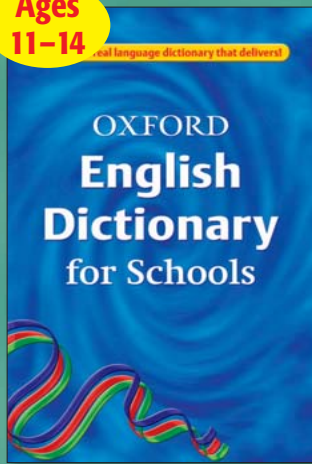


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Headwords in colour to find words more easily

Word families show how words are related to each other; some entries include synonyms to increase vocabulary

Labels are given to encourage accurate use of language

Definitions are clear and accurate

Example sentences from children's authors show headwords in use

Word histories are given to increase language knowledge

Words with different parts of speech are linked

Different meanings are numbered

pose

pose *NOUN* **poses**

- 1 a position or posture of the body taken for a portrait or photograph
- 2 a way of behaving that someone adopts to give a particular impression

pose *VERB* **poses, posing, posed**

- 1 to take up a pose
- 2 to put someone into a pose
- 3 to pose as a person is to pretend to be that person
- 4 to put forward or present ♦ *Drug abuse poses a serious threat to the fabric of our society.*

WORD FAMILY Pose comes from the Latin word *ponere* meaning 'to place' or 'to put'. Other words to do with placing and putting (some only loosely) and having the same origin include *compose, depose, dispose, expose, interpose, propose, position, positive, purpose, suppose, and transpose.*

poser *NOUN* **posers**

- 1 a puzzling question or problem
- 2 a person who behaves in an affected way in order to impress other people

posh *ADJECTIVE (informal)*

- 1 very smart; high-class

Mum stopped outside this immensely posh French cake and coffee shop. 'Let's live dangerously,' she said, and went inside.
— Jacqueline Wilson, *Lola Rose*

- 2 typical of the upper classes ♦ *I heard a rather posh voice say 'Excuse me'.*

WORD HISTORY origin unknown: it is often thought to come from the first letters of the phrase *port out, starboard home*, which referred to the side of the ship where the most comfortable cabins were (because they were away from the heat of the sun) on the route between Britain and India; but this story is not the true origin

position *NOUN* **positions**

- 1 the place where something is or should be
- 2 the way a person or thing is placed or arranged ♦ *Hold your back in a straight upright position.*
- 3 a situation or condition ♦ *We were in no position to argue.*
- 4 a piece of paid employment; a job

▷ **positional** *ADJECTIVE*

position *VERB* **positions, positioning, positioned**

to place a person or thing in a certain position

positive *ADJECTIVE*

- 1 definite or certain ♦ *Are you positive the tank was full?* ♦ *I can only offer you a theory, since positive proof is impossible.*
- 2 a positive statement or reply is one that means 'yes'
- 3 a positive person or attitude looks at the best or most hopeful aspects of a situation
- 4 a positive test result indicates that there is a sign of what is being tested for

possessive

- 5 (*Mathematics*) a positive number or quantity is greater than zero; plus (SEE ALSO **negative**)
- 6 (*Science*) to do with the kind of electric charge that lacks electrons
- 7 (*Grammar*) the positive form of an adjective or adverb is its simple form, e.g. *fast* as distinct from *faster* (the comparative form) and *fastest* (the superlative form)

▷ **positively** *ADVERB*

USAGE NOTE The opposite of meaning 1 is *uncertain*; for meanings 2-6, the opposite of *positive* is *negative*.

positive *NOUN* **positives**

a photograph or film in which the light and dark parts or colours appear as in the original scene or subject (SEE ALSO **negative**)

positron *NOUN* **positrons**

(*Science*) a particle of matter with a positive electric charge

posse (*say* *poss-ee*) *NOUN* **posses**

a group of people recruited to help a sheriff

WORD HISTORY from Latin *posse comitatus* 'force of the county'

possess *VERB* **possesses, possessing, possessed**

- 1 to have or own something as your property
- 2 to control someone's thoughts or behaviour ♦ *What possessed his aunt to make such a crazy will?*

▷ **possessor** *NOUN*

possessed *ADJECTIVE*

seeming to be controlled by strong emotion or an evil spirit ♦ *He ran down the street like a man possessed.*

possession *NOUN* **possessions**

- 1 something that a person possesses or owns
- 2 the right or state of owning something

possessive *ADJECTIVE*

- 1 wanting to possess and keep things for yourself
- 2 (*Grammar*) a possessive word, e.g. *his* or *ours*, shows what or whom something belongs to

possessives

Possessive adjectives and possessive pronouns show to whom, or to what, something belongs or is connected.

The **possessive adjectives** are *my, your, his, her, its, our, and their*:

Is it okay to wear my trainers?
Our fate was in their hands.

The **possessive pronouns** are: *mine, yours, his, hers, ours, and theirs*:

Is that last slice of pizza mine or yours?
Theirs was the fastest finishing time.

Possessive pronouns can also be used after *of*:

That song is an old favourite of mine.

Note that there is no apostrophe in the possessive pronouns *hers, ours, yours, and theirs*, or in the possessive adjective *its*: *The shark opened its jaws.* See also the panel on **determiners**.

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Catchwords, to help with navigation

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