

Oxford English Dictionary | The definitive record of the English language

qualified, *adj.* and *n.*

Pronunciation: Brit. /'kwɒlɪfaɪd/, U.S. /'kwɒləfaɪd/,

/'kwɒləfaɪd/

Forms:

α. 15 **qualyfyd**, 15 **qualyfyed**, 15– **qualified**, 16 **qualifyed**, 16 **quallified**; Sc. pre-17 **qualifeit**, pre-17 **qualifiet**, pre-17 **qualifiit**, pre-17 **qualifijt**, pre-17 **qualifit**, pre-17 **qualifyit**, pre-17 **qualifyt**, pre-17 **qualyfeid**, pre-17 **qualyfeit**, pre-17 **qualyfied**, pre-17 17– **qualified**, 17 **qwalified**.

β. 16 **quallefied**; Sc. pre-17 **qualefeit**, pre-17 **qualefeyet**, pre-17 **qualefeyit**, pre-17 **qualefiet**, pre-17 **qualefiit**.

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: Formed within English, by derivation; modelled on a French lexical item. **Etymons:** QUALIFY *v.*, -ED *suffix*¹.

Etymology: < QUALIFY *v.* + -ED *suffix*¹, perhaps partly after Middle French, French *qualifié* fit, competent (1483), (of a crime) fulfilling all conditions specified in the legal definition (1566), (of a person) having the qualities and training required to practise a profession (1619), possessing a title of nobility (1625). Compare Spanish *calificado* (late 15th cent.), also *cualificado* (first half of the 16th cent.), Portuguese *qualificado* (15th cent. as *caficadas*, feminine plural), Italian *qualificato* (14th cent.), also German *qualifiziert* (16th cent. as †*qualificiert*).

The following quot. apparently shows the earliest use, but it is unclear which sense is intended (compare note at MATERIALITY *n.* 1):

a1529 J. SKELTON *Colyn Cloute* (?1545) sig. B.vi^v And bryng in materialities [*misprinted* maerialities] And qualyfyed qualytes Of pluralytes Of tryalytes And of tot quottes.

A. *adj.*

I. That possesses a certain quality or qualities.

1. Having qualities or possessing accomplishments which fit one for a certain end, office, or function; having an officially recognized qualification to practise as a member of a particular profession; fit, competent.

a. In attributive use.

1533 J. BELLENDEN tr. Livy *Hist. Rome* (1903) II. III. xvii. 16 Þai gaiff power to þir ten tribunis to create..two maist qualifyit persouns amang þame to haue empire and signorie abone þe laif [L. *Tribunis militum negotium dederunt ut ex suo numero duos crearent qui summae rerum praeessent*].

1558 Q. KENNEDY *Compendius Tractiue* in D. Laing *Misc. Wodrow Soc.* (1844) I. 152 Than sulde be qualifeit men in all the estaitis of the kirk.

1693 G. ST. LO (*title*) England's safety..Proposing a sure method for..raising qualified seamen for the well manning Their Majesties Fleet.

1726 G. CRAWFURD *Lives Officers Crown & State Scotl.* 76/1 He was pitched on as the..best qualified Person..to be the Præceptor.

- 1849 R. COBDEN *Speeches* 86 I have heard qualified persons say, that the..police there, are the finest armed and drilled men in Ireland.
- 1865 J. B. LIGHTFOOT *Comm. Gal.* (1874) 72 I am..a qualified witness of his resurrection.
- 1880 C. R. MARKHAM *Peruvian Bark* 93 The plan..was to make a collection of plants and seeds..through the instrumentality of qualified agents.
- 1933 *Times* 27 Sept. 12/1 Flap nets in the hands of a thoroughly qualified person were the most..humane way of catching birds.
- 1997 J. BOWKER *World Relig.* 161/2 After the death of the Prophet Muhammad..the Muslim community split. Those who thought that his successor..should be the best qualified man chose Abu Bakr.
- 2006 *N.Y. Times* 17 Sept. (T: Style Mag.) 160/2 You should have it serviced by a qualified watchmaker every three to five years.

b. In predicative use. Frequently with *as*, *for*, *to* be, or *to* do something (formerly also with †*in*).

- 1537–8 in J. M. Webster & A. A. M. Duncan *Regality of Dunfermline Court Bk.* (1953) 152 Cognition to be takin thair of be the balle or vtheris qualefeit thairfor.
- 1589–92 in *Wodrow Soc. Misc.* (1844) 535 Gif he beis fundin hable, meit, and sufficientlie qualifeit thairfoir.
- 1608 SHAKESPEARE *King Lear* iv. 33 That which ordinarie men are fit for, I am qualified in.
- 1665 R. BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* i. vii. sig. N1 Him that is qualify'd for such Employments.
- 1719 D. DEFOE *Farther Adventures Robinson Crusoe* 298 A Government qualified only to rule such a People.
- 1755 J. MILLS tr. Crevier *Rom. Emp.* i. 107 That great man, equally qualified for war or peace.
- 1845 S. AUSTIN tr. L. von Ranke *Hist. Reformation in Germany* III. 83 A commune was not qualified to dispute concerning things of this kind.
- 1863 C. LYELL *Geol. Evid. Antiq. Man* 33 In every way highly qualified for the task.
- 1914 C. F. TWENEY *Dict. Naval & Mil. Terms* 164 Ordinary Seaman; one who has undergone training as a ship's boy, but who is not fully qualified as a seaman.
- 1989 *Japan Times* 15 May 20/5 I am not qualified to comment on his prize-winning essay.
- 2006 *Wyoming Tribune-Eagle* (Nexis) 17 Aug. A9 Because of his experience as a professional funeral director..he is uniquely qualified for the office.

2. Having the attributes required by law, custom, etc., for doing or being something (specified or implied).

In quot. 1617: †entitled to hold two benefices at once (*obs.*).

- 1540 *Acts Parl. Scotl.* (1814) II. 376/1 That in euery burgh thare be ane qualifijt man chosin to seill all claith.
- 1559 Q. KENNEDY in *Wodrow Soc. Misc.* (1844) 267 That I was nocht qualifiet to ressonne with Willok, because..I wes bot ane meyne man in our estait.
- 1617 J. MINSHEU *Ἡγεμὼν εἰς τὰς γλώσσας: Ductor in Linguas* Qualified,..aptum esse factum

- qualificatumque ad duo detinenda beneficia. [Note] Qualified for Benefices.
- 1656 in Gross *Gild Merch.* (1890) II. 267 Sundry Persons not being qualified according to the said Custome.
- 1702 *London Gaz.* No. 3839/4 The next winning Horse that is duly qualifi'd to run for this Plate.
- 1786 T. AMERY *Trial at Large* 117 The charter having been granted..the defendant was a qualified man to be chosen.
- 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* II. viii. 292 The king..had no right to force on them even a qualified candidate.
- 1879 *Jrnl. Statist. Soc. London* 42 860 67 per cent. of those who are qualified to vote, make use of their right.
- 1979 *Globe & Mail* (Toronto) 9 Nov. 2/7 (Immigration) Minister's Permits..allow those not qualified for residence to remain up to 12 months.

†3.

a. In predicative use. Furnished with, possessed of (certain) qualities. Frequently with modifying adverb. *Obs.*

- 1590 W. CLEVER *Flower of Phisicke* 108 Single medicines, haue an appropriat inclination in themselues, but artificially qualified from their owne nature, haue a more clearer..effect.
- 1603 R. KNOLLES *Gen. Hist. Turkes* 158 A certaine gentlewoman..more honourably borne, than honestly quallified.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Taming of Shrew* (1623) IV. vi. 67 She is..so qualified, as may beseeme The Spouse of any noble Gentleman.
- 1665 J. WEBB *Vindic. Stone-Heng Restored* 45 All stones are not qualified alike; some are hard..some soft.
- 1681 DRYDEN *Absalom & Achitophel* 3 The moderate sort of Men, thus qualifi'd, Incl'in'd the Ballance to the better side.
- 1787 *Daily Universal Reg.* 3 Jan. 3/2 Adorned and qualified as she was, it cannot be supposed that she could remain long without a conquest.

b. In attributive use. Possessed of good qualities; accomplished, perfect. *Obs.*

- 1592 T. NASHE *Pierce Penilesse* (Brit. Libr. copy) sig. H The fine qualified Gentleman..should carie it clean away from the lazie clownish droane.
- 1598 R. BERNARD tr. Terence *Adelphi* III. i, in *Terence in Eng.* 286 Such a qualified yong gentleman.
- a1641 J. FINETT *Philoxenis* (1656) 238 Reverenced amongst them for his..descent from a race of qualified saints.
- 1699 B. E. *New Dict. Canting Crew* Qualified, Accomplisht Statesman, Soldier, Scholar.

4. Of persons: belonging to the upper classes of society; 'of quality' (QUALITY *n.* 5). Now *rare* (*Eng. regional* (*Cheshire*) in later use).

- 1604 E. GRIMESTON tr. J. de Acosta *Nat. & Morall Hist. Indies* v. xix. 380 If any Indian qualified [Sp. *principal*], or of the common sorte, were sicke.
- 1608 A. WILLET *Hexapla in Exodum* 481 These personall wrongs are..of persons not qualified but of common and ordinarie persons.
- 1678 tr. A. de Courtin *Rules Civility* (rev. ed.) xvi. 166 If..you be behind, and must pass after the qualify'd person.
- 1886 R. HOLLAND *Gloss. Words County of Chester* *Qualified*, in good circumstances. A rich man would be said to be qualified.

II. Modified in some respect.

5.

a. Modified, limited, moderated; esp. (of a statement, opinion, etc.) incorporating a reservation or condition; mitigated.

- 1538 J. HUSEE *Let. 5 May in Lisle Papers* (P.R.O.: SP 3/12) f.44 I was very quyck w^t hir at the fyrst, but seing hir then so penytent..the seconde tyme I was somewhat more qualefyed.
- c1599 *Life T. More* in C. Wordsworth *Eccl. Biog.* (1810) II. 162 Delivering this qualified answer to the Kinge.
- 1635 J. SWAN *Speculum Mundi* vi. §2. 202 If it be taken in a qualified sense, it is not much amisse.
- 1746 J. HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 211 Every object, a little while ago, glared with light, but now all appears under a more qualified lustre.
- 1783 M. DAWES *Nature & Extent Extreme Power* 1 Such are the effects of qualified liberty, that it pervades the hearts of our fellow-citizens.
- 1861 J. S. MILL *Considerations Representative Govt.* i. 7 Unfit for more than a limited and qualified freedom.
- 1891 E. PEACOCK *Narcissa Brendon* II. 432 Narcissa gave a qualified reply.
- 1952 N. MANDELA *Struggle is my Life* (1978) II. iii. 38 To accept a measure of this nature even in a qualified manner would be a betrayal of the toiling masses.
- 1995 *Guardian* 16 June I. 3/4 Projects as diverse as 5,000 miles of bicycle paths and an electronic zoo..got a qualified green light. None..is guaranteed funding.
- 2006 *State* (Columbia, S. Carolina) (Nexis) 29 Aug. (Commentary section) The authors stop with a qualified assertion that consumption of sweet soft drinks 'may be a key contributor to..obesity.'

b. Law. Limited or modified; having some qualification or restriction attached; conditional or partial; as **qualified acceptance, qualified endorsement, qualified estate, qualified fee, qualified oath, qualified privilege, qualified property**, etc. Frequently opposed to *absolute*.

- 1681 J. DALRYMPLE *Inst. Law Scotl.* IV. xlvi. § 5 Qualified oaths, or these which are not so plain and short as that they may be written and signed at the bar.
- 1769 W. BLACKSTONE *Comm. Laws Eng.* IV. 235 Animals, in which there is no property either

absolute or qualified.

- 1774 J. ERSKINE *Institute* IV. ii. §13 A defender to whose oath a libel is referred..may protest for a qualified oath.
- ?1810 *Edinb. Encycl.* (1830) III. I. 207 In bailment there is a special qualified property transferred from the bailor to the bailee, together with the possession.
- 1883 S. AMOS *Rom. Civil Law* 236 By what has been called a qualified mandate..a person induced another to repose credit in a third person.
- 1905 *Columbia Law Rev.* 5 485 No exception can be taken..to the phrase 'qualified estate' to describe the various forms of conditional and determinable estate.
- 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 113/1 Qualified acceptance may be a promise to pay on a contingency occurring, e.g. on the sale of certain goods consigned by the drawer to the acceptor.
- 1944 *Michigan Law Rev.* 43 587 Whoever negotiated the document..by qualified endorsement or endorsement, guarantees the capacity of prior parties.
- 1972 *Times* 16 Mar. 9/7 The defence was a denial of the words in the statement of claim, a plea of qualified privilege, a plea of absolute privilege, and also a plea of justification.
- 2006 *Independent* (Nexis) 22 Mar. 56 The right to life in article 2..was different in nature from the qualified rights..which enabled the state..to justify an interference with the right.

c. Accounting (chiefly Brit.). Designating a report or account that includes or has received a qualification; see QUALIFICATION *n.* 1b.

- 1862 *Times* 25 Apr. 6/1 The official auditor, has addressed a memorandum to the shareholders explaining the principles which..have prevented him from affixing more than a qualified certificate of the accounts.
- 1917 *3rd Rep. on Work of Nat. Insurance Audit Dept.* 5 in *Parl. Papers* 17 Ten thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine qualified reports annexed to accounts on the audit of approved societies and branches have been issued.
- 1985 *Times* 30 Aug. 15/2 The highly qualified accounts..have caused considerable embarrassment.
- 2004 A. DAVIDSON *How to win as Stock Market Speculator* vi. 60 If a company has a qualified audit report, do not risk investing in it.

6. slang. Used as a euphemism for 'bloody', 'damned', etc. Now *rare*.

- 1886 R. KIPLING *Arrest Lt. Golightly* in *Civil & Mil. Gaz.* 23 Nov. 3/4 He was..told not to make a qualified fool of himself.
- 1932 D. L. SAYERS *Have his Carcase* xxvi. 353 'I wish we'd never come up against this qualified case,' added the Superintendent bitterly.
- 1949 'E. C. R. LORAC' *Still Waters* iii. 39 I..knocked my head on those qualified rocks.

B. n.

A person eligible for a position or office; a person possessing a professional qualification. Also with *the* and *pl.* concord: qualified

people as a class.

- 1910 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 Apr. 14/1 Of 443,385 persons fully qualified for service the [German] State took only 221,852; and..in 1911 the State will take only about 39 per cent. of the qualified.
- 1972 *Accountant* 12 Oct. 12/1 (*adv.*) Newly qualifieds—Birmingham.
- 1997 *Accountancy* Apr. 55/3 A newly qualified in London may earn around £28,000 to £30,000.
- 2000 *Cornwall Today* Dec. 37/1 Well-intentioned volunteers..rushed to help... The qualified and the unqualified, the old and the young.

SPECIAL USES

qualified majority *n.* *Business* and *Polit.* a specified proportion above a simple majority, as a requirement for ratification in a voting system; *spec.* (in the Council of Ministers in the European Union) a majority in a system of weighted voting, in which each member nation has a certain number of votes according to its status, and the required majority is calculated to ensure a proposal may not be blocked by one powerful nation; frequently *attrib.*, as **qualified majority voting**, etc.

- 1916 J. GRUNZEL *Econ. Protectionism* II. iv. 264 Regulations affecting..the business headquarters of the enterprise and its independence of foreign enterprises shall be under the protection of a qualified majority of the stockholders, or shall require the consent of a special stockholders' meeting.
- 1956 *Internat. Organization* 10 572/1 The unanimity rule in the council of ministers precludes lapses into supra-national determination, except in the ill-defined twilight zone where 'qualified majorities' of the council may decide.
- 1978 *Forbes* 26 June 119/1 A few words should be said about the attempts of many managements to prevent takeover efforts... They sneak into the proxy statement proposals to change the bylaws so that a qualified majority vote, sometimes as much as 80%, is needed to approve mergers or similar deals.
- 1993 D. LEONARD *Guide to European Community* v. 44 The Maastricht treaty..extended the range of issues to which qualified majority voting would apply, including transport and the environment.
- 2000 *Times* 7 Aug. I. 16/1 The intergovernmental conference on the implications of enlargement (the size of the Commission, reweighting of votes on the Council of Ministers, extension of qualified majority voting and flexibility).

DERIVATIVES

'qualifiedly *adv.*

- 1598–9 in W. Fraser *Memorials Montgomeries* (1859) II. 239 That nane tak vpoune hand ony wark..quhilk he is nocht abill to performe qualifeitlie.
- 1711 J. SPOTISWOOD *Form of Process* 117 The other Party..abides by the Writing, either simply, or qualifiedly.
- 1858 H. BUSHNELL *Serm. for New Life* 308 A force independent and qualifiedly sovereign.
- 1905 *Amer. Anthropologist* 7 695 These obsidian blades..in a measure are..sacred. Nevertheless the term can be applied to them only qualifiedly.
- 2003 *Philippine Daily Inquirer* (Nexis) 22 Nov. 2 This is not to say that the songs in this compilation are mild pap, but neither are they all qualifiedly rock.

'qualifiedness n.

- 1675 J. SMITH *Christian Relig. Appeal* I. 23 Cæsar had nothing to commend him to the Electors, but his qualifiedness for that function, by the worth of his parts.
- 1698 R. FERGUSON *View Ecclesiastick* 115 He has both Chalk'd out..an Employment, and given a Proof of his Qualifiedness for the discharge of it.
- 1702 J. HOWE *Living Temple* (new ed.) I. iii. 156 The more manifest need of his hand to heighten dull matter, to a qualifiedness for performances.
- 1745 J. ORTON *Jesus Christ* 42 The great Test of Qualifiedness for Service in the Church.
- 1953 H. BHATTACHARYYA *Cultural Heritage India* III. II. xxi. 369 The svarūpa..in which svarūpa-śakti and rasahood find only the minimum expression, so as not to give it any noticeable qualifiedness, is known as Nirviśesa.

Oxford University Press

Copyright © 2017 Oxford University Press . All rights reserved.

Your access is brought to you by:

