

HOW-TO GUIDE

Searching the Historical Thesaurus

The Historical Thesaurus is a rich resource for looking at how people have spoken about things, places, people or concepts over the last 1000 years. It can be searched by selecting Historical Thesaurus from the quick search dropdown, or from the Historical Thesaurus tab on the Advanced Search page. It is a rich resource for looking at how people have spoken about things, places, people, or concepts throughout the 1,000 years of language development charted by the OED. For more, [watch our Searching the Historical Thesaurus video.](#)

Matching term and definition are presented on the left hand side.

Results can be filtered down. So, for instance, if only obsolete meanings are desired, that can be selected from the filter.

OED | Oxford English Dictionary

Dictionary

Entries (51) Meanings (69) Quotations (278) Historical Thesaurus (51)

Search: rhythm

1 to 50 of 51 results

Sort by: A-Z

Jump to: Go

Export results (.csv)

alpha rhythm 1935-
Physiology. Designating a pattern of electrical activity in the brain characterized by regular waves having a frequency of eight to thirteen cycles...

beat-rhythm c1873-
Any measured sequence of strokes or blows, or the sound thereby produced; the march of measured sound or of verse. Also **beat-rhythm** (see 1873-4).

Berger rhythm 1934-
= alpha rhythm at alpha, adj. B.I.3a.

beta rhythm 1936-
In various scientific uses; esp. **beta rhythm**, **beta waves**, fast activity of the brain recorded in an electroencephalogram, having a frequency of...

counter-rhythm 1927-
A subordinate rhythm acting as a counterbalance to the main rhythm.

counter-rhythm 1927-
A subordinate rhythm acting as a counterbalance to the main rhythm.

Filters:

DATE OF USE

☒ Use ☐ First use

From: Year (YYYY)

To: Year (YYYY)

CATEGORY

Select category

PART OF SPEECH

☐ Nouns (48)

☐ Verbs (2)

☐ Adjectives (1)

LANGUAGE OF ORIGIN

☐ English (49)

☒ Indo-European (19)

☐ Other sources (1)

USAGE

☐ historical (1)

OBsolescence

☐ In current use (45)

☐ Obsolete (6)

REGIONAL ENGLISH

☐ North American English (3)

☐ Britain and Ireland (1)

Historical Thesaurus category containing the term is shown on the right hand side, including a breadcrumb trail to show the category's position in the hierarchy. This way, it is possible to see all the different semantic classifications that contain a particular term.

The full Historical Thesaurus can be viewed by clicking the link in each result. From this point, you can see all the historical synonyms of a particular word and also explore the taxonomy further by clicking different sections of the hierarchy. The terms are sorted chronologically by default, but can also be sorted alphabetically.