**Supplementary Table 1:** Descriptions of the term “probiotics” in online and printed English dictionaries.

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| **Source** | **Description** |
| Online Only Sources (Accessed 31st October 2018) | |
| Vocabulary.com  <https://www.vocabulary.com/> | A beneficial bacterium found in the intestinal tract of healthy mammals; often considered to be a plant. |
| MacMillan  <https://www.macmillandictionary.com/> | Microorganisms (= very small living things) that are believed to make you more healthy if you eat them. Probiotics may decrease the incidence of respiratory tract infections. |
| Wiktionary  <https://www.wiktionary.org/> | (Bacteriology) A food or dietary supplement, such as yogurt, containing live bacteria for therapeutic reasons. |
| Dictionary.com  <https://www.dictionary.com/> | 1. A usually dairy food or a dietary supplement containing live bacteria that replace or add to the beneficial bacteria normally present in the gastrointestinal tract.  2. A bacterium in such a food or dietary supplement. |
| The Free Dictionary  <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/> | 1. A nutraceutical containing live bacteria or yeast that supplements normal gastrointestinal flora, given especially after depletion of flora caused by infection or ingestion of an antibiotic drug.  2. A bacterium that supplements normal gastrointestinal flora. |
| Your Dictionary  <http://www.yourdictionary.com/> | (Entry from Webster’s New World Collegiate Dictionary) |
| Urban Dictionary  <https://www.urbandictionary.com/> | A substance that stimulates the growth of beneficial bacteria in the alimentary and gastrointestinal tracts and thus benefits the host as well. |
| Online versions of printed Sources; Accessed - 27nd October 2018 | |
| American Heritage Dictionary (AHD)  <https://ahdictionary.com/> | *No word definition found.* |
| The Chambers Dictionary  [https://chambers.co.uk](https://chambers.co.uk/) | Alternative medicine treatment by taking into the body bacteria that support the useful and harmless bacteria that are already in the body against the harmful ones. |
| Collins English Dictionary  <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english> | A therapeutic treatment involving the ingestion of harmless bacteria. |
| New Oxford American Dictionary (NOAD)  [www.oxfordreference.com](http://www.oxfordreference.com) (accessed via the Utrecht University Library) | (adjective) Denoting a substance that stimulates the growth of microorganisms, especially those with beneficial properties (such as those of the intestinal flora). Denoting substance that stimulates growth of microorganisms |
| Oxford Dictionary of English  [www.oxfordreference.com](http://www.oxfordreference.com) (accessed via the Utrecht University Library) | (adjective) Denoting a substance that stimulates the growth of microorganisms, especially those with beneficial properties (such as those of the intestinal flora). Denoting substance that stimulates growth of microorganisms |
| Oxford English Dictionary (OED)  <http://www.oed.com/> | 1. A substance that promotes the growth of organisms; esp. a metabolite produced by one microorganism that promotes the growth of other microorganisms.  2. A microorganism, or (in early use) a substance, used to restore or modify the composition of the microflora of a compartment of a body (esp. the intestines or rumen); a preparation of such microorganisms. |
| Webster’s Third New International Dictionary  <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary> | A microorganism (such as lactobacillus) that when consumed (as in a food or a dietary supplement) maintains or restores beneficial bacteria to the digestive tract. also: a product or preparation that contains such microorganisms. |
| Printed dictionaries | |
| The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (1992 edition) | *No word definition found.* |
| The Chambers Dictionary (1998 edition) | Treatment by the ingestion of the bacteria that support the useful and harmless bacteria in the body against the harmful ones. |
| Collins English Dictionary (1998 edition) | *No word definition found.* |
| Concise Oxford English Dictionary (COED)  (2011 edition) | Denoting a substance which stimulates the growth of microorganisms, especially beneficial ones such as those of the intestinal flora. |
| New Oxford American Dictionary (NOAD)  (2010 edition) | A probiotic substance or preparation, adj: denoting a substance that stimulates the growth of microorganisms, esp. Those with beneficial properties (such as those of the intestinal flora. |
| The New Oxford American Dictionary  (2001 edition) | *No word definition found.* |
| Oxford English Dictionary (OED)  (1989 edition) | Prebiological, prebiotic. |
| The New Oxford Dictionary of English  (1998 edition) | *No word definition found.* |
| Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (SOED)  (2007 edition) | *No word definition found.* |
| Webster’s Third New International Dictionary  (1976 edition) | *No word definition found.* |
| Collins COBUILD Advanced Learner’s English Dictionary (2003 edition) | *No word definition found.* |
| Collins COBUILD Advanced Dictionary  (2009 edition) | *No word definition found.* |
| The Penguin English Dictionary  (2003 edition) | A preparation containing bacteria beneficial to health, especially to the healthy functioning of the gut. |
| Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English New Edition (1987 edition) | *No word definition found.* |
| The Times English Dictionary (2000 edition) | *No word definition found.* |
| Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary  (2008 edition) | A preparation (as a dietary supplement) containing live bacteria (as lactobacilli) that is taken orally to restore beneficial bacteria to the body, also: A bacterium of such a preparation. |
| The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (2000 edition) | *No word definition found.* |