

or

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1

→ —used as a function word to indicate an alternative
coffee or tea
sink or swim

, the equivalent or substitutive character of two words or phrases
lessen or abate

, or approximation or uncertainty
in five or six days

2

archaic: EITHER

3

archaic: WHETHER

4

→ —used in logic as a sentential connective that forms a complex sentence which is true when at least one of its constituent sentences is true → compare DISJUNCTION

or

2 of 8

preposition

archaic

: BEFORE

or

3 of 8

conjunction (2)

archaic

: **BEFORE**

: the heraldic color gold or yellow

: a logical operator that requires at least one of two inputs to be present or conditions to be met for an output to be made or a statement to be executed

OR gate in a computer

OR

6 of 8

abbreviation

1

operating room

2

operational research; operations research

3

Oregon

4

owner's risk

5

own recognizance

-or

7 of 8

noun suffix (1)

: one that does a (specified) thing

grantor

-or

noun suffix (2)

: condition : activity
demeanor

**Word History**

Etymology

Conjunction (1) and Noun (2)

Middle English, alteration of *other*, alteration of Old English *oththe*; akin to Old High German *eddo* or

Preposition

Middle English, from *or*, adverb, early, before, from Old Norse *ār*; akin to Old English *ǣr* early — more at ere

Noun (1)

Middle English, from Anglo-French, gold, from Latin *aurum* — more at aureus

Noun suffix (1)

Middle English, from Anglo-French *-ur*, *-our*, *-eour* & Latin *-or*; Anglo-French *-ur*, *-our*, from Latin *-or*; Anglo-French *-eour*, from Latin *-ator*, from *-a-*, verb stem + *-tor*, agent suffix; akin to Greek *-tōr*, agent suffix, Sanskrit *-tā*

Noun suffix (2)

Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Latin

First Known Use

Conjunction (1)

13th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1

Preposition

13th century, in the meaning defined above

Conjunction (2)

13th century, in the meaning defined above

Noun (1)

15th century, in the meaning defined above

Noun (2)

1947, in the meaning defined above

Time Traveler

The first known use of *or* was in the 13th century

See more words from the same century



Phrases Containing *or*

all-or-none

all-or-nothing

account for (someone or something).

as (someone or something) goes

at one time or another

at some time or other

at someone's or something's mercy

beg, borrow, or/and steal

avoid (someone or something) like the plague

See More



Dictionary Entries Near or

Oquirrh Mountains

or

OR

See More Nearby Entries >



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Kids Definition

→ —used to indicate an alternative
coffee *or* tea
sink *or* swim

: one that does a specified thing
elevator

: condition : activity
demeanor



Medical Definition

operating room



Legal Definition

own recognizance



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- Named after Sir Robert Peel, what are British police called?
- Peelheads Bobbies
- Berties Robbies



You know what it looks like... but what is it called?

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