

Oxford English Dictionary Proposal for Emotioning

New word or sense evidence submission

Prepared for	Editors of the Oxford English Dictionary
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Purpose and request

I ask the Oxford English Dictionary to consider emotioning as an independent verbal noun or missing sense. Published evidence shows sustained use from at least 1988 in cybernetics, psychology, self-consciousness research and education. The term names emotion as a continuing process rather than treating an emotion only as a fixed state or label.

This proposal does not claim that the submitter coined the word. It asks the OED to evaluate the attested word, its history and its process meaning. The proposed definition below is a concise synthesis of the documented uses.

Form ready submission

OED form field	Proposed entry
Submission type	A new word or sense
Word or phrase	emotioning
Part of speech	Noun, specifically a verbal noun or gerund
Pronunciation	/ɪˈməʊʃənɪŋ/ in British English; /ɪˈmoʊʃənɪŋ/ in US English
Proposed definition	The continuing process or flow through which emotions arise, change and influence perception, reasoning, relationships and potential action.
Example	How are you emotioning today?
Significance	Missing headword or sense supported by dated published evidence.

Quotation evidence

The quotations are deliberately short, while each reference identifies the complete source and location for editorial checking.

1. **1988 Humberto R Maturana Reality The Search for Objectivity or the Quest for a Compelling Argument The Irish Journal of Psychology 9 1 pages 25 to 82**
“Human life is always an inextricably braided flow of emotioning and rationality.”
<https://constructivist.info/radical/papers/maturana/88-reality.html> See the section on conversations.
2. **2005 Humberto Maturana Romesin The origin and conservation of self consciousness Kybernetes 34 1 and 2 pages 54 to 88 DOI 10.1108 03684920510575744**
“Our emotioning defines moment after moment the relational background on which we do whatever we do.”
<https://constructivist.info/radical/pub/hvf/papers/maturana05selfconsciousness.html> See the discussion of self-consciousness and self-awareness.
3. **2008 Humberto Maturana Romesin and Gerda Verden Zoller The Origin of Humanness in the Biology of Love edited by Pille Bunnell Imprint Academic page 38**
“We become different beings in our emotioning and in our reasoning.”
<https://books.google.com/books/about/The Origin of Humanness in the Biology o.html?id=nJG7BAAQBAJ> Book record and bibliographical details.
4. **2021 Elham Zandvakili and Omid R Zandvakili Critical Emotioning and Critical Thinking Improving Second Language Learning 14th International Conference Innovation in Language Learning**
“Critical emotioning is the process of applying patterns of critical thinking to the emotions in a classroom.”
<https://conference.pixel-online.net/files/ict4ll/ed0014/FP/7643-FAS5373-FP-ICT4LL14.pdf> Page 1 of the paper.

Lexical distinction

Ordinary English often uses feeling for both a sensed condition and an emotional state. Emotioning provides a grammatical and conceptual term for the changing process between sensation, interpretation, emotional state and possible action.

Term	Proposed distinction
Sensing	Receiving data from external or internal conditions.
Feeling	Registering and interpreting a sensed condition.
Emotioning	Integrating feelings with context, memory, identity, needs, expectations and consequences over time.

Term	Proposed distinction
Emotion	A recognised state or classification within the continuing process.
Action tendency	A possible response produced or influenced by that state, but not yet an action.

Relevance to education and cognitive systems

The term may support emotional literacy by letting learners discuss how an emotional state forms and changes rather than choosing only a static label. In biological or artificial cognitive systems it preserves the boundary between observed signals, inferred feelings, emotional processing, action tendencies and actions. For Klatou and Alice the proposed sequence is sensor evidence, feeling, emotioning, emotional state, possible action, consequence and learning. This technical application does not prove subjective experience; another lifeform's expression remains evidence, not direct access to its private experience.

Text for the final OED field

Significance: missing headword or sense. Evidence shows use from at least 1988 to 2021 in cybernetics, self-consciousness research and education. Emotioning functions as a verbal noun naming a dynamic process rather than a static emotional state. The submitter does not claim to have coined it. The definition synthesises the attested process uses. It also clarifies the sequence sensing, feeling, emotioning, emotional state and action tendency. The example 'How are you emotioning today?' asks about an ongoing process rather than only a fixed label.

Official submission route

The OED General Contributions form is the correct first-party route. Oxford explains that submitted evidence is stored for editors when they draft or revise an entry.

[Submit words and evidence to the Oxford English Dictionary](#)

The OED records usage but cannot compel schools or independent publishers to adopt a term. Educational adoption would require a separate curriculum or teaching-resource proposal after the lexical evidence has been assessed.