

English Dictionary (engdict) >> English Dictionary (engdict) > define

## define

returns the definition/meaning of the word

### Calling Sequence

```
meaning = define(word)
```

### Parameters

**word:**

An English Word whose definition is needed.

**meaning:**

A string or a column of strings that contains the definitions. One definition per row.

### Description

returns a string or a column of strings that contain the definitions/meanings of the given word. Around 176000 definitions for 112000 distinct words are supported.

### Examples

```
define('aback') //returns the possible meanings of 'aback'
```

```
--> define aback
ans =
!Aback (adv.) Toward the back or rear; backward.
!Aback (adv.) Behind; in the rear.
!Aback (adv.) Backward against the mast; -- said of the sails when pressed by the wind.
!Aback (n.) An abacus.
```

```
define('ostentatious') // returns the meaning of 'ostentatious'
```

### Authors

- Manas Sharma

### Bibliography

<http://www.mso.anu.edu.au/~ralph/OPTED/>