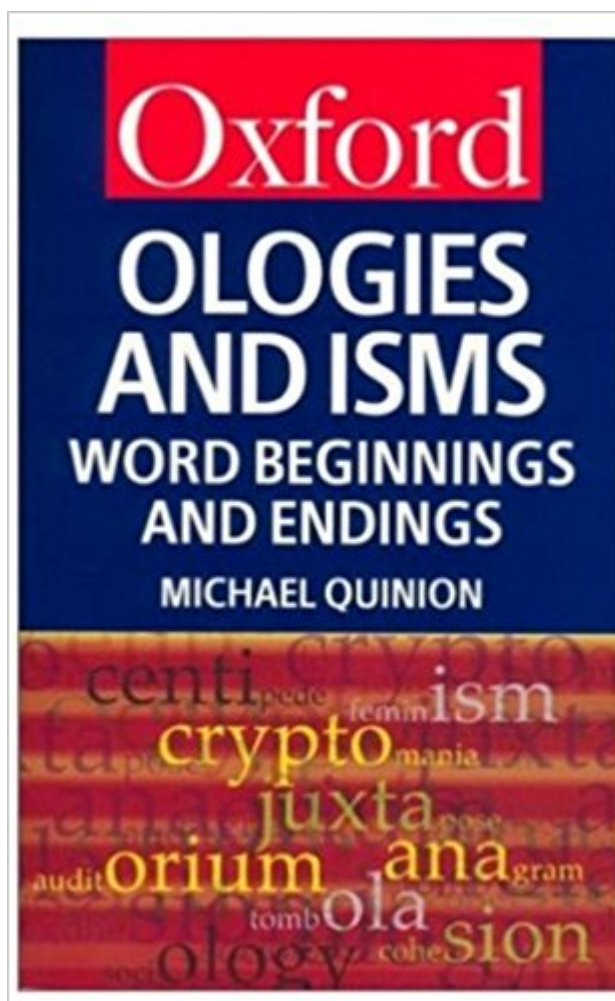


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# Ologies And Isms: A Dictionary Of Word Beginnings And Endings (Oxford Quick Reference)



## Synopsis

The codebook has arrived! 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. With its huge store of examples--over 10,000 across 1,250 entries--this ready reference illustrates the numerous ways that each is used in everyday speech and writing. Organized in a handy A to Z format, the book features a full Introduction, a section with definitions of technical terms, and a selective thematic index. Anyone (and there are quite a few of us) who has puzzled over 'antidisestablishmentarianism' or struggled with 'histopathologist' will welcome this volume for the relief it provides.

## Book Information

Series: Oxford Quick Reference

Paperback: 280 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press (April 3, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0192801236

ISBN-13: 978-0192801234

Product Dimensions: 7.7 x 0.8 x 5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.3 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #884,264 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in [Books > Reference >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

Michael Quinion has had a varied career, including BBC studio manager and producer in radio, heritage interpreter, freelance audio-visual scriptwriter and producer, museum curator, tourism consultant, and computer software writer. He has been a freelance researcher for the Oxford English Dictionary since 1992, focussing particularly on new words, and is now also a technical consultant for it. He contributed about a third of the entries to the Second Edition of the Oxford Dictionary of New Words.

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.

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.

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

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