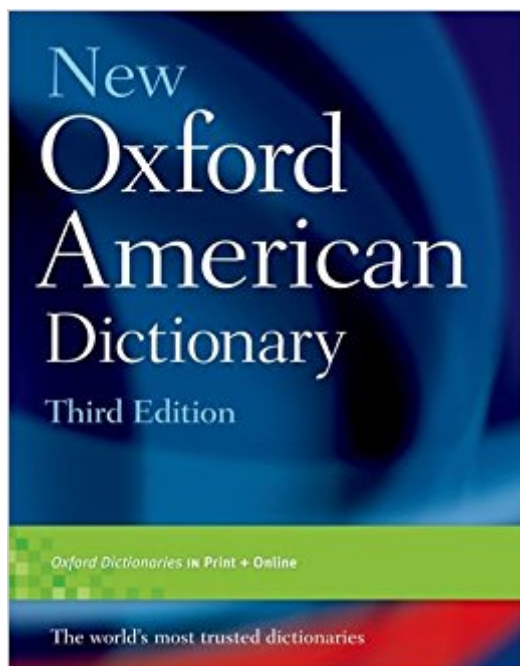


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New Oxford American Dictionary 3rd Edition



Synopsis

As Oxford's flagship American dictionary, the New Oxford American Dictionary sets the standard of excellence for lexicography in this country. With more than 350,000 words, phrases, and senses, hundreds of explanatory notes, and more than a thousand illustrations, this dictionary provides the most comprehensive and accurate coverage of American English available. The dictionary draws on the two-billion-word Oxford English Corpus and the unrivaled citation files of the world-renowned Oxford English Dictionary to provide the most accurate and richly descriptive picture of American English ever offered in any dictionary. The Third Edition offers a thoroughly updated text, with revisions throughout and approximately 2,000 new words, phrases, and meanings. Many new words relate to fast-moving areas such as computing, technology, current affairs, and ecology, while others have recently entered the popular lexicon. Usage notes have been updated in light of the most recent Corpus evidence, and a completely new in-text feature on Word Trends charts usage for rapidly changing words and phrases such as carbon, mobile, or tweet. In addition, the volume has an attractive, modern new text design that makes entries easier to read and find. One of the hallmarks of the New Oxford American Dictionary is the way it reflects the living language. Unlike in more traditional dictionaries, where meanings are ordered chronologically according to the history of the language, each entry plainly shows the principal meaning or meanings of the word, organized by importance in today's English. Thus readers can be confident that the first definition they see is the one most likely to be used by people today, and is not a sense that has been obsolete for two centuries. Offering clear, authoritative, and precise information, with the in-depth and up-to-date coverage that users need and expect, the New Oxford American Dictionary is the benchmark by which all other American dictionaries are measured.

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American Dictionary should be on the reference shelf of every library." - Library Journal"Remains true to its initial concept of being an easy-to-use single volume of words that reflect today's society...Recommended." --Choice

I have owned many fine Dictionaries during my lifetime. Most of them, in the course of time, went out of business for any variety of reasons. I am a writer and one who loves the English language almost to the point of obsession. THIS was purchased as the "final" Dictionary for my lifetime so I needed the best available. I tracked down my most respected English Teacher who was oddly still alive and alert. This is the only one he recommended. As always .. he was right. No disappointment whatsoever.

Sometimes my internet doesn't work as well as it could and if I need assistance with word finding or spelling, I have this hard copy dictionary in my library. I realize people like the internet and use it for everything, but when it's not there, you notice things like, "How do I spell this?" or "What does that word mean?" and you need a hard copy dictionary. In short, pleased with the font size and the paper thickness. I feel that neither of these are a problem. I am pleased with the completeness of the dictionary.....there are an awful LOT of definitions here; you should be able to find almost anything you need. Price not bad for the completeness. I did a lot of searching before I settled on this book. One caveat: treat with care. Don't muss with the book too hard or roughly because the binding is not looking like it's real well made or long lasting. I have not had this dictionary long enough to really comment on this portion, rather this is just my current observation. I also bought the thesaurus and I actually use that more often and intensely and that binding is holding up better than this dictionary's. This could be single product error though, because I bought them as a set.

Great dictionary!! I love the Oxford Americans. It's a more advanced dictionary for someone who already has a pretty expansive vocabulary of the English/American language. I still sometimes run into some words I don't know within its definitions but whenever I need to find a word this dictionary seems to have a great definition and it also has very helpful derivations/origins but you also need a pretty expansive understanding for those occasionally.

I've used a Webster's Dictionary most of my life, and I was disappointed in the reviews that I read about them when I was in the market for a new, up-to-date one. So, based on someone's review and suggestion, I took a chance on the Oxford. Wow! It is an impressive book...I like it! Yeah it's a

little larger than the Webster's, and certainly it's a little heavier; but it's not unmanageable, and unlike what one reviewer said, you don't need a stand to keep it on- it's not that big. I know a lot of people are doing away with dictionaries and are utilizing online dictionaries; but I am a book guy, and still have a nice reference library of about 150 books, and the Oxford made a nice addition to my collection.

My first purchase ever from was a dictionary, the 1996 Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged. I chose it because it was the only dictionary I could find that had "bonobo" and "urtext" in it, two words I'd recently found use for. Now I needed (ok, wanted) a newer and equally encyclopedic one for my home office and chose this one because it was the most recently updated and also one of the best choices according to customer reviewers. Here are a few things I've discovered during initial browsings: This 2010 Third Edition New Oxford reveals its British roots with the inclusion of "gastropub," the exclusion of "second base," and its failure to capitalize the "R" on "Realtor"--a trademarked industry-invented name, like Kleenex, that requires a cap "R" whether we like it or not. While both my '96 Webster and '10 New Oxford have entries for "pimp mobile," only New Oxford has one for "OMG," "dumb blonde," "snotty-nosed" and "Risorgimento," a word you'll need to know before watching the great Visconti-Burt Lancaster classic "The Leopard." (And watch it you should, in Italian with subtitles...but I digress.) "Philamerican," which I have just come across for the first time in Antonia Fraser's new book "Must You Go?" isn't in either dictionary. I'm sure continued browsing will reveal all sorts of words previously unknown to me that I'll not be able to live without--for example, this classy sounding five-syllable word for the willful shirking of duties: "esquivallence." New Oxford's "ready reference" extras include: a glossary of some 700 or so British and American English terminology equivalents; Arabic, Hebrew, Greek and Russian alphabets; chemical elements; standard weights and measures with metric equivalents and conversions; texts of the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and its Amendments, the Gettysburg Address, the New Colossus and the Pledge of Allegiance; US Presidents and their Vice Presidents through Obama/Biden; US Chief Justices through Roberts along with landmark Supreme Court cases 1803-1989; US states and their postal abbreviations, capitals, mottoes, nicknames, dates and order of statehood; Countries of the World with population estimates and 12 pages of black and white world maps. I find the typefaces easy to read, particularly the contrast between the boldfaced words, lightfaced definitions and italic examples. And I like being able to find a pronunciation key in all the right hand corners. This 2,016-page book comes with six months of free access to the Oxford online dictionaries, which I've not yet tried. Update 2/5/12:

OOPS & ALAS! Just discovered, quite by chance, while looking for it elsewhere, that the word "esquivalience" mentioned above is not a real word. Several Google sources are reporting that the Oxford editors made it up to protect their copyright of the online version. Too bad. I rather liked it, myself.

My preference for a dictionary is Oxford over Webster. You won't be disappointed. While a certain amount of a dictionary's contents never change, this is a beautifully updated dictionary that should be considered a complete home/office reference. Some people buy, or are given, one dictionary in their life - underestimating the need to update, especially with the existence of the internet. By definition (no pun intended), proper referencing should include more than one source. If you are considering a new dictionary, with all the advantages that it can offer, this would definitely be the choice.

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