

Quick Guide to Entries in the Oxford English Dictionary

Status Symbol- dagger stands for obsolete word no longer in use in English language.

†for'gall, v. *Obs.* Also *pa. pple.* forgalded. [f. FOR-*pref.*¹ + GALL v.] To gall thoroughly. 1563 *Mirr. Mag., Hen. Dk. Buckhm.* lxxxiv, The Bull chased with Dartes, And with dyepe woundes forgald and gored. 1576 *GASCOIGNE Philomene* (Arb.) 117 That horse which...lothes the griefe of his forgalded sides.

1. Identification-Includes main form of word, its pronunciation, part of speech, and variant forms or spellings. May also include identifiers such as sense, subject, or status labels.

†for'gar, v. *Obs.* [f. FOR-*pref.*¹ + OE. *gearwian* to make ready. Cf. ON. *fyringora* (Da. *forgjøre*, Sw. *förgöra*) to forfeit.] *trans.* a. To lose. b. To destroy, corrupt. c. 1200 *ORMIN* 14584 Mannkinn þatt all wass full off sinne & all forrgarrt æn Godd. *Ibid.* 17531 þurh whatt wass heffness whel forrgarrt To drejhenn helle pine? 13.. *E.E. Allit. P. A.* 321 Hit watz for-garte, at paradys greue. *Ibid.* B. 240 To lyue þer... & thenne enherite þat home þat aungelez for-gart. a. 1400 *Pol. Poems* (1859) l. 344 This fellowship han forgard her grace.

2. Etymology and Form History- Includes such things as derivation, subsequent form history, and information such as language (i.e. French, Latin, etc). Usually in bold brackets [like this].

forgather, foregather (fɔ'gæðə(r), fɔ-), v. Chiefly *Sc.* Also 6 -gadder, *Sc.* -gader. [f. FOR-*pref.*¹ + GATHER. Cf. Du. *vergaderen*, Flem. 16th c. *vergaederen* to assemble.]

3. Signification-Definition(s) of word. Will give earliest meaning first. C=circa (about).

Wintr. To gather together, assemble. 1513 *DOUGLAS Æneis* vii. xiv. 30 Ane ost of futmen...Thik forgadderis the large feyldis about. 1535 *STEWART Cron. Scot.* II. 62 The Scottis all forgadderit in Argyle. a. 1774 *FERGUSON King's Birthday Poems* (1845) 1 In London town Whare fouk...Forgather aft...To drink and tipple. 1895 H. P. ROBINSON *Men born equal* 329 Three or four other men forgathered with them in the wine-room over the coffee and cigars.

4. Illustrative Quotations-Includes date of publication, author, title and text of quotations.

2. To encounter, meet; *esp.* to meet *with*. 'Now commonly used to denote an accidental meeting' (Jam.).

1600 R. LOGAN in *Pitcairn Crim. Trials* (1833) II. 282 Incase ye and M.A.R. forgader...be very var vith his raklese toyis of Padoa. 1676 W. ROW *Contn. Blair's Autobiog.* ix. (1848) 142 They forgathered with a mighty hurricane out of the north-west. 1737 *RAMSAY Scot. Prov. Ded.*, Ye fergather wi' your friends at kirk. 1786 *BURNS Two Dogs* 6 'Twas in that place...Twa dogs...Forgather'd ance upon a time. 1873 G. C. DAVIES *Mount. & Mere* xix. 178, I foregathered with an ancient fisherman.

b. To associate *with*. *to forgather up*: to take up with, become attached to.

1782 *BURNS Death Poor Mailie* x, O, may thou ne'er forgather up Wi' ony blastit, moorland toop. 1858 *Times* 30 Nov. 6/6 For this...purpose he forgathered with the privates of the regiment, and treated them.

3. ? To come together in marriage.

1768 *ROSS Helenore* II. 100 Fouk sy had best begin wi' dealing fair, Altho' they sud forgether ne'er so bare.

Hence **for'gathered ppl. a.**, assembled. **for'gathering vbl. sb.**, the action of gathering together; also, an assembly, gathering, or meeting.

1823 *TENNANT Cardinal Beaton* II. i. 33 'You're awing me a pint o' gin for this forgatherin.' 1839 *BAILEY Festus* xix. (1848) 206 There rose a shout From the foregathered multitudes. 1868 *DICKENS Let.* 21 Mar., We hold all sorts of hearty foregatherings. 1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 8 Aug. 3/1 The fears and doubts of nations are laid to rest by the foregathering of the imperial cousins.

For Further Reading: Books on the OED available at the STC Library

Berg, Donna Lee. A Guide to the Oxford English Dictionary: The Essential Companion's User Guide.
Ref. PE1617.O94 B47 1993

Winchester, Simon. The Meaning of Everything: The Story of the Oxford English Dictionary
Ref. PE1617.O94 W56 2003

Winchester, Simon. The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary. PPE1617.O94 W56 1998