The Oxford English Dictionary: an online adventure

John Simpson
Chief Editor, Oxford English Dictionary
OED – outline publication history

1884-1928 First Edition published in 10 volumes

1972-86 4 volumes of Supplement published


2000 OED goes online and first revised and updated entries published

2010 December: new OED website
Computerization — the basics

Ladder, rare obs. pa. pple. of Lade v.

Ladder (læd), sb. Forms: 1 hider, hild-dr, 2-4 loddr, 4 Kent. lhoddre, 3-5 (Sc.) ladder, 4-5 ladder(e), leddyr, 3-4 ladders, 4 ladder, 6- ladder, 6-7 lather, 4- ladder. [OE. hild-der str. fem., corresp. to OFris. hieder, hilder, MDu. lide, also ladder from Fris.), OHG. lidara (MHG., mod.G. leiter) — OTeut. *hlaiderâ, f. Teut. root *hlâ: *hlâ (whence Lean v.). — Aryan *klâ: cf. Gr. κλίμακα ladder.]

1. An appliance made of wood, metal, or rope, usually portable, consisting of a series of bars (‘rungs’) or steps fixed between two supports, by means of which one may ascend to or descend from a height.

971 Blicher, Hom. 326 ðær was xewuna þæm folce .. hæt he æfter hlaeddrum up to ðæm glæssenum fæte astixon.

C 1000 Æthel. Gent. xcviii. 18 ðæseah he on swine standan ane hlaedre fram cordan to heofenan. 1100 Geofra in


(Paris) In slepe a ladder him þo næse þæghe fra þe fermament rist to his eyghe. 1375 Barbour Bruce x. 614 Þat set their ladder to the wall. 1400 Deit. Treas. 1. 113 pæ wonyen on the wallis lightly with ladders. 1560 J. Dati tr. Steedman’s Land and Life (vi.) The Emperor goynge forth as farre as the ladder of the shippe to mete him, receyveth him in...

1577 Flemīng Conta. Hom. iii. 336. A lather of fourearne staves would but reach to the top. 1631 G. Sandys Ovid’s Met., xvi. (636) 308 [He] oft a lather tooke To gather fruit. 1756 & Swift Gulliver i. 39. That several ladders should be applied to my sides, on which, the inhabitants mounted.
Words arriving in English (animated sequence)

The year 1800: where do all the words come from?
Using a historical thesaurus of English online

The receiver of a telephone; = receiver n. 6c. rare.

**switch hook**
the hook or support in a telephone set which operates the circuit switch when the receiver is placed upon or removed from it.

**phone bell**

**hybrid coil**
a type of transformer used in two-wire telephone circuits when amplification in both directions is required, having four pairs of...

**hybrid transformer**
= hybrid coil n.

**scriber**
(See quot. 1968.)

**cradle**
the ‘rest’ or support for a telephone receiver not in use.
When did Italian words start to enter English?
Investigating the future… where do we go now?

Some ideas:

Maintain editorial standards AND –

- access on new-generation devices
- crowd-sourcing/wikis
- free access
- stub entries
- etc…
Hunting for Science Fiction vocabulary

Full record for **viewphone n.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>a telephone that allows caller and receiver to see one another = videophone</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OED requirements</td>
<td>antedating 1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earliest cite</td>
<td>Raymond Z. Gallun, Revolt of the Star Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>In the OED, with earliest cite of 1964: this cite was actually to a reprint in a 1966 Frederik Pohl collection, &quot;Alternating Currents&quot;. Fred Galvin verified the cite in the original story, &quot;The Children of Night&quot;, from Galaxy, October 1964. Fred Galvin submitted a cite from a 1959 reprint of Robert A. Heinlein's &quot;Waldo&quot; and Mike Christie verified it in its 1942 first publication. Fred Galvin submitted a 1932 cite from Raymond Z. Gallun's &quot;The Revolt of the Star Men&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last modified</td>
<td>10 December, 2009</td>
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</table>

Citations for **viewphone n.**

Click [here](#) for more information about the citation list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Citation</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>R.Z. Gallun</td>
<td>Revolt of Star Men in Wonder Stories Quarterly Winter 228/1</td>
<td>1932 R.Z. GALLUN Revolt of Star Men in Wonder Stories Quarterly Winter 228/1</td>
<td>When Shelby reached his apartment, he immediately donned his laboratory smock and set to work. But he had scarcely finished mounting a tiny coil of wire within the hand-grip of his weapon, when the view-phone bell rang insistently. The inventor pulled off his smock and threw it over the materials on his work bench, so that the person at the other end of the view-phone connection, whoever it was, would not be able to see them. Then he snapped the television and audio switches. The mists in the view-plate cleared, and there before him, as real as though he were actually in the room, sat Hekalu Selba. The Martian's eyes gleamed with suppressed excitement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Astounding Sci. Fiction</td>
<td>Aug. 31/1</td>
<td>1942 Astounding Sci. Fiction Aug. 31/1</td>
<td>He cut in another viewphone circuit. 'Get me Chief Engineer Stevens at North American Power-Air,' he said sharply.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Flagging work-in-progress in stub entries...

Lessonia (bird)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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This May 2011 does not cite any references or sources. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. (May 2011)

Lessonia is a South American genus of birds in the tyrant flycatcher family, found near freshwater lakes and saline marshes. They are:

- Andean Negrito, Lessonia oreas
- Austral Negrito, Lessonia rufa

References

- Birdlife International

This songbird-related article is a stub. You can help Wikipedia by expanding it.

Andean Negrito (Lessonia oreas)
And if you still read books about the *OED*...!