

New Words in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*
12 July 2001

@ • **ymb.** 'at', used: **1** to indicate cost or rate per unit: *30 items @ 29.99 each.* **2** in Internet addresses between the user's name and the domain name: *jsmith@oup.co.uk.*

acoustic shock • **n.** damaged hearing suffered by the user of an earphone as a result of sudden excessive noise in the device.

ADSL • **abbrev.** asymmetric digital subscriber line, a technology for transmitting digital information over standard telephone lines, using most of the bandwidth to transmit information to the user and only a small part to receive it from them.

adultescent • **n.** *informal* a middle-aged person whose clothes, interests, and activities are typically associated with youth culture.
- ORIGIN 1990s: blend of **ADULT** + **ADOLESCENT**.

agent • **n.** *Computing* an independently operating Internet program, typically one set up to locate information on a specified subject and deliver it on a regular basis.

alert • **n.** a reminder or prompt.

andropause • **n.** the occurrence in some older men of a collection of symptoms such as fatigue and loss of libido, attributed to lower testosterone levels.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from **ANDRO-**, on the pattern of **MENOPAUSE**

ASP • **abbrev.** application service provider, a company providing Internet access to software applications that would otherwise have to be installed on individual computers.

at sign • **n.** the symbol @.

attachment • **n.** a computer file appended to an email.

baguette • **n.** a slim, rectangular handbag with a short strap.

big tent • **n.** a political party's policy of permitting and encouraging a broad spectrum of views among its members.

bladdered • **adj.** *Brit. Informal* extremely drunk.

body dysmorphic disorder • **n.** a psychological disorder in which a person becomes obsessed with imaginary defects in their appearance.

brachytherapy • **n.** the treatment of cancer, especially prostate cancer, by the insertion of radioactive implants directly into the tissue.

B2B • **abbrev.** business-to-business, denoting trade conducted via the Internet between businesses.

B2C • **abbrev.** business-to-consumer, denoting trade conducted via the Internet between businesses and consumers.

bumbershoot • **n.** *US informal* an umbrella.

- ORIGIN alt. of **UMBRELLA** + **(PARA)CHUTE**.

burn • **v.** produce (a CD) by copying from an original or master copy.

buzzy • **adj.** *informal* (of a place or atmosphere) lively and exciting.

cachaca • **n.** a Brazilian white rum made from sugar cane.

- ORIGIN Brazilian Port., from Port. *cacaça* '(white) rum'.

caipirinha • **n.** a Brazilian cocktail made with cachaca, lime or lemon juice, sugar, and crushed ice.

- ORIGIN Brazilian Port., from *caipira* 'yokel'.

cane • **v.** *Brit. informal* use recklessly or without restraint.

carbon sink • **n.** a forest, ocean, or other natural environment viewed in terms of its ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

cargo pants • **pl. n.** loose-fitting casual cotton trousers with large patch pockets halfway down each leg.

chatterbot • **n.** a computer program designed to interact with people by simulating human conversation.

chowhound • **n.** *US informal* a greedy person.

Christmas cactus • **n.** a succulent South American plant with red, pink, or white flowers, grown as a house plant. [*Schlumbergera bridgesii*.]

- ORIGIN so named because it flowers at about the northern midwinter.

chronotherapy • **n.** the treatment of an illness or disorder by administering a drug at a time of the day believed to be in harmony with the body's natural rhythms.

cigarette pants • **pl. n.** women's trousers with straight, very narrow legs.

conjoined twins • **pl. n.** technical term for **SIAMESE TWINS**.

crimper • **n.** **1** a person or thing that crimps. **2** *informal* a hairdresser.

cryptosporidiosis • **n.** an intestinal disease caused by infection with cryptosporidium, causing diarrhoea and vomiting.

day-trading • **n.** a form of share dealing in which individuals buy and sell shares over the Internet over a period of a single day's trading, with the intention of profiting from small price fluctuations.

- DERIVATIVES **day trader** n.

DDos • **abbrev.** distributed denial of service, denoting the intentional paralysing of a computer network by flooding it with data sent simultaneously from many individual computers.

deep-vein thrombosis • **n.** thrombosis in a vein lying deep below the skin, especially in the legs.

digital divide • **n.** the gulf between those who have ready access to computers and the Internet and those who do not.

do-rag • **n.** *US black slang* a scarf or cloth worn to protect one's hairstyle.

- ORIGIN C20: from **HAIRDO**.

doula • **n.** a woman giving support, help, and advice to another woman during pregnancy and during and after the birth.

- ORIGIN mod. Gk, from Gk *doulē* 'female slave'.

DSL • **abbrev.** digital subscriber line, a technology for the high-speed transmission of digital information over standard telephone lines.

duvet day • **n.** *informal* an unscheduled extra day's leave from work, taken to alleviate stress or pressure and sanctioned by one's employer.

e-book • **n.** an electronic version of a printed book which can be read on a personal computer or handheld device designed specifically for this purpose.

economy-class syndrome • **n.** deep-vein thrombosis said to be caused by periods of prolonged immobility on long-haul flights.

Euroland • **n.** the economic region formed by those member countries of the European Union that have adopted the euro.

Eurozone • **n.** another term for **EUROLAND**.

extranet • **n.** an Intranet that can be partially accessed by authorized outside users, enabling businesses to exchange information over the Internet in a secure way.

FOAF • **abbrev.** friend of a friend, denoting a story or rumour which has no definite source and cannot be authenticated.

fusion • **n.** [as modifier] referring to food or cooking which incorporates elements of both eastern and western cuisine.

garage • **n.** (also **UK garage**) a form of pop music incorporating elements of drum and bass, house music, and soul, characterized by a rhythm in which the 2nd and 4th beats of the bar are omitted.

genomics • **pl. n.** [treated as sing.] the branch of molecular biology concerned with the structure, function, evolution, and mapping of genomes.

GPRS • **abbrev.** general packet radio services, a technology for radio transmission of small packets of data, especially between mobile phones and the Internet.

guarana • **n.** **1** a Brazilian shrub. [*Paullinia cupana*.] **2** a substance prepared from the seeds of this shrub, used as a tonic or stimulant.

- ORIGIN from Tupi.

halloumi • **n.** a mild, firm, white Cypriot cheese made from goats' or ewes' milk, used especially in cooked dishes.

- ORIGIN Egyptian Arab. *halūm*, prob. from Arab. *haluma* 'to be mild'.

hijab • **n.** **1** a head covering worn in public by some Muslim women. **2** the religious code which governs the wearing of such clothing.

- ORIGIN Pers., from Arab. *hajaba* 'to veil'.

holiday • **n.** *chiefly Brit.* [with modifier] a short period during which the payment of installments, tax, etc. may be suspended.

hottie (also **hotty**) • **n.** *US informal* a sexually attractive young woman.

hypericin • **n.** a substance found in St John's Wort, credited with chemical and pharmacological properties similar to those of antidepressants.

- ORIGIN from **HYPERICUM**.

i-Mode • **n.** a technology that allows data to be transferred to and from Internet sites via mobile phones.

- ORIGIN from **I**² (referring to the user's ability to interact directly with the Internet) + **MODE**.

infomediary • **n.** an Internet company that gathers and links information on particular subjects on behalf of commercial organizations and their potential customers.

ISV • **abbrev.** independent software vendor.

jeet kune do • **n.** a modern martial art incorporating elements of kung fu, fencing, and boxing, devised by American actor Bruce Lee (1941-73).

- ORIGIN from Cantonese, lit. 'the way of the intercepting fist'.

keech • **n.** Scottish informal excrement.

- ORIGIN from *cach*, Scots var. of **CACK**.

kleptocrat • **n.** a ruler who uses their power to steal their country's resources.

- DERIVATIVES **kleptocracy** **n.** **kleptocratic** **adj.**

ladette • **n.** *Brit. informal* a young woman who behaves in a boisterously assertive or crude manner and engages in heavy drinking sessions.

lookup • **n.** [usu. as modifier] **1** the action of systematic electronic information retrieval. **2** a facility for this.

macchiato • **n.** espresso coffee with a dash of frothy steamed milk.
- ORIGIN Ital., lit. 'stained, marked'.

m-commerce • **n.** commercial transactions conducted electronically by mobile phone.

metadata • **n.** a set of data that describes and gives information about other data.

mezzaluna • **n.** a utensil for chopping herbs, vegetables, etc., with a semi-circular blade and a handle at each end.
- ORIGIN Ital., lit. 'half moon'.

microscooter • **n.** a small two-wheeled foldable aluminium scooter for both children and adults.

minger • **n.** *Brit. informal*, derogatory an unattractive or unpleasant person or thing.

minging • **adj.** *Brit. informal* **1** foul-smelling. **2** very bad or unpleasant.
- ORIGIN C20: perh. from Scots dial. *ming* 'excrement'.

mitch • **v.** *informal, chiefly Irish* play truant from school.
- ORIGIN C15: appar. from Ofr. *muchier* 'hide, lurk'.

mobe (also **mobey**) • **n.** *informal* a mobile phone.

mockumentary • **n.** a television programme or film which takes the form of a serious documentary in order to satirize its subject.

molecular electronics • **pl. n.** [treated as sing.] a branch of electronics in which individual molecules perform the same function as microelectronic devices such as diodes.

moletronics • **pl. n.** [treated as sing.] short for **MOLECULAR ELECTRONICS**.

MP3 • **n.** a means of compressing a sound sequence into a very small file, used as a way of downloading audio files from the Internet.
- ORIGIN from **MPEG** + *Audio Layer-3*.

mullet • **n.** a man's hairstyle in which the hair is cut short at the front and sides and left long at the back.
- ORIGIN 1990s: of unknown origin.

must-have • **n.** *informal* an essential or highly desirable item • **adj.** essential or highly desirable.

ned • **n.** *Scottish informal* **1** a hooligan or petty criminal. **2** a stupid or loutish boy or man.

- ORIGIN perh. From *Ned* (see **NEDDY**).

network appliance • **n.** a relatively low-cost computer designed chiefly to provide Internet access and without the full capabilities of a standard personal computer.

number one, number two, etc. the shortest, or next shortest, etc., cropped men's haircut produced with electric hair clippers.

numpty • **n.** (pl. **-ies**) *Scottish informal* a stupid or ineffectual person.

- ORIGIN from obs. *numps* 'a stupid person'.

panchakarma • **n.** (in Ayurvedic medicine) a fivefold detoxification treatment involving massage, herbal therapy, and other procedures.

- ORIGIN from Sanskrit *panca* 'five' + *karman* 'action'.

panino • **n.** (pl. **panini** /-ni/) a sandwich made with a baguette or with Italian bread, typically one that is toasted.

- ORIGIN Ital., lit. 'bread roll'.

pharmacogenomics • **pl. n.** [treated as sing.] the branch of genetics concerned with the likely response of an individual to therapeutic drugs.

- DERIVATIVES **pharmacogenomicist** **n.**

pipe • **n.** *Computing* a command which causes the output from one routine to be the input for another.

pokie • **n.** (pl. **-ies**) *Austral. informal* a fruit machine.

- ORIGIN from *poker machine*, a type of fruit machine that pays out according to the combination of playing-card symbols that appear when the lever is pulled.

proteomics • **pl. n.** [treated as sing.] the branch of molecular biology concerned with the behaviour and interaction of proteins within cells.

P2P • **abbrev.** *Computing* peer-to-peer, an Internet network that enables a group of users to access and copy files from each other's hard drives.

R & B • **abbrev. 2** a kind of melodic pop music with soulful vocals.

retail therapy • **n.** *humorous* the practice of shopping in order to make oneself feel more cheerful.

rip • **v.** *Computing* use a program to copy (a sound sequence on a compact disc) on to a computer's hard drive.

saola • **n.** a small, two-horned mammal discovered in Vietnam in 1992, with similarities to both antelopes and oxen. [*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*.]

- ORIGIN local name, lit. 'spindle horn'.

schizandra • **n.** a Chinese herb whose berries are credited with various stimulant or medicinal properties. [*Schisandra chinensis*.]

script • **n.** *Computing* a program or sequence of instructions that is carried out by another program rather than by the computer processor.

script kiddie • **n.** *informal, derogatory* a person who uses existing computer scripts or codes to hack into computers, lacking the expertise to write their own.

shoogly • **adj.** *Scottish* unsteady; wobbly

sick • **adj.** *informal* excellent

skell • **n.** *US informal* (in New York) a tramp or homeless person. –
- ORIGIN C20: perh. a shortening of **SKELETON**.

SME • **abbrev.** small to medium-sized enterprise, a company with no more than 500 employees.

SMS • **abbrev.** Short Message (or Messaging) Service, a system that enables mobile phone users to send and receive text messages.

snakehead • **n.** a member of a Chinese criminal network chiefly engaged in smuggling illegal immigrants.
- ORIGIN translation of Chin, *shetou*.

SSL • **abbrev.** Secure Sockets Layer, a computing protocol that ensures the security of data sent via the Internet by using encryption.

stolen generation • **n.** *Austral.* the Aboriginal people forcibly removed from their families as children between the 1900s and the 1960s, to be brought up by white foster families or in institutions.

stooshie (also **stushie**) • **n.** *Scottish informal* a row or fracas
- ORIGIN C19: of unknown origin.

story • **n.** the commercial prospects or circumstances of a particular company.

text • **v.** send a text message to.

text message • **n.** an electronic communication sent and received via mobile phone.

tweenager (also **tweenie**) • **n.** *informal* a child between the ages of about 10 and 14.

two-step • **n.** another term for **GARAGE**

UMTS • **abbrev.** Universal Mobile Telephone System.

viral marketing • **n.** a marketing technique whereby information about a company's goods and services is passed electronically from one Internet user to another.
- ORIGIN from the idea of the information being passed on like a computer virus.

vortal • n. an Internet site that provides a directory of links to information related to a particular industry.

- ORIGIN from *vertical industry*, an industry specialising in a narrow range of goods and services, + **PORTAL**.

wazoo • n. *US informal* a person's buttocks or anus.

- PHRASES **up** (or **out**) **the wazoo** in great quantities.
- ORIGIN C20: of unknown origin.

weblog • n. a personal website, on which an individual or group of users record opinions, links to other sites, etc. on a regular basis.

- DERIVATIVES **weblogger** n.

wizard • n. *Computing* a software tool that operates automatically to guide a user through a particular process.

yah • n. *Brit. informal* an upper-class person.