

Brief Guide to the Oxford English Dictionary (OED)

Click on the symbols to see a phonetic pronunciation, or click the blue "play" arrow to hear it said aloud

The letters and numbers give you an idea of when the various forms of the word were in use; e.g.:
OE = Old English
ME 16 = Middle English between 1600-1699

Rest the mouse over the linked words in the etymology to see the brief definition of the root words

Cross Reference

† [gare, n.](#)
A spear or javelin.

You can trace the history of the word through quotations showing its use; for example, the first known use of the word garlic was c1000 (the "c" = circa, which means "approximately")

The screenshot shows the OED entry for 'garlic, n.'. Key features include:

- Search Bar:** 'Quick search: Find word in dictionary' with a 'GO' button.
- Navigation:** 'Back to Results | Next', 'Help on Dictionary Entry | Print | Save | Email | Cite'.
- Entry Title:** 'garlic, n.' with 'Text size: A A' and 'View as: Outline | Full entry'.
- Pronunciation:** 'Brit. /ˈgɑːlɪk/ , U.S. /ˈɡɑrlɪk/' with audio icons.
- Forms:** 'OE *gárléac*, ME *garlec*, ME, 16 *garleek*, ME-15 *garlek(e)*, (ME *garlekke*), ME, 15-16 *garlik(e)*, ME-15 *garlyk(e)*, 15-16 *garlicke*, 15-18 *garlick*, 17- *garlic*. Also ME *garly*, *garle*. (Show Less)'
- Etymology:** 'Old English *gárléac* (*gár* *GARE* n. + *léac* *LEEK* n.): the corresponding Old Norse *geirlauk*. Is possibly from Old English. (Show Less)'
- Definition:** '1. a. A plant of the genus *Allium* (usually *A. sativum*) having a bulbous root, a very strong smell, and an acrid, pungent taste. *clove of garlic* (see *CLOVE* n. 1). *oil of garlic*, an essential oil obtained from the bulb and stem of the garlic.'
- Quotations:** 'c1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 34 Genim cropleac & garleac. gecnuwa wel tosomne. c1265 in T. Wright & R. P. Wülcker *Anglo-Saxon & Old Eng. Vocab.* (1884) II. 558/17 *Alleum..garlec.*'
- Right Side:** 'This entry has not yet been fully updated (first published 1898).', 'Publication history', 'Entry profile', 'Previous version', 'In this entry:' (list of related terms), and a 'Jump to:' table.

Click on the linked title included with the quotation to learn more about the quotation's source

Want to know what the symbols and abbreviations mean? Click on **Help**. In the "Welcome" section click on **Other Resources** to see their *Key to symbols and other conventions...* and *Abbreviations...* lists

This close-up shows the second definition: '†2. The name of a popular jig or farce of the early part of the seventeenth century. *Obs.*' It includes two quotations:

- 1614 R. TAILOR *Hogge hath lost Pearle* l. B ij b, *Ha*. Youle finde it worth Megge of Westminster, althouh it be but a bare Iigge. *Pla*. O lord sir, I would it had but halfe the taste of garlicke. *Ha*. Garlicke stinkes to this.
- 1630 J. TAYLOR *Wks.* II. 159 And for his action he eclipseth quite, The Iigge of Garlick, or the Punks delight.

Don't forget...

...to scroll down to see if your word has other definitions

Brief Guide to the *Oxford English Dictionary (OED)*, continued

You can print, save or email the definition to yourself for later use

You can search for a new word without going back to the home screen

The *OED* offers a suggested citation for this dictionary entry; use the drop down menu to chose MLA style

Preview citation in MLA ▼
 "garlic, n." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, September 2014. Web. 7 October 2014.

This trio of links allows you to explore the *OED* publication history of the word

Click on one of these terms (or scroll down) to see your main entry used in compound words/phrases/etc.

If you were browsing the *OED* as a print book, these are the entries you would see before and after *garlic*; you can click on another entry to change words

OED Oxford English Dictionary
 The definitive record of the English language

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garlic, n. Text size: A A

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Pronunciation: /'gɑ:lɪk/

Forms: OE *gárléac*, ME *garlec*, ME, 16 *garleek*, ME-15 *garlek(e)*, (ME *garlekke*), ME, 15-16 *garlik(e)*, ME-15 *garlyk(e)*, 15-16 *garlicke*, 15-18 *garlick*, 17- *garlic*. Also ME *garly*, *garle*. ([Show Less](#))

Etymology: Old English *gárléac* (< *gár* *GARE* *n.*² + *léac* *LEEK* *n.*); the corresponding Old Norse *geirlauk-r* is possibly from Old English. ([Show Less](#))

1.

a. A plant of the genus *Allium* (usually *A. sativum*) having a bulbous root, a very strong smell, and an acrid, pungent taste.

claws of garlic (see *CLAW* *n.*¹), *oil of garlic*, an essential oil

Thesaurus » **Categories** »

Publications: This entry has not yet been fully updated (first published 1898).
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 bear's garlic
 clove of garlic
 'garlic
 garlic-bed
 garlic bread
 garlic-breath
 garlic butter
 garlic crusher
 garlic-eater
 garlic-eating
 garlic-germander
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Thesaurus X

garlic (c1000)

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the external world » the living world » plant » particular plants » particular cultivated or valued plants » particular food plant or plant product » particular vegetables » [noun] » onion, leek, or garlic » garlic

garlic (c1000)

poor man's treacle (1611)

countryman's treacle (1745-7)

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Clicking on **Thesaurus** will give you suggested synonyms. The *OED*'s Historical Thesaurus offers another way to explore words by grouping them into categories and by time period. Click on the category headings or **Go to Historical Thesaurus** link for another perspective on your word