

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>.