

## STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01 HOURS, 22.06.06

### **It's official: we're a nation ruled by time**

We like to be punctual, we expect our trains to run to schedule, and many of us spend our working day watching the clock. Now the new revised eleventh edition of the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* can officially confirm that we are indeed ruled by time. Drawing on evidence from the Oxford English Corpus, the word *time* comes top in the list of commonest nouns in the English language, with *year* (3rd), *day* (5<sup>th</sup>) and *week* (17<sup>th</sup>) not far behind.

#### **All work and no play...**

And we seem to be spending an increasing amount of our time at *work*, which appears at number 16 in the list, while *play* and *rest* do not even make it into the top 100. Contrary to popular belief, though, *money* doesn't quite make the world go round as it features at a lowly 65, but this is perhaps explained by the fact that we have so many other words for money. But we are still ruled by *problems* (24), it appears, with no *solutions* in sight.

#### **...and it's still a man's world out there**

Although *person* is ranked at number 2, it's still very much a man's world with *man* featuring at number 7 in the list. *Child* then appears next at number 12, with *woman* only at number 14. One man, Tony Blair, will have even more reason to be pleased, with the word *government* making a strong showing in the list at 20. Others, however, will note with some concern that we talk far more about *war* (49) than *peace*, which does not appear in the top 100 at all...

#### **The list of top 25 nouns:**

1. time	2. person	3. year	4. way	5. day
6. thing	7. man	8. world	9. life	10. hand
11. part	12. child	13. eye	14. woman	15. place
16. work	17. week	18. case	19. point	20. government
21. company	22. number	23. group	24. problem	25. fact

The list of commonest nouns in the English language is just one of the fascinating facts contained in the brand-new *English Uncovered* supplement of the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*:

- How do we keep track of the language?
- How many words are there in English?
- What is the commonest word?
- Where do new words come from?
- How is English spelling changing?

## Continuing to celebrate the new:

### Words in the world of work and play...

New business and political terms feature strongly in the new revised edition of the dictionary, reflecting the ever-increasing time that we spend in the workplace.

### **So, how do we deal with the *elephant in the room* and the *pig in the python*...?**

They're likely to figure large in the business-speak of *plugged-in* executives, together with the *elevator pitch* (a short sales pitch, intended to impress a senior manager during a ride in an elevator). So if we are spending so much time in the office why not stay *ahead of the curve* by getting the latest dictionary rather than settling for a *helicopter view* of the English language?

### **Keylogging or moblogging?**

It's a sign of the times that words describing illegal activities such as *keylogging*, *identity theft*, *shoulder-surfing* are now included in the dictionary. But on the lighter side, the list of leisure pursuits now covers *moblogging*, *leaf peeping*, going *radge* while listening to *crunk* and, of course, watching *the beautiful game*. And for those *celebutantes* among you who are looking to get in shape for that all-important *civil partnership* ceremony there's now the opportunity to keep your *bippy* (or *bahookie* – whichever you prefer) *aerobicized*!

### **Are you speaking my language?**

How up-to-date is your company's business-speak? Which of these words will feature in your next meeting? Why not play our 'business buzzword bingo' game, choosing a selection from the words below. Players check off these words as they come up in the meeting, and the first to fill in a 'line' of words is the winner.

Ahead of the curve	Blame game	Buy-in
Cover all the bases	Customer-facing	Deal-breaker
Elevator pitch	Helicopter view	Knowledge economy
Metrics	Nuclear option	Pig in the python
Plugged in	Productize	Pushback
Upskill	Value proposition	Vulture fund

## **Definitions to your mobile phone 24/7**

For the first time you can get definitions from the world's best-selling dictionary **24/7** via your mobile phone. To launch this brand new service, customers who buy the print edition of the new revised eleventh edition of the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* can enjoy the first 5 lookups for **FREE**. This special offer is available until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006 and your standard network rate applies to each lookup request. Subsequent lookups will be charged at 25p plus your standard text (SMS) network rate. The offer is open to UK mobile phone users only, and is subject to terms and conditions, which can be found on the Oxford University Press website at <http://www.askoxford.com/concise/textoffer>.

Based on the authority of the Oxford English Corpus and the ongoing research of Oxford Dictionaries, the new revised eleventh edition of the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* contains over 240,000 words and phrases, and definitions, and provides the most authoritative description of the English language.

**Publication date: 22 June 2006, available in hardback standard and thumb index editions**

**For more information or to request a review copy, please contact Juliet Evans on 01865 353911 or email [juliet.evans@oup.com](mailto:juliet.evans@oup.com)**

### **Oxford English Corpus**

Oxford dictionaries and thesauruses are compiled using the Oxford English Corpus – a massive text collection of over one billion words of real 21<sup>st</sup>-century English – to give us the fullest, most accurate picture of the English language today. Analysing the language using the Corpus we can see the behaviour of words in context and identify new words and senses that are emerging.