

Extended Definition
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Oxford English Dictionary. REF PE 1625 .O87

SAMPLE ENTRY

(gsp) Forms: 1 godsib(b, 4 godsyb(be, -zyb(be, 4-5 gossib(be, 4-7 godsib (be, 5-6 gos(s)y(p)p(e, 5-7 godsip, gossipp(e, gos(s)op(e, 5-8 gossep(pe, 6-7 goship, (5 godsep, -sypp, gossyb(e, 6 ghossepe, gossup, goshyp(p, godcept, 7 godsepte, ghossip), 6- gossip

[OE. *godsibb* masc. (f. *god* GOD + *sib(b* adj., akin, related: see SIB *a.*) ← **ETYMOLOGY** = ON. *gu-sefe* masc., *gu-sifja* fem., OSw. *guzsowir* masc., *guziff*, *gudzsoff* fem. In ME. a single example is found of a fem. *godzybbe* corresp. to masc. *godzyb* (see quot. 1340 in 1).]

1. One who has contracted spiritual affinity with another by acting as a sponsor at a baptism. ← **EARLIEST MEANING**

a. In relation to the person baptized: A godfather or godmother; a sponsor. Now only *arch.* and *dial.*

1014 WULFSTAN *Serm. ad Anglos* (Napier) 160 Godsibbas ← **QUOTATIONS**

and godbearn to fela man forspilde wide ynd as eode. **1340** *Ayenb.* 48 e zeuende is..of godson to e children of his godzyb oer of his godzybbe. **1590** GREENWOOD *Collect. Sclaund. Art. G*, The rashe, vndiscrete, and vnpossible vowe of the saide gossipps. **1649** EVELYN *Diary* (1827) II. 16 The parents being so poore that they had provided no gossips. **a1654** SELDEN *Table T.* (Arb.) 90 Should a great Lady, that was invited to be a Gossip, in her place send her kitchen-maid. **1711** HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) III. 194 Fully designed to come and stand gossip in person to Dr. Hudson's child. **1770** FOOTE *Lame Lover* I. 12 Do you know that you are new christen'd, and have had me for a gossip? **1819** S. ROGERS *Hum. Life* 34 Now, glad at heart the gossips breathe their prayer. **1856** C. M. YONGE *Daisy Chain* I. ix. (1879) 79 I'll find gossips, and let 'em be christened on Sunday. **1876** FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* V. xxv. 560 The Englishman whose child was held at the font by a Norman gossip..cast aside his own name. **1886** *S.W. Linc. Gloss. s.v.*, I suppose the same gossips will do for both.fig. **1581** J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 407b, And this place y^e Catholicke gosseppes have Christened by the name of Purgatory.

b. *transf.* With reference to the christening of a bell. *Obs.*

1563 FOXE *A. & M.* 380 The bel hauing a new garment put vpon it..they goo vnto sumptuous bankets, where~vnto also the Gossips are bidden. **1778** PENNANT *Tour in Wales* (1883) I. 47 A bell..was also christened..The gossips.. were doubtlessly rich persons.

c. In relation to the parents: (One's) child's godfather or godmother. *Obs.*

c1325 *Lai le Freine* 42 He schal mi gossibbe be. ← **QUOTATIONS**

1475 SIR J. PASTON in *P. Lett.* No. 766 III. 145 He was fayn to sue to the said Duc..by the meanes of his godsip the Bisshop of Wynchestre. [He was sponsor to the Duke's daughter.] **1494** FABYAN *Chron.* VII. 561 Which Wyllyam..was gossyp vnto the quene. **c1610** SIR J. MELVIL *Mem.* (1683) 70, I requested her majesty to be a gossip to the Queen204/2

2. a. A familiar acquaintance, friend, chum. Formerly applied to both sexes, now only (somewhat *arch.*) to women. (A sense apparently derived more immediately from 1c.) The expression in quot. 1641 is app. the name of some rustic game or dance.

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* v. 152 'Ic haue good ale, gossib', quod heo. 'Gloten, woltou asaye'?

1393 *Ibid.* C. VII. 47 What ich gaf for godes loue, to god-sybbes ich tolde. **a1450** *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 79 There was a false bauude that was her godsib. **a1529** SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 356 Lo,

gossyp, I wys, Thus and thus it is. **c1560** INGELEND *Disobedient Child* Fijb, She is to her Gossypes gone to make mery. (1652) D2b, **1766** H. BROOKE *Fool of Quality* (1809) II. 11 Barnaby Boniface, his next neighbour and gossip.

b. esp. Applied to a woman's female friends invited to be present at a birth.

1590 SHAKES. *Mids. N.* II. i. 47 Sometime lurke I in a Gossips bole, In very likenesse of a roasted crab. **1620** *Swetnam Arraign'd* (1880) 44 Bidding of Gossips, calling to Vpsittings. **a1661** FULLER *Worthies* (1840) I. xx. 75 They are as good evidence to prove where they were born, as if we had the deposition of the midwife, and all the gossips present at their mothers labours.

3. A person, mostly a woman, of light and trifling character, ← **LATER MEANING** esp. one who delights in idle talk; a newsmonger, a tattler.

1566 [see 6, *gossip-like*]. **1579** LYLly *Euphues* (Arb.) 52, I will..bring..a visard on my face, for a shamelesse gossippe. **1600** DEKKER *Fortunatus* Wks. 1873 I. 97, I wonder what blind gossip this minx is that is so prodigall. **1614** T. ADAMS *Devil's Banq.* 320 There arise in the end..as many Gossips as Gossips. **1687** DRYDEN *Hind & P.* III. 903 The common chat of gossips when they meet. **1709** HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) II. 212 John Stevens..a negligent, busy, prating Gossip. **1716** ADDISON *Freeholder* No. 26. 144 A Gossip in Politics is a Slattern in her Family.

4. The conversation of such a person; idle talk; trifling or ← **CURRENT MEANING** groundless rumour; tittle-tattle. Also, in a more favourable sense: Easy, unrestrained talk or writing, esp. about persons or social incidents.

1811 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVII. 11, I was up to his gossip, so I took him. **1820** W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* II. 358 A kind of travelling gazette, carrying the whole budget of local gossip from house to house. **1833** H. MARTINEAU *Loom & Lugg* I. i. 6 All this gossip about their neighbours. **1849** LD. HOUGHTON in T. W. Reid *Life* (1891) I. x. 439 A sort of focus of political gossip. **1870** E. PEACOCK *Ralf Skirl.* I. 27 We are fond of topographical gossip. **1889** BARRIE *Window in Thrums* 177 My presence killed the gossip on her tongue.

Another excellent and easy to use source is the Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology (REF PE 1580 .B35). Compare this entry with that from the OED:

Gossip *n.* idle talk. Probably before 1300 *gossip* godparent; (also a familiar acquaintance; developed from Old English (1014) *godsibb* person acting as a sponsor at baptism, godparent (*god* God +*sibb* relative; see SIB, SIBLING). In Middle English *gossip* was extended in meaning from a familiar acquaintance to that of a form of address for such an acquaintance (probably before 1300), and was later applied to anyone who engages in familiar or idle talk (1566). Probably by influence of the verb, *gossip* further developed the meaning of idle talk about others, trifling or groundless rumor (1811),--*v.* 1500, to act as a familiar acquaintance, in Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*; from the noun. The meaning of talk idly, mostly about other people's affairs, is first recorded in 1627.

Standard dictionaries are shelved in the reference stacks in the PE 1600's area. Two sets of the Oxford English Dictionary and several copies of the Barnhart dictionary are shelved in reference; books of synonyms, antonyms, slang, quotations, and other titles which will help with the extended definition assignment are also in reference.

Don't forget that there are many specialized dictionaries in reference. These can be located in LINCC by doing a subject search. Search for your particular topic, followed by the subdivision dictionaries:

S= Art--Dictionaries

S= Music—Dictionaries

TYPES OF DEFINITIONS

Definition by **Etymology**

This type of definition traces the early history of the word to find the derivation. For example: Ecology meaning the "branch of biology dealing with the relations between organisms and their environment" came from the Greek word oikos which meant "house" and logy which meant a "combining form".

Definition by **Origin**

This kind of defining traces the early use of the word and explains how the meaning came to us. During the 1870's the Organization for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals became interested in the abuse case of a nine-year-old girl from a New York tenement. This case prompted the association to include children as well as animals in their protection statement.

Definition by **Contrast**

In showing the contrast between the hombre de bigote and a bigot of today, the definition may be as follows: In contrast to the respected hombre de bigote in Spain, today a bigot is a person who is somewhat intolerant because he has unchangeable views.

Definition by **Description**

This type gives a description of the word: A bigot is intolerant of any belief, creed, or race that is not his own.

Definition by **Synonym**

To define by using a synonym may be the most concise way, for often one word will be more explicit than a formal definition. Reporters such as Robert Woodward and Carl Bernstein of the Washington Post prefer to be known as investigative reporters.

Definition by **Negation**

This definition tells the reader what the word is not. Muckraking is not purely sensational or "yellow journalism", which has as its motive pure profit from the sales of its publication.

Definition by **Quotation**

This type of definition is an example or description, but the source is not from the writer. Norman H. Lobsenz in "The Innocent Game that Disrupts Marriage," defines flirtation as a "slippery word, definable as much by your own attitude as the dictionary."

Definition by **Process and/or Growth**

This type of definition traces the movement of the word as it evolved to modern times. The word muckraking was fostered by magazines such as *Everybody's Colliers* and *Cosmopolitan* when they began to exploit sensationalism. However, in 1912 the muckraking movement lost impetus because some investigators exploited sensationalism for its own sake.

Definition by **Metaphor**

This type compares one term to another. But the comparison is implied, not stated, and the word "like" is not used. Some people believe asphalt is tar.

Definition by **Comparison**

In this definition, the term is compared to another term that may be more familiar to the reader.

Archie Bunker, of the television show "All in the Family", is a bigot because like this type of person, Archie is intolerant of any view or person that he does not support.

Definition by Example

This definition explains a term by giving a specific instance of it.

Soccer may be a more realistic term for football because in soccer the ball is kicked with the foot, it is not passed from player to player with the hands.

STEPS TO EXTENDED DEFINITION RESEARCH

Identify your word

- Use concrete terms such as rice, door, chair, etc.
- Try to avoid nebulous concepts such as love, faith, hate, etc.

Look up your word in the Oxford English Dictionary and the Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology.

Look in general encyclopedias:

- You may find additional information in general encyclopedias such as the World Book and the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Look in specialized encyclopedias and dictionaries:

- Take another look at your word
 - Can it apply to more than one subject area?
 - Does the OED or the Barnhart refer to the word being a medical, business, psychological or other specialized term?
 - Ask at the Reference Desk for specialized sources in various disciplines.

Browse the Reference Collection:

- Look at additional dictionaries, etymology handbooks, and books of word histories in the PE section.

Write your definition, using the various types of definition, etymology through example.

Use a standard bibliography format:

- Format the citations in your bibliography using the style requested by your instructor.
- Preferred citation styles are the MLA (Modern Language Association) and the APA (American Psychological Association).