

## ONLINE DICTIONARIES

Here are the links to different dictionaries online:

- <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>
  - dictionary, plus word games, crossword puzzles, daily podcasts, and a visual dictionary (with a different game each week); link to Britannica Online Encyclopedia;
- <http://dictionary.reference.com> (also has games, word FAQs, Grammar and Style, daily puzzles, crossword puzzles)

### **About <http://dictionary.reference.com>:**

This is a FREE website where you can subscribe, and they send you a "Word of the Day," with a couple examples of how to use the word. (Go the website, then look in the left sidebar for "Free Word of the Day Sign Up.")

The emails are delivered directly to your website when you subscribe, and I have never had any "spam" (unwanted) emails from subscribing to this service. It also has a place where you can click to HEAR the word pronounced, too.

I have "cut and pasted" examples into this email, but the email they send is formatted much better, so it's easier to read:

Here is a sample of a Word of the Day:

obscure \uhb-SKYOOR\, adjective:

1. not clearly expressed; hard to understand
2. to hide from view; dim, darken
3. not well known; not prominent
4. dark, dim, murky

An obscure federal agency with a history of setbacks announced Thursday that it will upgrade its troubled wastewater treatment plant in San Ysidro. -- Mike Lee, The San Diego Union-Tribune, 2008-05-18

Either way, it's the sort of obscure Australiana that fascinates local historian David Morgan, who has been an inveterate collector of trivia, compiler of lists and orchestrator of improbable connections since he began thumbing through encyclopedias as a child. -- John Huxley, The Sydney Morning Herald, 2005-11-12

(ORIGIN INFORMATION: "c" means "circa" meaning "around"):

c 1425, from Old French obscur "dark, dim, not clear," from Latin obscurus "covered over, dark, obscure, indistinct," from ob "over" + -scurus "covered," from Proto Indo-European \*(s)keu- "to cover, conceal;" source of Old Norse sky, Old English sceo "cloud," Latin scutum "shield" and Greek skeue "dress.". The verb is first recorded 1475.

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Spanish speakers: they also have a **Spanish word of the day**. You can also learn new words in Spanish, or learn about the structure of the language. (This will help you learn about the structure of English.)

This is the word for today (I thought you'd like the first example, in particular):

*temer*, verb to be afraid

As seen in an earlier Word of the Day, *temer* is a more formal way than *tener miedo* of saying that someone is afraid.

*Teme al profesor*. He's afraid of the teacher.

If you or someone is afraid that something will happen, you use *temer que* and the subjunctive:

*Temen que se pueda\* producir un recalentamiento de la economía*. They're worried that the economy might overheat.

But when you want to say that you are afraid that something actually is so, rather than possibly being so at some time in the future, you use the indicative. *Me temo que seguirá así*. I'm afraid it will go on like this.

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