

**NAME**

american-english – a list of English words

**DESCRIPTION**

**/usr/share/dict/american-english** is an ASCII file which contains an alphabetic list of words, one per line.

**FILES**

There may be any number of word lists in */usr/share/dict/*. */etc/dictionaries-common/words* is a symbolic link to the currently-chosen */usr/share/dict/<language>* file. */usr/share/dict/words* is a symbolic link to */etc/dictionaries-common/words*, and is the name by which other software should refer to the system word list. See **select-default-wordlist**(8) for more information, and/or to change the currently-chosen word list.

The directory */usr/share/dict* can contain word lists for many languages, with name of the language in English, e.g., */usr/share/dict/french* and */usr/share/dict/danish* contain respectively lists of French and Danish words if they exist. Such lists should be coded using the ISO 8859-1 character set encoding.

**SEE ALSO**

**ispell**(1), **select-default-wordlist**(8), and the *Filesystem Hierarchy Standard*.

**HISTORY**

The words lists are not specific, and may be generated from any number of sources.

The system word list used to be */usr/dict/words*. For compatibility, software should check that location if */usr/share/dict/words* does not exist.

**AUTHOR**

Word lists are collected and maintained by various authors. The Debian English word lists are built from the SCOWL (Spell- Checker Oriented Word Lists) package, whose upstream editor is Kevin Atkinson <kevina@users.sourceforge.net>.