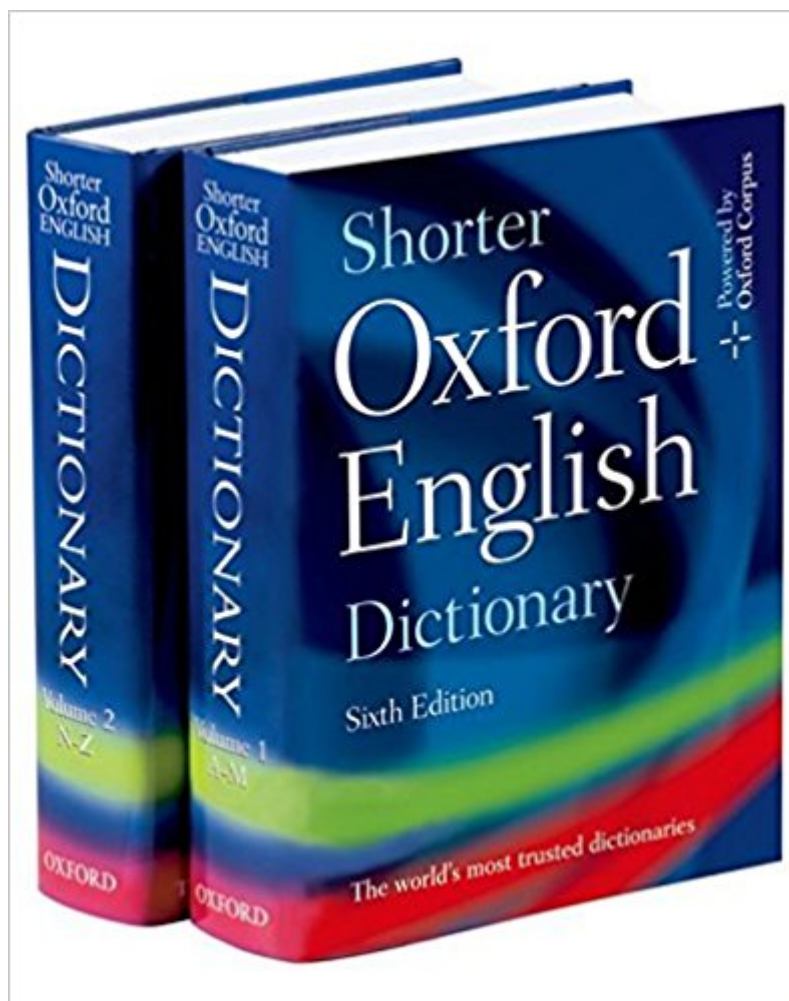


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# Shorter Oxford English Dictionary



## Synopsis

From the beginning, the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary was intended to be an abridgement of the full Oxford English Dictionary. The first editor, William Little, was appointed in 1902. He worked on it until his death in 1922, after which the dictionary was completed by H. W. Fowler, Jessie Coulson, and C. T. Onions. The First Edition was published in 1933, in two volumes. The Second Edition, published in 1936, contained about 3,000 revisions and additions. The Third Edition (1944) contained an appendix of addenda and corrigenda, and this edition was reprinted several times with corrections and additions, the most significant being in 1973, with enlarged addenda (now running to over 70 pages) and a major revision of all the etymologies. The New Shorter was prepared under the editorship of Lesley Brown 1980-1993. It was the first complete revision of the dictionary, being in fact not so much an overhaul of the existing text as a reabridgement of the OED and its Supplements. The Fifth Edition was published in 2002, and reverted to the name Shorter Oxford English Dictionary to emphasize the link between this 2-volume dictionary and the original 20-volume OED. The Sixth Edition of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary provides a complete update of this unique reference work. Based on the 20-volume Oxford English Dictionary, the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary contains an incredible one-third of the coverage of the Oxford English Dictionary, is just one-tenth of the size, and includes all words in current English from 1700 to the present day, plus the vocabulary of Shakespeare, the Bible and other major works in English from before 1700. The new edition, with a new introductory essay by language expert David Crystal on the History of English, includes 2,500 new words and senses, plus thousands of antedatings of existing words, drawing on the huge ongoing research project for the Oxford English Dictionary and the wealth of information on language in use provided by the Oxford English Corpus. In addition, the work includes many new quotations from recent authors, a refreshed design, and a complete review of spelling forms and defining vocabulary, making it the most authoritative reference work available for both modern and historical English. For scholars and everyone with a serious interest in the English language, the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary is an unrivalled resource, providing a unique description of the historical development of the language together with excellent coverage of current English. The Sixth Edition showcases the best of the traditional strengths of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, while bringing it up to date in its scholarship and research, in the design and layout, and in its treatment of the changing face of English. - Contains more than 600,000 words, phrases, and definitions, with coverage of language from the entire English-speaking world, from North America and the UK to South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, and the Caribbean. Fully updated with 2,500 new words and meanings based on the ongoing research programme of

Oxford Dictionaries and the Oxford English Corpus- Contains all the vocabulary current in general English from 1700 to the present day, as well as earlier major literary works, including Shakespeare, Milton's poetry, the Authorized Version of the Bible, and Spenser's Faerie Queene- Excellent coverage of all types of English encompassing slang, dialect words, technical, historical, and literary terms, and rare and obsolete words- Contains over 80,000 quotations illustrating words in use throughout the centuries and thousands of newly discovered antedatings based on the ongoing research for the OED- A never-before-published, introductory essay by the eminent language commentator David Crystal on the History of English provides a stimulating insight into the development of the English language- Completely refreshed design and layout highlights the links between meanings and quotations for ease of use and aesthetic appeal

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In hardcover it takes up two thick volumes, but on CD-ROM you get the same 7.5 million words of text (with half a million definitions and 83,000 quotations) on a thin compact disc. The computerized New SOED is a great pleasure. It readily accomplishes the simple task of looking up a word, providing definition, usage, and simple etymology. But the program also searches by anagram and by rhyme, by quotation and by etymology. Perusing the headword group is like flipping the pages. In this fashion, I ran across "nesh" (soft--in consistency, mind, or morals), "convell" (refute completely) and "xoanon" (primitive carved statue of a deity). My Scrabble game is getting less nesh all the time. --Stephanie Gold --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The contents of this disc match that of its print counterpart of the same name (edited by Lesley Brown, 1997). Having said that, it's hard to believe this is a "shorter" dictionary: there are 7.5 million words on the disc, 500,000 definitions, and 83,000 quotations to illustrate meanings in context. You can approach these words in four ways: simple search (type in your word for a definition), index search (to look for headwords, derivatives, abbreviations, phrases and compound words, uses and references, and other word forms), full-text search (to search all text, etymological text, definitions, or quotations), and special search (to search for anagrams, rhymes, and phonetics). It may take a bit of hunting under those four groups to find a form-specific search that suits, but how remarkable that Oxford has made it possible within just two levels of looking. Nice features include two wildcards (\* and ?) that work at the beginning, end, or middle of words, as well as a link feature that lets you use the dictionary within several word processors such as MS Word for Windows 6 and 7, WordPerfect 6.0 and 6.1, and Ami Pro 3.1. Bottom Line: What's extraordinary about this disc is how well it will serve all types of users, from those with the most casual reference question to the scholarly student of the English language. It is highly recommended for all types of libraries and personal collections. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a review of the CD version of the SOED, Version 3.0, and in no way applies to the printed, 2 volume edition. It is also based on "initial reactions", with no experience with any other computer dictionary. I will update the review as I come to use it day to day. Update on 8 July: The program stopped working on my Windows 7 Professional computer. I did several uninstalls and re-installs, but I could not get it to work. I since installed it on a Windows Vista Home Premium machine, and so far, it works in exactly the same way as it did originally on Windows 7. This MAY be due to an upgrade to Windows 7. Check with publisher on Windows 7 compatibility before purchasing! Remainder of review is my original impression of functionality. By far the best feature, unique to a computer version, is the pronouncing voice, which varies from male to female, from word to word. Very nice. This is far better than the cryptic pronouncing text which uses symbols, 2/3 of which I do not understand. Second best feature is that the dictionary appears to contain a fair number of recently invented words (recent being relative. Since I work primarily on biblical scholarship, most of the words I use are 100 to 2000 years old) such as "Hobbit". It also contains compound expressions such as "Darwin's finches". Overall, the definitions are satisfying, without a large number of examples that you find in the Merriam Webster 3rd Unabridged. But I get the sense that the user

interface was designed maybe 10 years ago, and has not been updated since Windows 2000. There are a lot of things one would expect it to do, which it cannot. You cannot easily click on any word in a definition and have that word appear in the search text. I also found that the dictionary seemed just a bit less useful at locating spelling suggestions when you know approximately what you want, but just can't seem to get it right. That was my experience when I tried to find the spelling of etymology (after taking a detour to entomology.) The dictionary's inclusion of proper names seemed inconsistent. It had "Riga", the capital of Latvia, but it did not have "Moscow". True to its word, you do not need the CD in your drive after the first usage. Installation was a bit slower than expected on a new machine with Windows 7, but it was smooth enough, with no annoying registration rigmarole (Yes, that word was in the dictionary, although the Word spell checker was more useful in finding the correct spelling than was the dictionary.) One odd phenomenon, in Windows 7, is that by doing something in the dictionary, it changed the characteristics of the cursor outside the dictionary, and I have not yet been able to restore the cursor to its normal behavior. Another symptom that while this SOED works in new Windows, it may be slightly retarded.

Note: I've noticed that this review is appearing on the pages of other Shorter Oxford products, such as the CD ROM version. This review exclusively refers to the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary: Deluxe Sixth Edition*. This is the leatherbound, two-volume set.---So much has been written about the scholarship of the Shorter OED that I elect not to debate it here. Nonetheless, you might be interested in the physicality of what you're buying. In a word, both the quality and the aesthetic presentation of this Deluxe Edition are extraordinary. The binding construction is first-rate, and as close to old-world craftsmanship as one might reasonably expect. (If you're familiar with Easton Press leatherbound editions; these volumes are on par. However, the OED editions lack the hubbed spines and moire fabric endsheets that are customary with Easton Press.) The paper seems to be inimitably thin - almost akin to a rice paper of some sort. You may be familiar with the razor-thin paper used in the Norton Anthology of English Literature; this is empirically similar. The pages are a bright white, and the typeface contrast is bold and clear. Unlike the Compact OED, most people can read this without a magnifying glass. For what it's worth, these volumes are printed in Italy. They are heirloom editions that may very well last a lifetime or longer. However, they are almost too nice to use as rigorously as you might be initially inclined to do. (I find myself treating my set with kid gloves. There's a strange irony here.) The Oxford blue leather bindings are tastefully stunning. Although delicate, the gold-gilded edging keeps moisture and dust away from the pages. The satin ribbon page markers are a nice touch. The slipcase is cardboard, and although sufficient for its

purpose, it is less than luxurious. But overall, as a gift for a loved one or for yourself; this ensemble will not disappoint. Assuredly, you will not find a nicer dictionary from any publisher at any price. (It also helps that this happens to be the OED, albeit the Shorter.) Finally; this purchase includes a 12-month subscription to the OED Online. (Oxford sells personal subscriptions for \$295.00/year.) Some libraries furnish online access for free, but for those of us who aren't so fortunate, this is a sweet perquisite.

I have MS7 on a 64-bit desktop. This program would not load as it says I am missing a neko.dll (whatever THAT is). Unfortunately I cannot find any tech support listed or any way to contact OED people accompanying the product. Very disappointed. HOWEVER, a great representative got me a phone number, which (of course) led to another phone number, but ended with very helpful free tech support and the problem was solved in minutes. I LOVE THE PROGRAM!!! And the nicest thing is it load completely on my computer and I don't have to have the CD in the drive in order to use it.

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