

The Oxford English Dictionary DATABASE

Visit Dominican's Library A to Z Database List or <http://ezproxy.dom.edu/login?url=http://dictionary.oed.com>

The Oxford English Dictionary is a historical dictionary of English, covering the language from the earliest times to the present day. Includes pronunciation, etymology, and quotations in addition to definitions. It contains over 500,000 words.

The screenshot shows the OED website interface. At the top, there's a search bar with 'picnic' entered and a 'Find word' button. Below the search bar, the entry title 'picnic, n., adj., and adv.' is displayed. On the left, a vertical list of related words is shown, including 'picnic, n.', 'picnic-ish, adj.', 'picnicker, n.', 'picnicky, n.', 'picnickian, n.', 'picnicky, adj.', 'picno, n.', 'picno-, comb. form', 'pico de gallo, n.', 'picogram, n.', 'picoid, adj.', 'picoidian, adj. and n.', 'picoidous, adj.', 'picoinate, n.', 'picoline, n.', 'picoline, adj.', 'Picor, n.', 'picor, n.', 'piconet, n.', 'picong, n.', 'picopassette, adj.', 'picopterion, n.', 'picovirus, n.', 'pimey, n.', and 'picosecond, n.'. The main content area shows the definition: 'A. n. 1. a. Originally: †a fashionable social event at which each guest contributed a share of the food (obs.). Now: an informal meal eaten out of doors, esp. as part of an excursion to the countryside, coast, etc.' It includes several historical quotations, such as '1748 LD. CHESTERFIELD Let. 29 Oct. (1932) (modernized text) IV. 1295, I like the description of your picnic [in Germany; 1774 Pic-nic], where I take it for granted that your cards are only to break the formality of a circle.' and '1807 J. BARRINGTON *Miseries Human Life* II. xv. 38 She's so full of Fête, and Pic-nic and Opera.' The entry also includes a section for '1b. Something which has multiple contributors or sources; a miscellany, a collection, an anthology. *by picnic* (rare): by means of a contribution from each member. Obs.'

How to Use

Type in the word you would like to look up in the keyword box in the upper right hand corner and click the button to search.

picnic

Once you've found your word, select the options you'd like to see like Pronunciation, Etymology, or Quotations.

picnic, n., adj., and adv.

Pronunciation Spellings Etymology Quotations Date chart

Find out the fascinating history of words by seeing how they originally appeared!

A. n.

1. a. Originally: †a fashionable social event at which each guest contributed a share of the food (*obs.*). Now: an informal meal eaten out of doors, esp. as part of an excursion to the countryside, coast, etc.

1748 LD. CHESTERFIELD *Let.* 29 Oct. (1932) (modernized text) IV. 1255, I like the

Look along the left hand column and see where your word fits in with the rest of the dictionary

Entry

picnic, n., adj., and adv.

picnic, v.

picnic-ish, adj.

COMPOUNDS

C1. General attrib.

picnic basket n.

1863 *Hull Packet* 15 May 1/5 D. Love's, 52, Whitefriargate...

Scroll down to see how your word goes together with compound words.

Every word in **bright blue** is a link to an entirely new definition, so have fun exploring the history of the English language!

Questions?

Contact Katy Spindler at spinkath@my.dom.edu

September 30, 2009
Dominican University