

Exercise 1.6 Oxford English Dictionary

In order to familiarize yourself with the *Oxford English Dictionary*, answer the following questions. If you are using the online version of the dictionary, you will want to consult the 'Guide to OED Entries' (<http://dictionary.oed.com/about/guide/>). The print version has a preface entitled 'General Explanation' which can direct you through the information presented in each entry.

1. The first use of the word *sandwich* is in 1762. In this quotation, the word is capitalized. Why is this? Explain on the basis of the word's etymology.

2. Is the word *booty* related to the word *boot* 'shoe'?

3. If you look up the word *quiz*, you will find two nouns and three verbs listed. Which one means 'an oral exam'? Which form is it said to derive from?

4. What language does the word *slogan* derive from? What is its earliest meaning in English? When is the last recorded use of the word with this meaning in the *OED*?

5. The word *stomach* has a complex route of transmission into English. Trace this route.

6. What is the earliest spelling for the word *eerie*? When did it first occur with its modern spelling?

7. List two obsolete meanings of the word *nice*.

8. Give the positive and negative connotations of the word *ritzy*.
