise  
*settle on* - decide on, choose  
*stand for* – represent, permit

*stand up for* – support, demand  
*stand up to* – resist  
*stick to* – persist  
*stick up for* – support, defend  
*take after* – resemble  
*talk back to* - answer impolitely  
*talk over* – discuss  
*tell on* - report misbehaviour to authority  
*touch on* - mention briefly  
*turn into* – become  
*wait on* – serve  
*wait up for* - not go to bed while waiting for  
*watch out for* - be careful for

## **Occurrence**

Phrasal verbs are common in fiction and conversation. They are rather rare in academic prose.

About 75% of the overall number are activity verbs:

Intransitive: *come on, get up, sit down, come over, stand up, step up, go off, shut up, come along, sit up, go ahead, walk in, move in, look out, get on*

Transitive: *get in, pick up, put on, make up, carry out, take up, take on, get back, get off, look up, set up, take off, take over, bring in, build up, fill in, keep up, pull up, pull down, put in, put up, set out, sort out, take away, take in, take out, turn on, wake up, work out*

Other common phrasal verbs:

Mental transitive: *make out*

Communicative transitive: *bring up, call in*

Occurrence intransitive: *break down, grow up, set in*

Aspectual intransitive: *carry on, go ahead, hang on*

Aspectual transitive: *keep on, start off*

The most common adverbial particles in phrasal verbs are:  
*up, out, on, in, off* and *down*

## **Prepositional verbs**

### **Definition**

Prepositional verbs consist of the base verb and the preposition.

### **Classification**

NP + verb + preposition + NP

*I have never even thought about it.*

NP + verb + NP + verb+ preposition + NP

*I think the media is falsely accused of a lot of things.*

### **Most common prepositional verbs:**

Activity verbs: *look at, look for, go for, go through, wait for, deal with, pay for, get into, turn to, play with, stare at, glance at, smile at, play for, serve as; be applied to, be used in, do NP for, be made of, be aimed at, send NP to, give NP to, be derived from, fill NP with, be accused of, be charged with, be jailed for, be divided into, obtain NP from, use NP as*

Communication verbs : *talk to, talk about, speak to, ask for, refer to, write to, speak of, call for; say to NP, be expressed in*

Mental verbs: *be known as, be seen in, be regarded as, be seen as, be considered as, be defined as*

Causative verbs: *lead to, come from, result in, contribute to, allow for; be required for*

Occurrence verbs: *look like, happen to, occur in*

Verbs of existence or relationship: *depend on, belong to, account for, consist of, differ from; be based on, be involved in, be associated with, be included in, be composed of*



**Most productive prepositional verbs:**

<b>Lexical verb</b>	<b>Number of prepositional forms</b>
<i>get</i>	5
<i>look</i>	5
<i>work</i>	4
<i>go</i>	3
<i>know</i>	3
<i>hear</i>	3
<i>use</i>	3

<b>Preposition</b>	<b>Number of prepositional verbs</b>
<i>to</i>	21
<i>with</i>	14
<i>for</i>	16
<i>in</i>	13
<i>on</i>	12
<i>into</i>	7
<i>about</i>	6
<i>of</i>	6

<i>at</i>	6
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## **Phraseological units**

### **Definition**

Phraseological units are recurring word chains that can usually be found in literature.

### **Sources:**

#### **Literature**

*make a virtue of necessity, marriage is a lottery, far from the madding crowd, fools rush where angels fear to tread, a nation of shop-keepers, small talk, anything for a quiet life, how goes the enemy, catch somebody red-handed, a skeleton in the closet (cupboard)*

Proper names: *Man Friday, Uriah Heap, Sherlock Holmes, the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street*

#### **The Bible**

*at the eleventh hour, cast pearls before swine, the olive branch, rule with a rod of iron, cast the first stone at somebody, daily bread, thirty pieces of silver, a wolf in sheep's clothing, see eye to eye, a doubting Thomas, forbidden fruit, a prodigal son, the voice of crying in the wilderness*

#### **Classical mythology**

*Achilles' heel, the apple of discord, the golden age, a labour of Sisyphus, sow dragon's teeth, the Trojan horse, rest on one's laurels, the die is cast, the sinews of war*

#### **Various languages**

*after us the deluge, all roads lead to Rome, burn the candle on both ends, it goes without saying, let us return to our muttons, punctuality is the politeness of princes, he laughs best who laughs last, let sleeping dogs lie, cry havoc, curry favour, French letters*

*a storm in a cup of tea, lead somebody by the nose, necessity is the mother of invention, blood and iron, the mailed fist, one's place in the sun, the fifth column, the knight of the Rueful Countenance, tilt at wind mills, still life, every dog is a lion at home, lose face*

**American English**

*blaze a trail, bread and butter, sell like hot cakes, sit on the fence, strike oil, time is money, the almighty dollar, bury the hatchet, dig up the hatchet, smoke the pipe of peace, the call of the wind, gone with the wind, a big stick policy, pie in the sky, the cold war*

## **Catch phrase**

### **Definition**

It is a phrase of a certain origin that people adopt in everyday conversation (it is catchy). Its role is to facilitate social communication.

Example:

*What's up doc?* – Bugs Bunny

*Here's another fine mess you've gotten me into* – Oliver Hardy

*You cannot be serious.* – John McEnroe

*Phone home.* – ET

*Elementary, my dear Watson.* – Sherlock Holmes

*Houston, we have a problem.* - Apollo 13

### **Slogans**

Originally a battle-cry of a Scottish clan. Linguistically they are like proverbs – short with a strong rhythm.

*Safety first.*

*Beans means Heinz.*

*Ban the Bomb.*

*Walls have ears.*

*Make love not war.*

*When you need aspirin drink Disprin.*

*Guinness is good for you.*

*Put a tiger in your tank.* (Esso)

*It's fingerlickin' good.* (Kentucky Fried Chicken)

### **Miscellaneous**

*in the long run, drink like fish, sleep like a log, have something up one's sleeve, to cut the Gordian knot, hit the nail on the head, sink and swim, rob Peter to pay Paul, make a mountain of a molehill*

## Lexical bundles (lexical phrases)

Owing to the character of the English language a new approach has been adopted. It is the concept of the **lexical bundles**.

### Definition

Lexical bundles are identified empirically as the combinations of words that in fact recur most commonly in a given register.

The most common type of lexical bundles consists of three words. It is actually a sort of extended collocational association.

Four-word, five-word, and six-word bundles have a significant phrasal character and are obviously less frequent. For example, the four-word lexical bundles represent only 10% of the three-word lexical bundles and by the same token we can speak about the four- and five-word bundles.

### Proportional distribution of four-word lexical bundles across the major structural patterns in each register

(Biber: LGSWE)

	CON V	ACA D	example
<b>patterns more widely used in conversation</b>			
personal pronoun + lexical verb phrase (+ complement clause)	44%	—	<i>I don't know what</i>
pronoun/NP (+ auxiliary) + copula be (+)	8%	2%	<i>it was in the</i>
(auxiliary+) active verb (+)	13%	—	<i>have a look at</i>
yes-no and <i>wh</i> -question fragment	12%	—	<i>can / have a</i>

(verb +) <i>wh</i> -clause fragment	4%	—	<i>know what I mean</i>
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	CON V	ACA D	example
<b>patterns more widely used in academic prose</b>			
noun phrase with post-modifier fragment	4%	30%	<i>the nature of the</i>
preposition + noun phrase fragment	3%	33%	<i>as a result of</i>
anticipatory it + VP/adjective P (+ complement-clause)	—	9%	<i>it is possible to</i>
passive verb + PP fragment	—	6%	<i>it is based on the</i>
(verb +) that-clause fragment	1%	5%	<i>should be noted that</i>

	CON V	ACAD	example
<b>patterns used in both registers</b>			
(verb/adjective +) to-clause fragment	5%	9%	<i>are likely to be</i>





**Key words:**

collocation, proverb, idiom, phrasal verb, inseparable phrasal verb, prepositional verb, phraseological unit, catch phrase, slogan, lexical bundle

**Questions:**

What are the principal components of the collocation?

Give an example.

Render five examples of collocations in the NP.

Render five examples of collocations in the VP.

What role does the collocation play in poetry?

What is used in proverbs in terms of the spoken form?

Render two English proverbs which have a full equivalent in Czech, another two with a partial equivalent and the last two with a zero equivalent in Czech.

What are idioms and how can you classify them?

Give some examples of idioms with colours and parts of the body.

What can you say about the frequency of idioms in everyday language?

What are phrasal verbs and what role do they play in English?

What can you say about the placement of the object?

In which register are they used most often?

Which type of verb is mostly used as a phrasal verb?

What are prepositional verbs and how do we classify them?

Which types of verbs are used most often in this category? Render examples.

Render examples of phraseological units which come from the Bible and classical mythology.

What is the catch phrase and what is its role?

Render a few examples of the catch phrase in English and Czech.

What are slogans? Render a few examples.

What are lexical bundle and how do we classify them?

Render four examples of four-word lexical bundles.

## 8. Englishes

English is a national language used in Great Britain, Ireland, U.S.A., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. It is also a priority language in Gibraltar, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Israel, Sudan, Kenya, Singapore, and Jamaica, Bahamas and many other places.

### Lexical differences of various forms of English:

#### Irish English

*bainne* – milk  
*ball of malt* - a glass of whiskey  
*bláthach* –buttermilk  
*bonnyclabber* - soured milk  
*borreen-brack* - a cake with currants and raisins in it  
*boxty* - pancake made from raw potatoes

*broughan* - oatmeal porridge  
*coddle* - a kind of stew made up of meat and vegetables  
*colcannon* - dish of white cabbage and potatoes  
*spuds* - potatoes  
*tea* - in Hiberno-English main evening meal

#### Scottish English - Scots

*bairn* – child  
*ben* – mountain  
*cairn* - a heap of stones set up as a landmark  
*capercailzie* - a large grouse  
*ceilidh* - a party/gathering  
*claymore* - a two-handed sword  
*dike/dyke* – wall around a field  
*gillie* - a hunting or fishing guide  
*glen* - a small, narrow, secluded valley

*ingle* - a fire burning in a hearth  
*loch* – lake  
*laird* – landowner  
*lad* – boy  
*lass* – girl  
*eye* – yes  
*pibroch* - a piece of music for the bagpipe  
*sporrán* - a large pouch for men, commonly of fur, worn, suspended from a belt, in front of the kilt

## Restricted only to Scots

*airt* - direction  
*ay-* always  
*dominie-* teacher  
*dreich-* dreary  
*fash-* bother  
*high-heid-yin-* boss

*janitor-* caretaker  
*kirk-* church  
*outwith-* outside of  
*pinkie-* little finger  
*swither-* hesitate

## Difference in meaning

English	Scots meaning
<i>scheme</i>	local government, housing estate
<i>mind</i>	memory, recollection
<i>travel</i>	go on foot
<i>gate</i>	road

## Language of law

England and Wales	Scotland
<i>barrister</i>	<i>advocate</i>
<i>arbitrator</i>	<i>arbiter</i>
<i>arrest</i>	<i>apprehension</i>
<i>blackmail</i>	<i>extortion</i>
<i>arson</i>	<i>fire-raising</i>
<i>defendant</i>	<i>defender</i>
<i>injunction</i>	<i>interdict</i>

<i>alimony</i>	<i>aliment</i>
<i>probate</i>	<i>confirmation</i>
<i>manslaughter</i>	<i>culpable homicide</i>
<i>tort</i>	<i>delict</i>

## Welsh English

*del* – dear

*Duw* – God

*eisteddfod* – art festival

*llymru* – porridge dish

*nain* – grandma

*rise the drink* – buy the drink

*taid* – grandpa

## Australian English

It is estimated that circa 10 000 English words are of Australian origin.

*banksia* – any Australian shrub or tree of the genus *Banksia*, having alternate leaves and dense, cylindrical flower heads *barramundi* – fish, black swan

*brush* – dense vegetation, bush, bushman, bushranger

*galah* – an Australian cockatoo (Kakatoe roseicapilla) having rose-colored underparts

*mallee* – tree

*crook* – bad, unpleasant, ill

*arvo* – afternoon

*dinkum* – true, genuine

*bushed* – lost

*to waddy* – attack with a club

*bowyang* – trouser strap

*paddock* – field

*tube* – tin of beer

*pommy* – English immigrant

*Pommyland* – Australia

*swagman* – hobo, tramp

*billabong* – pond

*coolibah* – eucalyptus

*tucker* – food

*cobber* – mate

*chook* – chicke

*lay-weekender* – holiday cottage

*drongo* – fool

*do a U-y* – do a U-turn

*joker* – person

*larrikin* – hooligan

*poofster* – effeminate male

*sheila* – girl

*dingo* – dog

*kookaburra* – an Australian kingfisher (*Dacelo gigas*)

having a loud, harsh cry that resembles laughter, also called laughing jackass

*wallaby* – small and medium-sized kangaroos

*corroboree* – ceremonial dance

*boomerang*

*koal*

**Idioms:** *bald as bandicoot, scarce as rocking-horse manure, look like a consumptive kangaroo, bring a plate* (bring some food to

share), *full as a goog* (drunk), *amber* (fluid, beer)

### **New Zealand English**

*bach* – holiday house  
*dwang* – timber floor strut  
*hoot* – money  
*superette* – small supermarket  
*wahine* – woman

*wop-wops* – suburbs  
*hurray* – good-bye  
*lamburger*

### **Canadian English**

*pogey* – dole  
*clumper* – small iceberg  
*bush pilot* – pilot supplying people in distant places  
*habitant* – French Canadian  
*tuque* – cap  
*bateau* – small boat

### **Indian English**

(including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka)

*change room* – dressing room  
*to four-twenty* – cheat  
*cousin-sister* – cousin  
*co-brother* – wife's sister's husband  
*eve-teasing* – teasing of girls  
*jawan* – soldier  
*tiffin* – lunch  
*crore* – 10 mil.  
*lakh* – 100 000  
*tonga* – two-wheeled vehicle  
*dandy* – man who is excessively concerned about his clothes and appearance

*ricksha* – vehicle  
*sari* – dress  
*peon* – messenger, foot soldier  
*sahib* – sir  
*ghee* – a kind of liquid butter, which is used esp. in the cooking of India, made from the milk of cows or buffaloes and clarified by boiling  
*Sri* – Mr  
*dhobi* – washerman  
*lathi* – a heavy pole or stick, esp. one used as a club by police  
*pukha* – very good

## South African English

*veld* - the open country, bearing grass, bushes, or shrubs, or thinly forested

*koppie* – small hill

*dorp* – village

*biltong* - strips of lean meat dried in the open air

*baas* – boss

*bioscope* – cinema

*brak* – salty soil

*lekker* – excellent

*kraal* - an enclosure for cattle and other domestic animals in southern Africa, a village of the native peoples of South Africa, usually surrounded by a stockade or the like and often having a central space for livestock

## Pidgin English

It is a system of communication which developed among people who did not share the same language.

Pidgin English covers altogether 31 forms:

Gambian Creole, Sierra Leone Krio, Liberian Creole and Kru, Ghanaian Pidgin English, Togolese Pidgin English, Nigerian Pidgin English, Cameroon Pidgin English, Fernando Po Pidgin English, American Indian Pidgin English, Black English, Gullah (North of Florida), Bahamian, Belizean, Costa Rican, Jamaican, Leeward Islands Creole (Caribbic), Windward Islands Creole (Caribbic), Barbadian, Trinibagian, Creolese, Surinamese Creoles, Hawaiian Creole, Indian Pidgins (India), China Coast Pidgin, Bamboo Pidgin (Japan), Tok Pisin (New Guinea), Solomon Islands Pisin, Bislama, Australian Creoles, Pitcairnese and Norfolkese, Tristan da Cunha

**Example:**

Tok Pisin (Papua New Guinea – New Testament, Crystal)

*King i amamas tru. Em i tokim ol i mas pulim Daniel i kam antap.*

*Na King i singautim ol bigpela man i laik kilim Daniel i dai.*

*Yupela i laik bagarapim Daniel a? Orait mi bekim yupela stret.*

*Yupela gat, putim ol long hul bilong laion.*

*Mi darais, mi tokim olgeta pipel bilong Bebilon, ol i mas givim biknem long God bilong Daniel.*

*Daniel i wok inap long em i dai na i helpim [...]*

**Key to vocabulary:**

*a* – emphasis

*amamas* – be happy (Malay)

*antap* – on top

*autim* – made

*bagarapim* – ruin (bugger up)

*bekim* – give back

*bigpela* – big fellow

*bilip* – believe

*bilong* – belong

*bosim* - rule

*dai* – die

*em* – he/him

*gat* – get

*gutpela* – good fellow

*inap* – can (enough)

*kilim* – kil

*laik* – want

*lo* – law

*mas* – must

*mi* – I

*na* – and

*ol* – them all

*orait* – all right, fix

*pipel* – people

*singautim* – call/shout

*stret* – straight away

*tokim* – tell

*tru* – very much

*wanpela* – one fellow

*wok* – work

*yupela* – you fellow

Tok Pisin is spoken by 1 million people and spread by a local newspaper Wantok.



**Questions:**

What are Englishes?

Render a list of Englishes you know.

Give a few examples of differences in meaning between BrE and Scots.

Render a few examples of Welsh, Australian, New Zealand, Canadian, Indian and South African English.

How many English lexical items come from Australia?

What is Pidgin English?

Where is it spoken and by how many people?

## 9. American English word stock

American English is not considered a separate language but a geographical variety of English used in the United States. Its grammar and vocabulary is practically the same because it has its literary standardized form (Standard American).

### Americanism

#### Definition

- a word which originated in America, having a different meaning in Britain (e.g. *elevator*)
- a word which originated in America and is now used in BrE (e.g. *supermarket*)
- a word originally British, now used in America; in Britain rather in a dialect (e.g. *apartment*)

#### Borrowings

**BrE:** *A-level, back bencher, commoner, au-pair, bank holiday, constable, bloody, digs*

**Dutch:** *boss, waffle*

**Indian:** *totem, igloo, kayak, moccasin, canoe, wigwam, squaw, toboggan*; loans/calques: *bury the hatchet, as long as the grass grows, pale face, peacepipe, on the warpath*

**French:** *gopher*

**German:** *Diesel, schlag, schnaps, kirschwasser, bratwurst, blitzkrieg, gestapo, hamburger, heimweh, Gesundheit* (as a greeting), *Katzenjammer* (cf. Czech *kocovina*), *rucksack, aspirin, pretzel, wiener, bock*

**Italian:** *pizza, antipasto, mafia, Cosa Nostra, capo*

**Scandinavian:** *smorgasboard* - buffet meal of various hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, salads, casserole dishes, meats, cheeses

**Slavic:** *kielbasa, robot, piroshky, kolacky*

**Spanish:** *albino, alligator, bravado, canyon, creole, embargo, hurricane, macho, mulatto, peccadillo, savannah, tornado; adobe, alfalfa, armadillo, barbecue, bonanza, bonito, bronco, buckaroo, burro, corral, dago, desperado, fiesta, filibuster, frijoles, grandee, Gringo, hacienda, hombre, javelina, lasso, mustang, patio, plaza, poncho, pueblo, ranch, rodeo, Sierra, sombrero, stampede, taco, tequila, tortilla, vaquero, vigilante*

**Yiddish:** *bagel, Chanuka, ghetto, kibbutz, kosher, menorah, chutzpah, goyshe, klutz, schlemiel, schlimazel, schmedrick, schiksa, schmaltz, schmeikle, schmuck, schnorre, shtick, shekels, schlock*  
**Other:** shogun, tycoon (Japanese); *alpaca, condor, cougar, coyote, curacao* (originally South American)

**Differences in meaning** (approximate)

	<b>British English</b>	<b>American English</b>
<b>Same word, different meaning</b>		
<i>homely</i>	domestic, down to earth	ugly, plain
<i>pavement</i>	footpath	road surface
<b>Same word, additional meaning in one variety – added in US</b>		
<i>bathroom</i>	bath, shower	toilet
<b>Same word, additional meaning in one variety – added in GB</b>		
<i>leader</i>	an editorial	one who leads
<i>rug</i>	a thick wrap, coverlet	a thick carpet
<b>Same word, different style, connotation, frequency</b>		
<i>autumn</i>	common	uncommon, poetic (fall)
<i>fortnight</i>	common	poetic (two weeks)
<b>Same concept or item but different word</b>		
	<i>tap</i>	<i>faucet</i>
	<i>silencer</i>	<i>muffler</i>
	<i>off-licence</i>	<i>liquor store</i>
	<i>estate car</i>	<i>station wagon</i>
	<i>custard</i>	<i>pudding</i>

	<i>petrol</i>	<i>gas</i>
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## Selection of American and British words

<b>American English</b>	<b>British English</b>	<b>American English</b>	<b>British English</b>
<i>absorbent cotton</i>	<i>cotton wool</i>	<i>French doors</i>	<i>French windows</i>
<i>administration</i>	<i>government</i>	<i>French fries</i>	<i>chips</i>
<i>airplane</i>	<i>aeroplane</i>	<i>garbage</i>	<i>rubbish</i>
<i>allowance</i>	<i>pocket money</i>	<i>garters</i>	<i>suspenders</i>
<i>aluminum</i>	<i>aluminium</i>	<i>gasoline</i>	<i>petrol</i>
<i>antenna</i>	<i>aerial</i>	<i>girl Scout</i>	<i>girl guide</i>
<i>apartment building</i>	<i>block of flats</i>	<i>grab bag</i>	<i>lucky dip</i>
<i>Archie Bunker</i>	<i>Alf garnet</i>	<i>grade crossing</i>	<i>level crossing</i>
<i>ash can</i>	<i>dustbin</i>	<i>ground/chopped meat</i>	<i>mince</i>
<i>ass</i>	<i>arse</i>	<i>hard liquor</i>	<i>spirits</i>
<i>auto</i>	<i>car</i>	<i>homemaker</i>	<i>home help</i>
<i>baby carriage</i>	<i>pram</i>	<i>hot water heater</i>	<i>immersion heater</i>
<i>back-up</i>	<i>tailback</i>	<i>charge account</i>	<i>credit account</i>
<i>baggage</i>	<i>luggage</i>	<i>check</i>	<i>bill</i>
<i>baseboard</i>	<i>skirting board</i>	<i>checkers</i>	<i>draughts</i>
<i>bathroom</i>	<i>lavatory/toilet</i>	<i>checking account</i>	<i>current account</i>
<i>bathtub</i>	<i>bath</i>	<i>ice cream</i>	<i>ice</i>
<i>beltway</i>	<i>ring road</i>	<i>instalment plan</i>	<i>hire purchase</i>

<i>Big Dipper</i>	<i>the Plough</i>	<i>intermission</i>	<i>interval</i>
<i>bill</i>	<i>note</i>	<i>intern</i>	<i>houseman</i>
<i>billboard</i>	<i>hoarding</i>	<i>internal revenue service</i>	<i>inland revenue</i>
<i>billfold</i>	<i>wallet</i>	<i>Jack</i>	<i>knave (cards)</i>
<i>biscuit</i>	<i>scone</i>	<i>jell-O</i>	<i>jelly</i>
<i>blue jeans</i>	<i>jeans (blue denim)</i>	<i>jelly roll</i>	<i>Swiss roll</i>
<i>bobby pin</i>	<i>hair pin</i>	<i>John Q Public</i>	<i>Joe Public</i>
<i>bookstore</i>	<i>bookshop</i>	<i>kerosene</i>	<i>paraffin</i>
<i>Bronx cheer</i>	<i>raspberry</i>	<i>labor union</i>	<i>trade union</i>
<i>building permit</i>	<i>planning permission</i>	<i>lawyer</i>	<i>solicitor</i>
<i>bulletin board</i>	<i>notice board</i>	<i>leash</i>	<i>lead</i>
<i>bureau</i>	<i>chest of drawers</i>	<i>lemon soda</i>	<i>lemonade</i>
<i>business suit</i>	<i>lounge suit</i>	<i>liability insurance</i>	<i>third-party insurance</i>
<i>caboose</i>	<i>guard's van</i>	<i>licence plate</i>	<i>number plate</i>
<i>call-in</i>	<i>phone-in</i>	<i>line</i>	<i>queue</i>
<i>can</i>	<i>tin</i>	<i>mail</i>	<i>post</i>
<i>candy</i>	<i>sweets</i>	<i>mailbox</i>	<i>pillar box</i>
<i>car</i>	<i>carriage, wagon</i>	<i>math</i>	<i>maths</i>
<i>car/automobile</i>	<i>motorcar</i>	<i>molasses</i>	<i>treacle</i>
<i>carryall</i>	<i>holdall</i>	<i>mom, mommy</i>	<i>mum, mummy</i>
<i>casket</i>	<i>coffin</i>	<i>moving van</i>	<i>removal van</i>
<i>catsup</i>	<i>ketchup</i>	<i>nail polish</i>	<i>nail varnish</i>

<i>clothespin</i>	<i>clothes peg</i>	<i>news dealer</i>	<i>newsagent</i>
<i>comforter</i>	<i>eiderdown</i>	<i>nightgown</i>	<i>nightdress</i>
<i>conductor (train)</i>	<i>guard</i>	<i>orchestra</i>	<i>stalls</i>
<i>cookie</i>	<i>biscuit</i>	<i>pants suit</i>	<i>trouser suit</i>
<i>corn</i>	<i>maize</i>	<i>pantyhose</i>	<i>tights</i>
<i>cot</i>	<i>camp bed</i>	<i>pit</i>	<i>stone (fruit)</i>
<i>cotton candy</i>	<i>candy floss</i>	<i>popsicle, ice</i>	<i>ice lolly</i>
<i>county seat</i>	<i>county town</i>	<i>public school</i>	<i>state school</i>
<i>crepe</i>	<i>pancake</i>	<i>racetrack</i>	<i>racecourse</i>
<i>crib</i>	<i>cot</i>	<i>railroad</i>	<i>railway</i>
<i>crossing guard</i>	<i>lollipop man/ woman</i>	<i>raise</i>	<i>rise (salary)</i>
<i>crosstie tie</i>	<i>sleeper</i>	<i>ramp</i>	<i>slip road</i>
<i>(trouser) cuff</i>	<i>turn-up (trousers)</i>	<i>rest room</i>	<i>WC</i>
<i>depot</i>	<i>railway Station</i>	<i>row boat</i>	<i>rowing boat</i>
<i>Derby</i>	<i>Bowler hat</i>	<i>row house</i>	<i>terraced house</i>
<i>desk clerk</i>	<i>reception clerk</i>	<i>rummage sale</i>	<i>jumble sale</i>
<i>detour</i>	<i>diversion</i>	<i>run</i>	<i>ladder (hosiery)</i>
<i>dial tone</i>	<i>dialling tone</i>	<i>Rutabaga</i>	<i>Swede</i>
<i>diaper</i>	<i>nappy</i>	<i>sailboat</i>	<i>sailing boat</i>
<i>dish towel</i>	<i>tea towel</i>	<i>salesclerk</i>	<i>shop assistant</i>
<i>divided highway</i>	<i>dual carriageway</i>	<i>saltshaker</i>	<i>saltcellar</i>

<i>dollhouse</i>	<i>doll's house</i>	<i>scallion</i>	<i>spring onion</i>
<i>dormitory</i>	<i>hall of residence</i>	<i>shopping cart</i>	<i>trolley</i>
<i>draft</i>	<i>conscription</i>	<i>shrimp cocktail</i>	<i>prawn cocktail</i>
<i>drapes</i>	<i>curtains</i>	<i>sidewalk</i>	<i>pavement</i>
<i>driver's licence</i>	<i>driving licence</i>	<i>signal tower</i>	<i>signal box</i>
<i>druggist</i>	<i>pharmacist</i>	<i>sneakers</i>	<i>trainers</i>
<i>dry goods</i>	<i>drapery/soft goods</i>	<i>solitaire</i>	<i>patience (cards)</i>
<i>dump truck</i>	<i>tipper lorry</i>	<i>squash</i>	<i>marrow</i>
<i>eighth note</i>	<i>quaver</i>	<i>stroller</i>	<i>pushchair</i>
<i>electric cord</i>	<i>flex</i>	<i>subway</i>	<i>tube</i>
<i>elementary school</i>	<i>primary school</i>	<i>subway</i>	<i>underground</i>
<i>elevator</i>	<i>lift</i>	<i>sweater/pullover</i>	<i>jumper</i>
<i>emergency cord</i>	<i>communication cord</i>	<i>swinging door</i>	<i>swing door</i>
<i>engineer</i>	<i>engine driver</i>	<i>telephone booth</i>	<i>telephone box/kiosk</i>
<i>eraser</i>	<i>rubber</i>	<i>telephone pole</i>	<i>telegraph pole</i>
<i>exhaust fan</i>	<i>extractor fan</i>	<i>tick-tack-toe</i>	<i>noughts and crosses</i>
<i>expressway</i>	<i>motorway</i>	<i>track</i>	<i>line (rail)</i>
<i>fall</i>	<i>autumn</i>	<i>track meet</i>	<i>sports (school)</i>
<i>fanny</i>	<i>buttocks</i>	<i>traffic circle</i>	<i>roundabout</i>
<i>faucet</i>	<i>tap</i>	<i>truck stop</i>	<i>transport café</i>
<i>fender</i>	<i>mudguard</i>	<i>underpants</i>	<i>pants</i>



<i>fire department</i>	<i>fire brigade</i>	<i>underpass/ tunnel</i>	<i>subway</i>
<i>first floor</i>	<i>ground floor</i>	<i>undershirt</i>	<i>vest</i>
<i>flashlight</i>	<i>torch</i>	<i>vacation</i>	<i>holiday</i>
<i>flat</i>	<i>puncture</i>	<i>valve</i>	<i>stopcock</i>
<i>floor lamp</i>	<i>standard lamp</i>	<i>vest</i>	<i>waistcoat</i>
<i>flutist</i>	<i>flautist</i>	<i>wrench</i>	<i>spanner</i>
<i>football</i>	<i>American football</i>	<i>zero</i>	<i>nought</i>
<i>freeway</i>	<i>motorway</i>	<i>zero, nothing</i>	<i>nil</i>
<i>freight train</i>	<i>goods train</i>	<i>zip code</i>	<i>post code</i>

### University teachers

<b>United States</b>	<b>Great Britain</b>
<i>Instructor</i>	<i>(Assistant) lecturer</i>
<i>Assistant professor</i>	<i>Senior lecturer</i>
<i>Associate professor</i>	<i>Reader</i>
<i>Professor</i>	<i>Professor</i>

### Differences in pronunciation (segmental pronunciation)

Form	Received pronunciation	General American
<i>anchovy</i>	'æntʃəvi / æn'tʃəvi	'æntʃəʊvi
<i>ate</i>	et / eit	eit
<i>chassis</i>	ʃæsi	tʃæsi
<i>clerk</i>	klɑ:k	klɜ:k
<i>chopper</i>	tʃɒpə	tʃɑ:pər
<i>Derby</i>	dɑ:bi	dɜ:bi
<i>fracas</i>	fræka:	freikəs
<i>geyser</i>	gi:zə / gaizə	gaizə
<i>gossamer</i>	gɒsəmə	gɑ:səmə
<i>goulash</i>	gu:læʃ	gu:la:ʃ
<i>leisure</i>	lezə	li:zə
<i>lever</i>	li:və	levə
<i>lieutenant</i>	lef'tenənt	lu:'tenənt
<i>missile</i>	misail	misəl
<i>progress</i>	prəʊgres / prɒgres	pra:gres
<i>project</i>	prɒdʒekt / prəʊdʒekt	pra:dʒikt
<i>route</i>	ru:t / rəʊt	rəʊt
<i>schedule</i>	ʃedju:l	skedʒu:l
<i>tomato</i>	tə'mɑ:təʊ	tə'meitəʊ
<i>vase</i>	va:z	veis

<i>wrath</i>	rwθ	ræθ
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### Differences in pronunciation (placement of stress)

<b>Received pronunciation</b>	<b>General American</b>	<b>Received pronunciation</b>	<b>General American</b>
<i>address</i>	<i>address</i>	<i>laboratory</i>	<i>laboratory</i>
<i>advertisement</i>	<i>advertisement</i>	<i>magazine</i>	<i>magazine</i>
<i>ballet</i>	<i>ballet</i>	<i>moustache</i>	<i>moustache</i>
<i>café</i>	<i>cafe</i>	<i>premier</i>	<i>premier</i>
<i>cigarette</i>	<i>cigarette</i>	<i>princess</i>	<i>princess</i>
<i>controversy</i>	<i>controversy</i>	<i>research</i>	<i>research</i>
<i>debris</i>	<i>debris</i>	<i>reveille</i>	<i>reveille</i>
<i>frontier</i>	<i>frontier</i>	<i>translate</i>	<i>translate</i>
<i>garage</i>	<i>garage</i>	<i>valet</i>	<i>valet</i>
<i>inquiry</i>	<i>inquiry</i>	<i>weekend</i>	<i>weekend</i>

### Money (informal)

<b>United States</b>		<b>Great Britain</b>	
\$100	a century		
\$10	a tenner	£ 10	a tenner
\$ 5	a fiver	£ 5	a fiver
\$1	a buck	£ 1	a quid
25¢	a quarter	10 p	ten penny
10¢	a dime	6 p	sixpence

5¢	a nickel	2 p	two-penny
1¢	a penny	1 p	penny

British English (old names):

£ 1 = 20 shillings (s.)  
 1 shilling = 12 pennies (d.)  
 21 shillings = 1 guinea  
 shilling = bob  
 2s6d = half a crown

sixpence = tanner  
 two shillings = two-bob, florin  
 two-penny = **tʌpnz**  
 half penny = **heɪpni**

billion =  $10^9$  (US)  
 trillion =  $10^{12}$  (US)

milliard =  $10^9$  (GB)  
 billion =  $10^{12}$  (GB)

**Questions:**

What is the Americanism?

Render at least twenty expressions which have a different form in British and American Englishes.

Render a table of parallel university positions in Britain and USA.

Render differences in segmental pronunciation of the following words:

<b>Form</b>	<b>Received pronunciation</b>	<b>General American</b>
<i>clerk</i>		
<i>Derby</i>		
<i>geyser</i>		
<i>leisure</i>		
<i>lieutenant</i>		
<i>medicine</i>		
<i>missile</i>		
<i>schedule</i>		

<i>tomato</i>		
<i>vase</i>		
<i>wrath</i>		

Mark the stress in the following words:

<b>Received pronunciation</b>	<b>General American</b>	<b>Received pronunciation</b>	<b>General American</b>
address	address	magazine	magazine
advertisement	advertisement	moustache	moustache
cigarette	cigarette	premier	premier
controversy	controversy	princess	premier
debris	debris	research	princess
frontier	frontier	translate	research
Inquiry	Inquiry	valet	valet
laboratory	laboratory	weekend	translate



## 10. Sense relations

### Synonymy

#### Definition

Synonymy means that two or more lexemes have the same or similar meaning. There may be no such thing as a perfect synonym.

#### Full synonymy (rare)

*greenhouse – hothouse*

*kind – sort*

*noun - substantive*

#### Close relation between collocations and synonyms

Sentence with asterisks are incorrect in terms of wrong synonymy.

*Helen began/started to cry soon after they had left.*

*\*I couldn't begin my mini; the battery was flat.*

*\*Before the world started, only God existed.*

rancid/rotten: *rancid butter* but *rotten teeth*

kingly/regal/royal: *royal mail*

#### Different syntactic behaviour of synonyms

*The plane leaves/departs from Gatwick, not Stansted.*

*We left the museum at seven.*

*\*We departed the house at seven.*

#### Different functional styles of synonyms

*variola/smallpox*

*offspring/children/kids*

*insane/loony*

*salt/sodium chloride*

professional/non-professional

formal/neutral/informal

.....

informal/technical

#### Dialect difference and synonyms

*autumn/fall*

*sandwich/butty*

American/British English

standard/regional

## **Slang and synonyms**

Money: *dough, bread, dosh, loot, brass, sponduliks*

Police: *pigs, fuzz, cop(per)s, bill*

Drunk: *pissed, sozzled, paralytic, legless, arsehold*

Stupid: *wally, prat, nerd, jerk, plonker, pillock*

Lavatory: *loo, lav, bog, john*

Drink: *booze, plonk*

Drugs: *fix, dope, grass, high, stone, snow, vitamin A, uppers*

Drug addict: *stoner, waste case, pothead*

Prison: *nick* (prison), *nark* (informer), *screw* (warder)

Sexual orientation: *straight* (heterosexual), *fags/queers*

(homosexuals), *dyke* (lesbian)

Racial and national slang: *wasps* (privileged white American),

*jigaboos/jungle bunnies* (Blacks), *slant eyes* (Asian), *spics*

(Hispanic), *wetbacks* (Mexican/illegal immigrant to the US), *chinks*

(Chinese), *japs* (Japanese)

## **Professional slang and synonyms (US truckers)**

*grandma lane*                      slow lane

*doughnuts*                         tyres

*motion lotion*                    fuel

*five finger discount*            stolen goods

*eyeballs*                          headlights

*super cola*                        beer

## **Antonymy**

### **Definition**

Antonyms are lexemes which are opposite in meaning.

### **Typology**

#### **Complementary antonyms**

*below - above*  
*absent - present*  
*borrow - lend*

*buy - sell*  
*wife - husband*

#### **Contrary antonyms**

*hot - cold*  
*clean - dirty*  
*single - married*

*first - last*  
*alive - dead*

#### **Scales**

*hot - warm - tepid - cold - icy*  
*wet - misty - dampish - dry*

#### **Another classification is based on the form:**

##### **a) root antonyms** (lexemes with different roots):

*old - new*  
*rich - poor*  
*dear - expensive*

##### **b) derivational antonyms** (with affixes):

*useful - useless*  
*predictable - unpredictable*  
*conductor - non-conductor*

*conduct - misconduct*  
*appear - disappear*

##### **c) mixed:**

*correct - incorrect - wrong*  
*married - unmarried - single*



### Co-occurrence of antonyms in one sentence

The following expressions occur frequently in sentences:

<i>bad and good</i>	<i>deep and shallow</i>	<i>first and last</i>
<i>big and little</i>	<i>dry and wet</i>	<i>happy and sad</i>
<i>black and white</i>	<i>easy and hard</i>	<i>hard and soft</i>
<i>from bottom to top</i>	<i>empty and full</i>	<i>heavy and light</i>
<i>clean and dirty</i>	<i>far and near</i>	<i>high and low</i>
<i>cold and hot</i>	<i>fast and slow</i>	
<i>dark and light</i>	<i>few and many</i>	

### Polysemy

#### Definition

One lexical item has a range of meanings (senses). Words have usually more than one meaning. Monosemantic words are rare – usually in technical and scientific usage (e.g. *noun*, *phoneme*, *morpheme*). Words are polysemantic only in the system of the language, in a particular utterance the meaning is limited.

*nut*  
*bear*

#### Synchronic polysemy

- interest in the meanings which are representative and typical and clearly intelligible in isolation =>  
**basic meaning** = first place in the dictionary, e.g. *face* - *obličej*
- interest in meanings which can be clear only in certain contexts => **figurative meaning**, e.g. *face* - *čiferník*

#### Diachronic polysemy

- interest in various meanings acquired during its etymological development

## Homonymy

### Definition

Homonyms are lexical items that have the same form (spelling, pronunciation) but different meaning. Homonymy is a relation among lexemes while polysemy is among different meanings.

### Etymology of homonyms

- different development of several meanings (e.g. *flower* x *flour*; *skirt* x *shirt*)
- convergence of sounds (e.g. *I* – *eye*)
- borrowing (e.g. *port*: *porto* – Portuguese, *portus* – Latin)
- clipping (e.g. *ad*; *fan*)

### Typology

#### Homonyms proper

Proper homonyms are identical in spelling and pronunciation but different in meaning.

Examples: *bank*, *fair*, *toast*

#### Homophony

Homophones are lexical items with the same pronunciation but different meaning.

- lexical homonyms (e.g. *son* – *sun*, *die* – *dye*, *tale* – *tail*)
- grammatical homonyms (e.g. *he asked* – *he was asked*)
- word-class homonyms (e.g. *to spring* – *spring*, *to fall* – *fall*, *to earn* – *urn*)

#### 4 and 3 element groups

*ride* - *write* - *right* - *rite*

*sew* - *sow* - *so*

### **Homonymic clash**

It is the basis for jokes riddles and puns.

Example: *What is ill eagle /i'li:gl/? The eagle that is not well.*

### **Homography** (a type of homonymy)

Homographs are lexical items with the same spelling but different meaning.

Examples:

*They **lead** them to victory*

***Lead** is a bluish heavy metal.*

*She can **tear** his arguments like a piece of cloth.*

*Her **tear** has no effect on him.*

*Every Saturday morning they had a **row**.*

*My son always sits in the first **row**.*

*The **wind** was blowing in the westerly direction.*

*Remember to **wind** the clock before you go to bed.*

"**Homonyms** are illustrated from the various meanings of the word *bear* (= animal, carry) or *ear* (of body, of corn). In these examples, the identity covers both the spoken and written forms, but it is possible to have **partial homonymy** (or **heteronymy**), where the identity is within a single medium, as in homophony and homography. When there is ambiguity between homonyms (whether non-deliberate or contrived, as in riddles and puns), a **homonymic clash** or **conflict** is said to have occurred."

(David Crystal. *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*, 6th ed. Blackwell, 2008)

"The trouble is that, although helpful, these criteria are not totally compatible and do not go all the way. There are cases where we may think that the meanings are clearly distinct and that we therefore have homonymy, but which cannot be distinguished by the given linguistic formal criteria, e.g., *charm* may denote 'a kind of interpersonal attraction' and may also be used in physics denoting 'a kind of physical energy.' Not even the word *bank*, usually given in most textbooks as the archetypical example of homonymy, is clear-cut. Both the 'financial bank' and the 'river bank' meanings derive by a process of metonymy and metaphor, respectively from Old French

*banc* 'bench.' Since *bank* in its two meanings belongs to the same part of speech and is not associated with two inflectional paradigms, the meanings of *bank* are not a case of homonymy by any of the above criteria. [. . .]

Traditional linguistic criteria for distinguishing homonymy from polysemy, although no doubt helpful, in the end turn out to be insufficient."

(Jens Allwood, "Meaning Potentials and Context: Some Consequences for the Analysis of Variation in Meaning." *Cognitive Approaches to Lexical Semantics*, ed. by Hubert Cuyckens, René Dirven, and John R. Taylor. Walter de Gruyter, 2003)

"Dictionaries recognize the distinction between **polysemy** and **homonymy** by making a polysemous item a single dictionary entry and making homophonous lexemes two or more separate entries. Thus *head* is one entry and *bank* is entered twice. Producers of dictionaries often make a decision in this regard on the basis of etymology, which is not necessarily relevant, and in fact separate entries are necessary in some instances when two lexemes have a common origin. The form *pupil*, for instance, has two different senses, 'part of the eye' and 'school child.' Historically these have a common origin but at present they are semantically unrelated. Similarly, *flower* and *flour* were originally 'the same word,' and so were the verbs *to poach* (a way of cooking in water) and *to poach* 'to hunt [animals] on another person's land'), but the meanings are now far apart and all dictionaries treat them as homonyms, with separate listing. The distinction between homonymy and polysemy is not an easy one to make. Two lexemes are either identical in form or not, but relatedness of meaning is not a matter of yes or no; it is a matter of more or less."

(Charles W. Kreidler, *Introducing English Semantics*. Routledge, 1998)

## Hyponymy and hyperonymy

### Definition

Hyponymy is the relation between specific and general words, when the former is included in the latter (*cat* is a hyponym of *animal* and *animal* is a hyperonym of *cat*).



<b>Hyperonym</b>	<b>Hyponyms</b>
<i>vehicle</i>	<i>van, car, lorry, motorcycle</i>
<i>car</i>	<i>hatchback, saloon, coupé, SUV</i>
<i>season</i>	<i>spring, summer; autumn, winter</i>
<i>walk</i>	<i>stroll, amble, trudge, treat, plod</i>
<i>flower</i>	<i>daffodil, rose, tulip, pansy</i>

### **Other sense relations**

#### **Parts and wholes**

Clothing: *zip, button, hem, lining, cuff, collar*

Food: *stalk, leaf, root, husk, shell, bone, seed*

Vehicle: *wheel, brakes, engine, door, steering wheel*

Animal: *hoof, mane, leg, feather, claw, tail*

House: *bathroom, bedroom, loft, window, cellar*

#### **Series**

Numbers

Days of the week

Months of the year

Colours

#### **Hierarchies**

Army: *2nd lieutenant, lieutenant, captain, major, lieutenant colonel, brigadier, major general, lieutenant general, general, field marshal*

Church: *priest, bishop, archbishop, cardinal, pope*

Measurements: *millimetre, centimetre, decimetre, metre, kilometre*

#### **False friends (paronyms)**

#### **Definition**

They are a form of surface lexical interference within one or between different languages.

#### **Common misuse**

Within one language:

*invaluable* – neocenitelný (vysoké hodnoty)

*priceless* – compare with *valueless*, *worthless*

*ingenious* – vynalézavý, duchaplný

*ingenuous* – upřímný, nevinný, naivní, arch. vznešený

Between languages:

*dome* – dóm

*process* – proces /soudní/

*design* – projektovat

*project* – promítat

*castle* – lock

*promotion* – povýšení

*graduation* – promoce

*broadcast* – relace

*out-door patient department* –  
ambulance

*graduate* – absolvent

*manifestation* – projev

*rally, demonstration* –

manifestace

*speech* – projev

*relation* – vztah

*evidence* – důkaz

*records* – evidence

### **Transfer of meaning**

Similarity in temporal, spatial or other relation.

Example: *neck* of the body, *neck* of the violin

### **Metaphor**

Definition: transfer of meaning on the basis of external similarity of denotates (colour, shape, location, function, etc.)

Shape: *bell* (zvon - zvonek), *comb* (hřeben - hřebínek), *mouth* (ústa - ústí), *pipe* (píšťala - trubka), *needle* (jehla na šití i injekční)  
Colour: *blood red* (krvavě červený), *chalk* (křídově bílý), *strawberry* (jahodový)  
Location: *foot* (noha - úpatí), *heel* (pata - podpatek)  
Scope: *drop* (kapka - malé množství), *heap* (neuspořádané seskupení a velké množství)  
Function: *hand* (ruka - ručička), *head* (hlava - vedoucí), *leg* (noha - noha u stolu)

### **Transfer of animal qualities to people**

*ass, bear, cow, elephant, fox, silly goose, gorilla, louse, mule, rat, swine, chicken, mole*

Only in Czech: *kos, jezevec, křeček, pavouk, straka, štika, vůl*

### **Transfer of animals to plants**

*catkins, dandelion*

Only in Czech: *holubinky, kuřátka, lišky, kozlík lékařský*

### **Transfer of body parts to things**

*ear, eye, nose, tongue, tooth, neck, muzzle, arm, shoulder*

### **Transfer of things to the body**

*chamber* (heart chambers), *drum* (ear drum)

## **Metonymy**

### **Definition**

It is a semantic change when an attribute is used for the whole.

*chair* – židle, předsednictví

*crown* – koruna, monarchie

*hand* – ruka, rukopis

*word* – slovo, hovor

### **Particularisation of abstract nouns**

*administration* – správa

*government* – vláda

### **Quality to its bearer**

*youth* – mládež

*sweet* – sladkosti

*green* – zeleň

### **Material to product**

*glasses* – brýle

*oil* – olejomalba

*mink* – norková kožešina

### **Place names**

*10 Downing Street, the Pentagon, Fleet Street, Whitehall, the White House, the Kremlin*

### **Contextual metonymy**

*play a Dvořák, read Walter Scott, Waterloo, 4<sup>th</sup> July*

## **Synecdoche**

### **Definition**

A figure of speech in which the part is used for the whole or the whole is used for the part (*e.g. wheels for car, creatures for cats*).

**Key words:**

sense relations, synonym, full synonymy, antonym, complementary antonym, contrary antonym, chains, root antonyms, derivational antonyms, co-occurrence of antonyms, polysemy, synchronic polysemy, diachronic polysemy, homonyms, homonyms proper, homonymic clash, homophony, homography, hyponyms, hyperonyms, parts and wholes, series, hierarchies, false friends, transfer of meaning, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche

### Questions:

Render a few examples of full and simple synonymy.  
Explain the importance of mutual relation between registers and synonymy.  
What can be said about dialects and synonyms?  
Do synonyms follow the same syntactic patterns?  
Slang is typical for its synonymic richness. Render some examples.  
What are antonyms and how are they classified?  
Antonyms often co-occur in one sentence. Render some examples.  
What is polysemy and how can we classify it?  
What are homonyms and homophones?  
Render three and four element groups of homophones.  
Where is the homonymic clash common?  
Render five homographs and explain their meaning.  
What are hyperonyms and hyponyms (render examples).  
Render examples of parts and wholes.  
Render examples of series.  
Render examples of hierarchies.  
What are the false friends *within the* language and *between* different languages?  
What types of similarity are applied in the transfer of meaning?  
What is the metaphor? Render examples (shape, colour, place, scope, function).  
Render examples which are only in Czech (transfer of animal qualities to people and transfer of animals to plants).  
Render examples of metonyms with the classification.

## 11. Slang

**Slang** is a very informal kind of vocabulary, used mostly by people who know each other well. Slang expressions are not usually written and they are considered out of place in formal kinds of communication. Psychologists claim that swearing is a form of mental relief and helps avoid stress.

*See you down at the **boozier**.* (pub)

*He's a real **prat**.* (fool)

*OK, let's **shove off**.* (go)

*Wait a minute – my shoelace has **bust**.* (broken)

Slang expressions relate frequently to things that people feel strongly about (family relationship, friendship, drink, drugs, social conflicts, physical and mental illness, death).

*She's got **tits** like ripe melons.* (breasts)

*God, we got **smashed** last night.* (drunk)

***Prods** out!* (Protestants)

*Can you get that **sitrep** to the **MD** by five?* (situational report)

*I've got some sort of **bug**.* (illness)

*He's **lost his marbles**.* (gone mad)

*When I **kick the bucket**, I want you all to have a big party.* (die)

*Shut your **gob**!* (mouth)

*Kill the **wongs**!* (coloured people)

Many slang expressions are used by members of particular social and professional groups, and nearly all slang is used between people who know each other well or share the same social background. It is not a convenient communicative strategy for foreigners to try deliberately to use slang. The target group might get the impression that you are claiming membership of a group that you do not belong to. There is also the danger that the slang may be out of date – when slang gets into books, it is often already dead. It is best to wait until one has really become accepted as part of a community; one will then start using their slang naturally and correctly along with the rest of their language.

### **Jargon**

- the technical language of a special field

- the obscure use of specialized language

Here are a few examples of a professional jargon:

Employer:

*career change opportunity, decruitment, degrowing, dehiring, destaffing, downsizing, negotiated departure, outplacement, personnel surplus reduction, reducing headcount, redundancy elimination, rightsizing, vocational relocation, voluntary termination, work force adjustment, work force imbalance correction (getting the sack)*

Wine connoisseur:

*Well, it smells interestingly of flowers and interestingly of bath salts, but has tropical fruit on the palate, with rough sauvignon blanc edges absent.*

Academic:

*In respect to essential departmental goals a primary interrelationship between systems and/or subsystems constraints presents a valuable challenge showing the necessity for any normative concept of the holistic continuum.*

Military:

*You always write it's bombing, bombing, bombing. It's not bombing! It's air-support!*

Classy talk:

E.g. works of J.P. Wodehouse or Oscar Wilde

Tough guy talk:

*She's grifter, shamus. I'm a grifter. We're all grifters. So we sell each other out for a nickel. R. Chandler  
(grifter – small-time criminal; shamus – private detective)*

**Argot**

It is a special language of a secretive social group.

*Our pockets were full of deng, so there was no real need from the point of view of crasting any more pretty polly to tolchock some old veck in an alley [... ] A. Burgess*

**Key words:**

slang, jargon, argot

**Questions:**

Should foreigners be familiar with the slang language?  
In what way?



## 12. Taboo words and swear words

Languages generally have words which are considered dangerous, and which are only used in certain situations or by certain people. These taboo words are constrained by the culture, religion, generation, social group, etc. Taboo words are an indispensable part of primary (family and school) education and as such constitute **emotional barriers**.

### Taboo words

In order not to break social rules, people refer to a taboo topic indirectly using a **euphemism**:

*casket* – coffin  
*pass away* – die  
*push up the daisies* – be dead  
*under the weather* – ill  
*spend a penny* – urinate  
*adult video* – pornography

*in the family way* – pregnant  
*expectorate* – spit  
*tired and emotional* – drunk  
*carnal relations* – sexual relations

The stronger the taboo, the larger the variety of substitute forms. The strongest taboo word *cunt* has accumulated around 700 forms (G. Hughes, 1991).

### Classification

English has four main groups of taboo words and expressions (the number of asterisks represents the intensity):

#### Religion

*damn*\*                      condemn to hell (usually as swearword)  
*blast*\* (BrE)              strike with divine punishment (usually as swearword)  
*hell*\*, *God*\*  
*Jesus*\*, *Christ*\*

#### Parts of the body

<i>arse***</i>	bottom, buttocks, anus (AmE ass**)
<i>arsehole***</i>	anus (AmE asshole**)
<i>balls***, bollocks***</i>	testicles
<i>cock***, dick***, prick***</i>	penis
<i>tits***</i>	breasts

### **Sexual activity**

<i>fuck***</i>	have sex with
<i>wank***</i>	masturbate
<i>bugger***</i>	have anal sex with persons or animals; person who does so
<i>sod**</i>	homosexual (sodomite)
<i>bitch**</i>	immoral woman
<i>whore**</i>	prostitute
<i>bastard**</i>	child of unmarried parents

### **Elimination of bodily wastes**

<i>piss***</i>	urine, urinate
<i>shit***, crap**</i>	excrement, defecate
<i>fart**</i>	let digestive gas out

### **Swearwords**

The taboo words are used in swearing. The meaning of a swearword is always different from its literal (taboo) meaning.

## Difference between taboo and swearwords

Taboo word:

*What are you doing **fucking** in my bed?*  
(literal meaning – why are you making love)

Swear word:

*What are you **fucking** doing in my bed?*  
(swearword – why the hell are you in my bed)

## Functions of swear words

Exclamation of annoyance:

*Damn (it)! Blast (it)! God damn it! God damn! Hell! (My) God! Jesus!  
Christ! Jesus Christ! Bugger (it)! Sod (it)! Shit! Fuck (it)!*

*Damn (it)! Can't you hurry up?  
Fuck (it)! I've lost the address!*

Exclamation of surprise:

*Bugger me! There's Mrs Smith. I thought she was on holiday.  
Well, I'm damned! What are you doing here?  
My God! Look at that!*

Surprised question:

*Who/What/Why the hell...  
Who/What/Why the fuck ...*

Insult (nouns):

*You bastard.  
Stupid old fart!  
He's a real prick!  
Stupid fucker!*

*Lucky sod!  
He's such a bitch!  
That guy's a real asshole!  
You son of a bitch!*

Insulting request to go away:

*Fuck off!*                      *Bugger off!* (BrE)

*Screw!*

*Piss off!*                              *Sod off!*      (BrE)

Violent refusal:

*(I'll be) damned/fucked if I will!*

*Get stuffed!* (BrE)

*I'll be buggered if I will!*

*Balls!*

*Stuff it (up your arse)!* (BrE)

*Balls to ...!* (BrE)

*Stuff it up your ass!* (AmE)

*Bollocks!* (BrE)

Examples:

*"Sergeant wants you to clean out the lavatories. "*

*"Fucked if I will!"*

*"Management are offering another 8 quid a week. "*

*"They can stuff it. "*

*"Give me a kiss. "*

*"Get stuffed!"*

*"You're afraid to fight. "*

*"Balls!"*

*Balls to the lot of you! I'm going home.*

Intensifiers (adjectives/adverbs):

*damn(ed)*                              *goddam* (AmE)

*blasted* (BrE)                      *fucking*

*bloody* (BrE)                      *sodding* (BrE)

*bleeding* (BrE)

*I damn well hope you never come back.*

*I'm not fucking well paying this time.*

*It's bloody well raining again.*

## Examples of miscellaneous usage

Somebody **fucked up** the TV.  
You've **buggered** my watch. (spoil)

"Want another game of tennis?"  
"No, I'm **fucked**." (exhausted)

Don't buy a car from that garage – they'll **screw** you. (cheat)

That bloody secretary **cocked up/balled up/screwed up/fucked up** my travel arrangements. (made mistakes in)

"What's his new book like?"  
"A load of **balls**."  
Don't talk **crap!** **Bullshit!** (nonsense)

"Janie's getting married."  
"No, **shit**." (lies US)

There's **fuck** all in the fridge. We'll have to eat out.  
(similarly **bugger/damn/sod**) (nothing GB)

Steve was **pissed** again last night. (drunk GB)

I'm getting **pissed off** with London. (fed up GB)

I'm **pissed** at him because of what he's been saying about me.  
(annoyed US)

### Model example **SHIT** /S/ (after Crystal)

Positive (wonder, sympathy, embarrassment, etc.): *Aw S!*, *a cute little S*, *S a brick!*, *Shee-y-it*, *She-it*, *She-I-I-I-t!*, *Hot S!*, *S-hot*, *Tough S!* *ref. Hard cheese*, *tough cheddar*, *stiff biscuits*, etc.

Positive (drugs- cannabis): *want some S?*, *S was scarce*, *good S for sale*, *clean white S*

Negative (personal abuse): *He a regular/little/first-class S*, *They are Ss*, *on my S-list*, *S-arse/-bag/-breeches/-face/-hawk/-head/-heel/-hole/-house/-poke*, *S-kicker* AmE rustic)

Negative (dirty activities): *S-work* (menial housework), *S-kickers* (AmE heavy work-boots)

Negation: *not give a S, ain't worth a S, ain't got S, don't tell them S*

Trouble: *be in the S, be through a lot of S, be in the S street, S out of luck, when the S flies, when the S hits the fan, up S creek* (without a paddle)

Fear: *S scared, S oneself, scared S-less, beat the S out of someone, give one Ss*

Deception/tease: *Are you S-ting me?, No S!*

Nastiness: *that's S-ty thing to say, in a S-ty mood, it's S-ting down outside*

Rubbish: *load a S, all the S, don't give me any S, full of S, bull-S, chicken-S*

Euphemistic: *Shivers, Sugar, Shoot, Shute, Shucks, Sherbert*

### **Key words:**

taboo words, swear words, insult nouns, intensifiers, exclamations

### **Questions:**

What are taboo words and in which areas of the lexicon is their origin?

Render some taboo words (religion, parts of the body, sexual activity, elimination of bodily wastes).

How do foreigners perceive taboo words in English?

What is the difference between a swear and a taboo word?

Render examples of swear words in: exclamation of surprise, surprised question, insults, intensifiers.

Are there any cross-cultural differences between English and Czech in terms of swear words and taboo words.

What would you recommend translators?

## 13. Archaisms

### Definition

It is an old word or phrase no longer in general spoken or written use.

### Typology:

- lexical archaisms: *behold, ere, eke, hither, quoth, smite, unto, wight, wot, yonder, varlet, forsooth*
- grammatical archaisms: *ye, dost, thou, hath, shalt, durst*
- semantic: *curious* – careful, skilful; *nice* – foolish; *coy* – quiet

### Usage:

- historical poems, novels, plays: King Arthur, Robin Hood, Ivanhoe
- children's historical stories, fairy tales, nursery rhymes
- religious and legal language
- trade names and commercial advertising
- place names

### Questions:

What is the archaism?

How can we classify them?

In what language are they used? Render examples.

## 14. Diminutives

A diminutive is a formation of a word used to convey a slight degree of the root meaning, smallness of the object or quality named, encapsulation, intimacy, or endearment. (Shorter Oxford Dictionary). Only derivative forms are listed, not text dependent diminutives (*My two year old daughter's gloves*).

### Typology

Native English diminutives:

- k/-ock/-uck**: *bollock, bullock, buttock, fetlock, hillock, mattock*
- n/-en/-on** (feminine): *chicken, kitten, maiden*
- le** (defrequentative -l): *puddle, sparkle*
- ish** (disparative): *largish, reddish, smallish, tallish*
- s** (degenitive): *Becks, Betts, Wills*
- sie/-sies/-sy** (babytalk assimilative): *bitsy, footsie, halvesies, onesies, popsy, teensy-weensy, tootsie, twosies, Betsy, Patsy, Robsy*
- o** (American devocative): *bucks, daddio, garbo, kiddo, smoko, wacko, Jacko, Ricko*
- er/-ers/-ster** (agentive, intensive, hypocoristic): *bonkers, preppers, starkers, Becker[s], Lizzers, Hankster, Patster*
- a** (Geordie assimilative -er): *Gazza, Macca*
- z** (Geordie degenitive -s): *Bez, Chaz, Gaz*

Loanwords and native English words using foreign-language diminutives:

- ling** (Old Norse defrequentative-patrinominative): *darling, duckling, fingerling, gosling, underling*
- erel/-rel** (Francish-Latin comparative): *cockerel, coistrel, doggerel, dotterel, mackerel, minstrel, scoundrel, tumbrel/tumbriel, whimbrel, wastrel*
- el/-il/-ille/-l/-le** (Norman-Francish): *broil, griddle, grille, jail, mail, pill, quail, rail, roll, squirrel, toil, trail*
- et/-ette/-etti/-etto/-it/-ita/-ito/-itta** (Italian-Latin defrequentative): *amaretto, burrito, cigarette, clarinet, courgette, diskette, fajita, falsetto, faucet, gambit, kitchenette, marionette, minuet, oublette,*



*palette, pallet, parquet, puppet, rabbit, seńorita, spaghetti, suffragette, towelette, wallet*

**-ot/-otte** : *harlot, Charlotte, Diderot, Lancelot, Margot, Peugeot, Pierrot*

**-let/-lette** (F rench): *aglet, applet, booklet, eyelet, gauntlet, goblet, hamlet, leaflet, toilet, omelette, piglet, roulette, tablet*

**-ey/-ie/-y** (Scottish-Dutch): *cookie, daddy, dearie, doggy, girlie, kitty, laddie, mammy, mommy, mummy, sissy, whitey, Debbie, Frankie, Frenchy, Johnny, Marty, Morty, Nancy*

**-kin** (Dutch): *bodkin, cannikin, catkin, lambkin, manikin, napkin, pannikin, ramekin, welkin*

**-kins** (hypocoristic): *Laurakins, Sallykins*

**-leus/-ola/-ole/-oli/-ola/-olo/-olus/-ula/-ule/-uleus/-ulum** (Francish-Spanish-Italian-Latin): *alveolus, areola, areole, article, cannoli, casserole, cerulean, cuniculus, curriculum, Equuleus, ferrule, formula, granule, homunculus, insula, majuscule, minuscule, nodule, nucleus, nucleolus, particle, pergola, pendulum, pianola, piccolo, ravioli, raviolo, reticule, spatula, tarantula, vacuole*

**-eau/-el/-ella/-elle/-ello/-il/-illa/-ille/-illo/-le** (F-S-I-L E -kin): *armadillo, bordello, bureau, castle (OE castel), codicil, espadrille, flotilla, mantle, Monticello, morsel, organelle, pastel, pencil, pestle, quadrille, quarrel, rowel, scintilla, vanilla, violoncello*

**-ina/-ine/-ini/-ino** (F-S-I E -like or -ling): *bambino, doctrine, domino, figurine, linguine, maraschino, marina, neutrino, palomino, tambourine, zucchini*

**mini-** (commercial compound): *minibar, miniblind, miniboss, minibus, minicar, minicassette, minicomputer, minigame, minigun, minimall, minimarket, minimart, mini-nuke, minischool, miniseries, miniskirt (1965), minitower, minivan, mini-LP, mini-me, MiniDisc*

## Scots

In Lowland Scots diminutives are frequently used. Common diminutive suffixes are **-ie**, **-ock**, **-ockie**, **-ag**, **-ie**. Others are **-le** or **-er** for frequentative or diminutive emphasis. Less frequent diminutives are **kin** (often after the diminutive **-ie**) and **-lin**.

Examples:

**-ie**: *burnie* (small burn), *feardie* or *feartie* (frightened person, coward), *gamie* (gamekeeper), *kiltie* (kilted soldier), *mannie* (man), *Nessie* (Loch Ness Monster), *postie* (postman), *wifie* (woman)

**-ock**: *bittock* (wee bit, little bit), *playock* (toy), *sourock* (sorrel),

**-ag**: *Cheordag* (Geordie), *bairnag* (small child)

**-ockie**: *hooseockie* (little house), *wifockie* (little woman)

**-le**: *crumple* (a bread-crumble), *snirtle* (snigger, snort)

**-er**: *plowter* (dabble), *stoiter* (stumble)

**-kin**: *cuitikins* (spatterdashes), *flindrikin* (light, flimsy), *joskin* (yokel)

**-lin**: *hauflin* (half-grown boy), *gorblin* (unfledged bird)

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