

## ***Crisp* as a quasi-intensifier in hendiadys**

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### **1. Introduction**

The word *crisp* has a Latin origin and has undergone significant semantic evolution since its introduction to the Old English. From its origin, *crisp* was used to describe the curliness of hair. This was the related sense of its etymon Latin *crispus*, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary Online* (OED). In the late 14th century, the sense of ‘curly’ began to refer to a surface that was ‘curled or marked by minute waves, ripples, folds, or wrinkles’. From the late 16th to the middle 17th century, it once had the meanings of ‘smooth, shining, clear’. Although this meaning became obsolete, there is a potential connection between this meaning (‘smooth, shining, clear’) and those that also emerged from the middle 16th century to the 19th century categorised as the second sense division (II. Brittle, stiff, and related uses) in the OED. This sense division II includes figurative meanings similar to the earlier ones, in that they all have positive connotations. Among these include ‘short, sharp, brisk’ or ‘clean, neat, clearly defined’, ‘stiff, firm’, and ‘bracing’ air in association to a brisk frosty day. Moreover, in recent usage, *crisp* is used as a means of intensification or conveying highly connotative meanings. For instance, in collocations like ‘crisp and clear’ or ‘crisp and clean’, although they retain positive connotative meanings, they seem to add very minimal lexical meanings.

### **2. The aim of this paper**

The purpose of this paper is to analyse the recent meanings of *crisp* and its use as a quasi-intensifier in hendiadys, using the British National Corpus (BNC)<sup>1</sup>. Intensifiers have been a very popular topic in linguistics, however the previous studies have focused on their recycling tendency or grammaticalisation process, rather than on the meaning of intensifier itself (e.g. Partington, 1993; Taglimonte, 2008). In the narrowest sense, an intensifier is a word that has no meaning on its own and functions as a modifier for gradable adjectives, as seen in examples such as ‘*very* tall’, ‘*really* delicious’, or ‘*completely* clear’ (e.g. Sinclair, 1992; Partington, 1993; Lorenz, 2002). Gradable adverbs can also be intensified (e.g. *very/really* slowly). In the broadest sense, intensifiers can also include verbs and nouns as the entities being modified. Bolinger (1972) considers intensification through the lens of gradability, and offers a variety of lexical items for intensification. He suggests that some adjectives can function as intensifiers for nouns, as in the case of ‘*utter* fool’ (Bolinger, 1972: 147). This study examines the behavior of the lexeme *crisp* as an example of noun

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<sup>1</sup> In a recent conversation (John Owen, personal communication, autumn 2023), the idea of *crisp* resembling *robust* as a quasi-intensifier in the context of morning air was brought to attention. Based on his insightful comment, I made the decision to conduct corpus research on the usage of *crisp* as part of the discussion regarding noun intensification.

intensification. In prior research, I analysed the word *robust*, which I believe is experiencing a semantic shift from an adjective to a quasi-intensifier. According to that research, when *robust* is used as a quasi-intensifier, it often appears in the hendiadys form. In continuation of that study, this paper focuses on the use of *crisp* as it appears in hendiadys.

## 2.1 What is hendiadys?

Hendiadys links two words to express a single complex idea. In the OED, hendiadys is explained as a ‘figure of speech in which two words are connected by a conjunction in order to express a single complex idea, e.g. nice and warm for nicely warm.’ (OED).<sup>2</sup> However, in the section ‘nice and — —’ in the OED, there is a definition under 14.b which says: ‘(u)sed as an intensifier with a predicative adjective or adverb in **nice and — —** sometimes *ironically*.’<sup>3</sup> Bray (2016: 695) mentions that ‘hendiadys is relatively broad. Narrower definitions are restricted to nouns, or to instances in which one term is subordinate to the other. Those limitations are hard to justify, however, and hendiadys is commonly used by linguists and literary scholars in this broader sense.’ Hendiadys is indeed a very broad term used for conjunctive constructions, and in some cases as OED explains, when a certain word is used frequently, it can play an intensifying role.

## 2.2 Methodology

This study will first analyse the semantic change of *crisp* using information provided by the OED and the examples from the BNC.

According to the Google N-gram, the use of the word *crisp* displays an interesting trend from 1500 to 2019. The frequency remained quite low (almost zero) at the start, but suddenly, from 1571 to 1590, it showed a slight increase in frequency (0.00024, 0.00050 respectively), and from 1654 to 1800, the frequency remained very low but with a slight increase (0.000004, 0.00004, respectively). From 1800 to 1980, the percentage grew from 0.00004 to 0.00018, and began to rise sharply after 1980, peaking at 0.00055 in 2013, and has remained at a similar frequency since then.

The BNC is a vast collection of over 100 million words of both spoken and written British English, spanning from 1960 to 1995. The BNC examples offer insights into the development of the word *crisp* during the period of its increasing frequency. This paper analyses the respective meanings of *crisp* in BNC usages, mainly in the form of hendiadys. It examines the cases in which *crisp* behaves like a quasi-intensifier, adding a minimal lexical meaning, but increasing positive evaluative meanings.

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<sup>2</sup> See the OED entry for *hendiadys*, n.

<sup>3</sup> See the OED entry for *nice*, adj.

### 3. Semantic change of *crisp*

Table 1 shows the development of the meaning of *crisp* in chronological order. All the definitions provided, including the earliest attested dates, are sourced from the OED.

Table 1: The chronological first attested meanings of *crisp*

OE	I.1.	Of the hair: curly; in later use applied esp. to stiff, closely curling, or frizzy hair; †also, having or wearing such hair.
a1387	I.3.	† Applied to some fabrics: perhaps of crape-like texture. Cf. <i>crisp</i> n. <i>Obsolete</i> .
1398	I.2.a.	Having a surface curled or fretted into minute waves, ripples, folds or wrinkles.
1530	II.5.a.	Brittle or ‘short’ while somewhat hard or firm in structure (usually as a good quality); said esp. of hard things which have little cohesion and are easily crushed by the teeth, etc.
1567	I.2.b.	Botany. = <i>crispate</i> adj., <i>crisped</i> adj. 2b.
1567	I.4.	† Apparently = Smooth, shining, clear. <i>Obsolete</i> .
	II.6.	<i>transferred</i> and <i>figurative</i> . Applied to anything possessing qualities more or less characteristic of <i>crisp</i> substances:
1814	II.6.b.	<i>figurative</i> . Short, sharp, brisk, decided in manner. (Cf. an analogous use of ‘flabby’ as the opposite.) Also, clean, neat; clearly defined.
1851	II.6.a.	Stiff, firm, as opposed to limp.
1869	II.5.b.	From <i>crisp snow</i> or <i>frost</i> , transferred by association to a brisk frosty day, to frosty air, and thence to bracing air generally.

The earliest documented meaning of *crisp* in the OED traces back to Old English, referring to hair as ‘curly’. Later, it was associated with ‘stiff, closely curling, or frizzy hair’ (OED). Around the late 14th century (a1387), this meaning was extended to certain fabrics, possibly having a ‘crape-like texture’, which is now obsolete. Around the same period, from 1398, it took on a slightly different meaning, denoting surfaces ‘curled or fretted into minute waves, ripples, folds or wrinkles’ (OED).

In the 16th century, two distinct meanings emerged, which later separated into different sense divisions in the OED. The first meaning, attested in 1530, describes something “brittle or ‘short’ while somewhat hard or firm in structure” (OED). This appears as sense 5a in the second sense division. Later, a new meaning appeared to denote something that was ‘apparently=Smooth, shining, clear’, although this meaning is now obsolete, according to the OED, it finds support in a quote from Cotgrave’s *A Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues* (1611). Cotgrave’s dictionary elaborates that *crispu* not only meant ‘curled, frizzled, ruffled, crisped’ but also conveyed the sense of ‘sleeked, shining’, and the verb *crisper* meant ‘to sleecken, make shine or glitter’, as the OED explains.

Since the early 19th century onward, *crisp* has developed various figurative usages. Sense 6b, ‘short, sharp, brisk, decided in manner’, is attested in the OED from 1814, followed by the sense 6a in 1851, conveying ‘stiff, firm, as opposed to limp’. The final figurative application is the meaning referring to ‘bracing’ air originated ‘from *crisp snow* or *frost*, transferred by association to a brisk frosty day, to frosty air’ (OED).

### 4. Corpus evidence

This study analysed the use of adjective *crisp* up to the 1990s, using the BNC. The search for *crisp* resulted in 746 examples. A manual search for parallel expressions (excluding instances where *crisp* is used as a noun or not in parallel with other adjectives) revealed 201 instances. Of these, 77 expressions used ‘*crisp* and adj.’, 26 used ‘adj. and *crisp*’ and 98 used two or more adjectives sequentially, each separated by a comma. This paper analyses 103 instances where *crisp* is used as a form of hendiadys and examines its behaviour as a quasi-intensifier.

The results from the analysis of usages appearing in hendiadys form are presented in Table 2 below. Each column provides word sense descriptions from the OED, with numbers at the top of each column corresponding to the OED’s sense classification. The bottom of each column displays the total number of examples classified in each sense.

Each instance was manually examined to determine its specific meaning and then classified according to the definitions provided by the OED. Instances that could not be linked figuratively to any word sense groups were classified as sense 7. It is important to note that 103 instances are manually classified into one of the sense groups provided by the OED. However, of these, there are figurative usages whose meaning is not explicitly specified in the OED’s definitions.

This section analyses examples of usage that either fit one of the OED sense groups, or can be considered as a figurative application to them, and examines their meanings. Section 4 discusses examples that are not easily classified by the OED’s definitions, and those that require further examination.

Table 2: Distribution of the meanings in the form of hendiadys

I. In senses of Latin <i>crispus</i> .				II. Brittle, stiff, and related uses.				total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
Old English– Of the hair: curly; in later use applied esp. to stiff, closely curling, or frizzy hair; † also, having or wearing such hair.	1398– <b>a.</b> Having a surface curled or fretted into minute waves, ripples, folds or wrinkles.	1753– <b>b.</b> Botany. = crispate adj., crisped adj. 2b.	a1387–1400 † Applied to some fabrics: perhaps of crape-like texture. Cf. crisp n. <i>Obsolete</i> .	1567–1639 † Apparently = Smooth, shining, clear. <i>Obsolete</i> .	1530– <b>a.</b> Brittle or 'short' while somewhat hard or firm in structure (usually as a good quality); said esp. of hard things which have little cohesion and are easily crushed by the teeth, etc.	1869– <b>b.</b> From crisp snow or frost, transferred by association to a brisk frosty day, to frosty air, and thence to bracing air generally.	<i>transferred</i> and <i>figurative</i> . Applied to anything possessing qualities more or less characteristic of crisp substances: 1851– <b>a.</b> Stiff, firm, as opposed to limp. 1814– <b>b.</b> <i>figurative</i> . Short, sharp, brisk, decided in manner. (Cf. an analogous use of 'flabby' as the opposite.) Also, clean, neat; clearly defined.	Other figurative use (taste of wine or food)		
2					32	15	3	46	5	103

#### 4.1 *Crisp* as ‘curly’ (sense 1 in the OED)

The following two examples were used in the original sense of the word *crisp*. In example (1), the word *crisp* is used to describe the quality of a man’s ‘curly’ hair:

- (1) Caroline sat opposite Roman, feeling increasingly distracted. ... predominant in her mind was the unsettling effect her companion seemed to be having on her. Watching him as he leaned easily back in his chair, studying the wine list, she found herself reluctantly examining his face with compulsive curiosity. He had a long, strong face, bony and angular. His black curly hair looked crisp and shingly clean, clinging close to the classic shape of his head, longer over a high, intelligent-looking forehead, and at the nape of his neck, where it just brushed the collar of his shirt. (BNC)

‘Crisp and shingly clean’ provides specific details about the texture of a man named Roman’s hair, which are not only curly but also clean and has shining appearance. In this example, ‘crisp and shingly clean’ can be considered as a hendiadys, which means two adjectives used together to convey a complex idea to emphasise the exceptional cleanliness and the specific texture of Roman’s black curly hair. In example (2), ‘more crisp and structured’ can also be considered an example of hendiadys:

- (2) The final results will depend on the texture of your hair. ... Layered cuts, on the other hand, will come out curlier -- the smaller the size of the rollers, the tighter the curls. Even hair which is naturally curly can be transformed because rollers can help to make the existing curls more crisp and structured. (BNC)

In this case, the two adjectives have similar meanings in this context. Therefore, *crisp* functions as a quasi-intensifier. It is also important to note that the hair is already curly. The description of ‘crisp and structured’ emphasises that the curls are even more firmly shaped.

#### **4.2 *Crisp* as “brittle or ‘short’ while somewhat hard or firm in structure” (sense 5a in the OED)**

In 22 out of 32 examples classified under 5a, *crisp* appears in parallel expressions with *golden* or *brown* (‘crisp and golden’ in 7 examples, ‘golden and crisp’ in 4, ‘crisp and brown’ in 4, ‘brown and crisp’ in 7). The Google N-grams reveals that the top 7 most frequent collocations are ‘crisp and golden (brown)’. Similarly, BNC survey produced comparable results. The word *crisp* commonly used in bakery-related context to describe the texture of baked goods, such as bread. In these cases, however, ‘crisp and golden (brown)’ are parallel expressions of ‘crisp and adj.’ but not synonymous. Therefore, they cannot be considered hendiadys for intensification. Out of the 10 remaining examples, example (3) appears closest to synonymous repetition:

- (3) Side plate is 5.25; sugar bowl, 11.50 Pieces of eight: this fun octagonal mug, 1.25, from Littlewoods give teatime a totally new dimension! In store: keep your biscuits

and crackers crisp and fresh in this airtight jar, 10.99 from BhS stores Animal magic: cheerful china from Brixton Pottery (0872 222907 for stockists). (BNC)

In this context, ‘crisp and fresh’ describes the quality of biscuits, implying their newly made state and satisfyingly crunchy texture. When used to describe items like crackers or biscuits, *crisp* and *fresh* have overlapping meanings. *Crisp* implies a texture or quality associated with both dryness and freshness, *fresh* specifically emphasises the newly made quality. This example can be seen as a hendiadys, which intensifies the idea that the biscuits are fresh.

### 4.3 *Crisp* as ‘bracing’ air (sense 5b in the OED)

Out of 103 instances, there are 15 usages of *crisp* to describe weather (meaning 5b in the OED), making it the third most common usage. A Google N-gram search for ‘crisp and \*’ reveals ‘crisp and golden’ to be the most frequent collocation followed by ‘crisp and clear’. The BNC survey identifies numerous instances of ‘crisp and clear’, ‘clear and crisp’. Although it is beyond the scope of this paper, *crisp* used with *clear* is very frequent collocation among the total of 746 examples of *crisp* found in the BNC. The following example (4) can be considered a typical example of ‘crisp and clear’:

- (4) Sarah stayed outside a few minutes longer, her spirits lifting wondrously, and she felt as happy as a robin singing among the branches of the oak tree. The sky was blue, the air crisp and clear, and the sun was shining on a patch of yellow crocuses. It was the loveliest day imaginable now that she knew the name of Angel's foster parents. (BNC)

In this context, the phrase ‘crisp and clear’ acts as a hendiadys. It combines two adjectives, *crisp* and *clear*, to convey a unique and somewhat complex idea about the quality of the air. In this context, *crisp* implies a fresh, invigorating quality, while *clear* refers to the air as being transparent or free of haze, suggesting a refreshing atmosphere. Taken together, they create a vivid description of the air that goes beyond the individual meanings of the adjectives. From a slightly different perspective, *crisp* can be seen as a quasi-intensifier of the adjective *clear* because the meanings of these two adjectives, when used to describe weather conditions, are quite similar. Here, *crisp* might reinforce the meaning of *clear* by emphasising the quality of the air as exceptionally refreshing, sharp, and well-defined. In this context, ‘crisp and clear’ can be seen as a hendiadys for intensification, with *crisp* acting as a quasi-intensifier.

In example (5) below, *crisp* is used in the collocation ‘fresh and crisp’. A Google N-gram search for ‘crisp and \*’ shows that the collocation ‘crisp and fresh’ ranks sixth. This BNC survey also identifies numerous instances of *crisp* used with the adjective *fresh* in a variety of contexts, ranging from weather to condition of fabrics to music, etc. In the

following context, ‘fresh and crisp’ is a hendiadys, combining two adjectives to express a singular and slightly more nuanced idea about the quality of the air:

- (5) Tomorrow, Sunday, Markby said to Pearce on his return, ‘I am going to have free. Let no one mention horses to me or they will get very short shrift.’ By Sunday morning the grey skies had cleared away. The wind had dropped and air was fresh and crisp. (BNC)

#### 4.4 *Crisp* as ‘stiff, firm’ (sense 6a in the OED)

Out of 103 examples, only three were found to correspond to the OED’s 6a word sense. As this study looks into only parallel expressions of *crisp* and other adjectives, the actual frequency of this sense 6a (‘stiff, firm’) cannot be determined, nor can overall frequency of the word sense, as both are beyond the scope of this paper. Nevertheless, these three examples might indicate a lower frequency for this particular sense. In example (6) below, *crisp* is used with *healthy*. At first glance, these two adjectives appear to have different meanings, but in this context, they appear to be used consecutively as adjectives with synonymous meanings:

- (6) # NEWSLETTER JUNE 1992 # SADDLEMEWS OWNER/OCCUPIER ASSOCIATION # Dear Flaming June has transformed the Village. Such trees as have escaped the chainsaw are now in full leaf, the grass is looking crisp and healthy, with the exception of the brutal scars inflicted on the ‘meadow’ stretch along the Castletown Road by the lorries of the heavy handed tree fellers. The horticultural efforts of individual residents are a joy to behold, and reflect great credit on those concerned. All of which bodes well for our chances in the ‘Britain in Bloom’ (Prettiest Village -- or whatever) Competition at the end of July. (BNC)

When used to describe the grass, the adjectives *crisp* and *healthy* convey a very similar ideas about its condition. *Crisp* can imply a fresh, vibrant quality, suggesting it is ‘stiff and firm’, while *healthy* implies robustness, vigour and overall good condition. Together, these adjectives convey a unified and reinforced idea that the grass is in a very good condition. Therefore, ‘crisp and healthy’ can be seen as a hendiadys for intensification, with *crisp* being a quasi-intensifier, reinforcing the overall good condition of the grass.

#### 4.5 *Crisp* as ‘short, sharp, decided in manner’ or ‘clean, neat, cleanly defined’ (sense 6b in the OED)

The most common examples found in the BNC survey were those corresponding to 6b in the OED, with a total of 46 examples. This section discusses examples that match the OED’s citations, namely: concise wording, style, manner of speaking (13 examples in total); clear and sharp sound in musical performances (7 examples); descriptions of human

or other movements (6 examples); and depictions of visual beauty in paintings, people, ponds, etc. (10 examples). Examples of *crisp* describing objects not identified in the OED's citations are properties of fabrics and paper (10 examples). However, these usages are classified as 6b in this study, as they can be considered as an extended meaning of 'clean' or 'neat' as given in the OED's definition. Three examples are discussed below. The first is the use of *crisp* with *efficient* to describe the manner of speaking:

- (7) ... I can't see our Harry wearing that." Nor would I,' George said instinctively. 'All right.' Agnes lifted the phone. 'Go ahead.' Maxim said: 'Tell the doc it's through the chest, in at the eighth rib, definite exit wound at the ninth. Small calibre. There must be bleeding and air in the pleural cavity that's collapsing the other lung. He should be prepared to tap it. I don't think the bleeding's bad in itself. Okay?' On the phone he sounded crisp and efficient. (BNC)

In this context, 'crisp and efficient' is a hendiadys, where the two adjectives linked by *and* are used to express a single complex idea. In this case, *crisp* and *efficient* are both qualities that describe the manner of speaking, especially in urgent situations, so their combination reinforces the overall impression of the speaker's manner of speaking, i.e. how concise and speedy it was.

In (8), 'crisp and fresh' is used to describe the arrangement of music. *Crisp* here might emphasise the accuracy and clarity of the music, while *fresh* emphasises the novelty of the arrangement. This usage is not considered a hendiadys for mere intensification, as the meanings of the two adjectives remain distinct:

- (8) You quickly get past the point of worrying that there are no guitars here, Phil Ramone and the orchestra do a superb job of keeping the arrangements crisp and fresh, and the strings never overwhelm the singer, even when she is at her most whispering, as in the Marilyn vehicle 'I Want To Be Loved By You' and amidst the tragic melancholy of 'Gloomy Sunday'. (BNC)

In (9), 'crisp and solid' is used to describe the appearance of a dried-flower arrangement:

- (9) ... Anna ran water into the empty coffee mugs and stood them in the sink. It was two o'clock. There was time to start on the parish magazines before the school bus came, a job which had reverted to Peter because he was not good at asking people to do things he did not like doing himself. So Anna did it, on foot, delivering the magazines to the twenty-seven households in Loxford who took it, chiefly, Anna suspected, for the useful directory on the back page of plumbers and decorators and taxi services. They also liked it -- as did the other villages -- for the spiteful inter-village competitiveness that lay under the seemingly innocent accounts of the Snead

Women's Institute going on an Easter outing to Weston-super-Mare, while the Quindale branch could only muster a local dried-flower expert whose crisp and solid arrangements, adorned with bows of florist's ribbon, they could all have recognized in their sleep. (BNC)

*Crisp* here means the clarity and sharpness of the arrangement while *solid* indicates the stability and robustness of the flower arrangement. The meanings of these two adjectives slightly overlap in that they both indicate decency of the arrangements, however, this usage cannot be considered a hendiadys for intensification, as the difference in meaning between the two adjectives remain distinct.

### 5. Other figurative uses

In this section, the examples that are problematic to sort out into any of the OED's word definitions are discussed, which are the usages of *crisp* applied to the taste. In the following example (10), *crisp* is used to describe the taste of wine:

- (10) Association director Richard Insoll warned: 'The Wine and Spirit Association will be reviewing this and other instances of apparent abuse of authority by EHOs in order to give its members the best advice. Formal complaints will be lodged with the Food Minister where we deem it necessary.' ... # LANGLOIS-CHTEAU 183 # Cape wines # BARWELL &; Jones has introduced 35 South African wines from the Cape Province to the UK market. The wines include Le Bonheur Blanc Fume (Sauvignon Blanc) from Stellenbosch which is unwooded with a fresh, grassy character; Fleur du Cap Chenin Blanc Sec (crisp and fruity); Witzenberg Emerald Stein (semi-sweet Fleur du Cap); and Roodebloem from the Bergkelder or 'mountain cellars' of Stellenbosch. (BNC)

In this context, *crisp* is used alongside *fruity*, and together, these adjectives describe the fresh and fruity character of the Chenin Blanc Sec wine. Here, *crisp* might describe the wine as refreshing, with a lively acidity that makes it feel clean and sharp on the palate, or it might suggest a lightness or brightness in flavour. The use of *crisp* here can be seen as borrowing from other sensory experiences. In the brain, taste is the integration of various sensory organs (e.g., Holmes, 2017). *Crisp*, as we have seen, has positive evaluative meanings related to many different aspects of the things. The aim of this paper is not to narrow down a single meaning that could be applied to taste, but this transfer of the meaning might suggest that this transfer comes from other meanings, such as 'bracing' air, which are related to different sensory organs. The next example is the following (11) where *crisp* is used to describe the taste of salad:

- (11) # CRISP AND REFRESHING SALAD # Adding a succulent melon turns a simple salad into a low-calorie main course # Serves 4-6 Preparation: 15 mins # 1 Iceberg lettuce # 1 Ogen melon # 1 large pickled dill cucumber # 225g (80z) seedless grapes For the dressing: # 90ml (6 tbsp) freshly squeezed orange juice # 120ml (8tbsp) sunflower oil # pinch each of salt, pepper and sugar # 25g (10z) freshly chopped chives Remove any damaged outer leaves from the lettuce, cut it in half, then place cut side down on a board and thinly shred each half, using a sharp knife. Place the lettuce pieces in a salad bowl or large mixing bowl. Cut the melon in half and scoop out the seeds. Cut into quarters, then peel away the rind. Chop the quarters into small cubes and add to the salad bowl, along... (BNC)

In the context of describing a salad as ‘crisp and refreshing’, *crisp* is likely to be used to convey a very similar idea to *fresh*. *Crisp* might suggest that the salad is lively and invigorating. Both *crisp* and *refreshing* emphasise the lightness and invigorating quality of the salad as well as its appeal as a light and healthy dish. This usage of *crisp* alongside *refreshing* can be considered hendiadys for intensification, as the meanings of these two adjectives overlap.

## 6. Conclusion

This paper has examined the use of *crisp* in hendiadys. By examining the usages found in the BNC, this paper has shown which adjectives are compatible with and have close meaning to *crisp*. Understanding the meanings that are close to the semantics of *crisp* provides insights into the current semantic development of this word, i.e., the extension of meanings that are not listed in the OED’s sense descriptions. The examples that fall into one of the OED sense groups are discussed first, followed by an examination of those usages that appear to be beyond the dictionary’s description of meaning.

In hendiadys, two semantically related adjectives are often used together. The study has examined each context in detail to determine in which cases *crisp* serves as a quasi-intensifier, and in which cases the meanings of the two adjectives used in hendiadys remain distinct. The examination of the usages shows that in many cases, *crisp* has positive evaluative meanings related to various aspects of the things. The final section 5 discusses figurative usages that can be considered as newly developed meanings, and the findings include the application to taste, which is something new happening to the semantics of *crisp*.

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