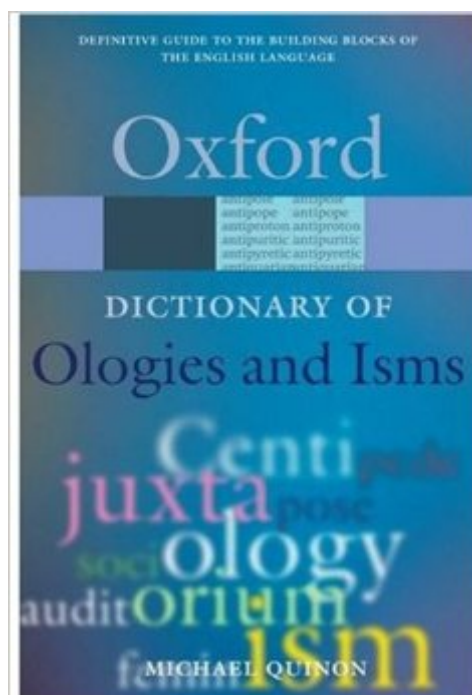


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# Ologies And Isms: A Dictionary Of Word Beginnings And Endings (Oxford Quick Reference)



## Synopsis

Some of the most common--and often misinterpreted--parts of English language construction are prefixes and suffixes. *Ologies and Isms* unlocks the meaning of these building blocks that make up so much of our modern medical and technical vocabulary. In accessible, plain language this book explains what each affix means. Containing over 10,000 examples within 1,250 entries, this ready reference illustrates the numerous ways that each example is used in everyday speech and writing. In addition, a selective thematic index breaks prefixes and suffixes down by theme, for example, biochemistry and drugs, living world, and places and people. Organized in a handy A to Z format, the book features a full Introduction, as well as a section with definitions of technical terms. After reading *Ologies and Isms*, language enthusiasts, crossword and word game lovers, and anyone who has puzzled over 'antidisestablishmentarianism' or struggled with 'histopathologist' will have a better understanding of the language of the world around them.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The terminology of medicine and biology, to name just two fields, is rife with words formed largely by compounding Greek stems. This book enables a layman like me to make sense of them, and of many other words in more common usage. Michael Quinion's explanations of the word parts (usually prefixes and suffixes, but frequently syllables found in the middle of words) are clearly written, and he provides examples of the most common words using each stem. I would estimate

that perhaps 80% of the word stems contained in this book are of Greek origin, either directly or as modified by Latin usage. Since the list of stems is 269 pages long, however, that means that there are plenty of word stems of different origin. This is also one of those rare reference books that are a joy just to dip into and read an entry or two.

How often have you seen a technical word & not quite known what it meant? Tired of not really knowing what the ingredients on a food box in the store really are? *OLOGIES AND ISMS* by Michael Quinion is a must-have dictionary that will help you decipher the prefixes & suffixes of modern English words. *Rebeccasreads* recommends *OLOGIES AND ISMS* as an important resource for writers, reporters, students, & anyone who plays with words as in Scrabble or crosswords.

I originally bought this book for some specific needs. Afterwards I just got interested and had fun learning more about English.

The book does not clearly define isms and ologies; it just gives root words, prefixes, and suffixes. Also I was expecting a hardback copy, esp. at that price. I intend to return this item this week.

If you enjoy word origins, you will love this book. Very interesting.

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