

INTRODUCTION TO THE *OED*:

The 20-volume *Oxford English Dictionary*, available in Mickel Library, is one of the best resources available anywhere for understanding how a word works and where it comes from.

How to access our online OED from off-campus:

Go to the Mickel Library part of Converse's website, click on Internet References and Reference Resources: go to Oxford Reference Online Premium

- o Username: mickel
- o Password: mozart

The exercise below is designed to help you get more familiar with this particular dictionary, so you may not use another dictionary to do the assignment. I will collect it after break.

Abbreviations: If you are not sure what an abbreviation means, look in the first few pages of each volume for the list of abbreviations. A few standard ones: sb = noun (subject), v = verb, OE= Old English (English before 1066 A.D.).

Dates: In the section where you see citations (little quotations which contain that word), you will see each quote preceded by a date. This date is the year in which this quotation was written or published. These dates help us understand how a word changes meaning over the centuries.

NAME: _____ Score: _____ /5

A Scavenger Hunt with the OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY

Worth 5 pts.

1. Find one meaning for the noun "zenith."

2. What language(s) does the word "ambivalence" come from?

3. What is one meaning for the word "ambivalence"?

4. What language does the noun "nadir" come from?

5. The verb "brawl" once had a meaning that had to do with how people spoke in church in England. What did it mean to "brawl" in church?