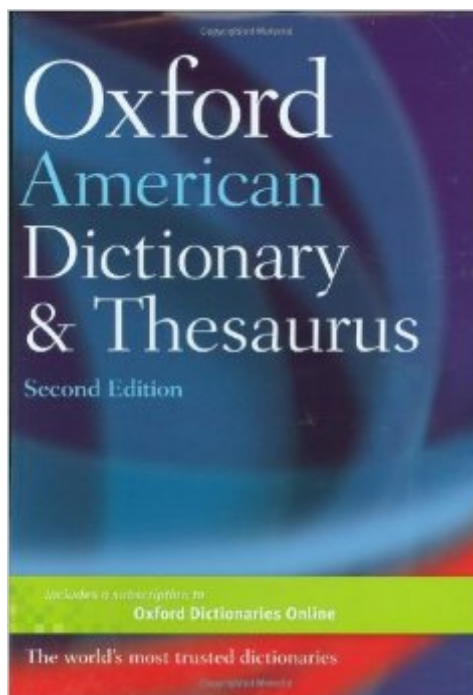


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Oxford American Dictionary & Thesaurus, 2e



Synopsis

For anyone who has ever spent time going back and forth from the thesaurus to the dictionary, in search of just the right word, the Oxford American Dictionary & Thesaurus is the perfect tool--an all-in-one desk reference offering the range and depth of a full dictionary, with a wide selection of synonyms and antonyms, plus valuable writing tips and information--all combined in one convenient, integrated volume. The Second Edition contains more than 150,000 words, phrases and definitions - twice as many as the competition - plus approximately 184,000 synonyms and antonyms. More important, the new edition now completely integrates the dictionary and thesaurus text, with the synonyms and antonyms directly following the dictionary definitions of their related part of speech. The new edition also boasts a fresh redesign of the interior, featuring an open, well-spaced layout and a more readable type, with the thesaurus sections clearly differentiated from the dictionary text for optimal clarity and usability. To accompany this fresh design, the book includes more than seventy pages of entirely revised supplementary material, including Usage Notes, Word Links, Choose the Right Word boxes, Word Toolkits, thematic lists, US/British equivalents, and a grammar guide - seamlessly blended into the principle text. And finally, many new headwords and example sentences have been added and the text has been revised throughout. With definitions and synonyms grouped together, writers can now know instantly if a particular word is the one that best captures what they want to say. Authoritative, up to date, and attractively redesigned, the second edition of the Oxford American Dictionary & Thesaurus is an essential resource for students, writers, and anyone else who wants to write clearly, precisely, and with power.

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Of the several Oxford hardcover dictionaries, this is the most disappointing. The reasons are simply:1) There is so little content the font is large and there is a great deal of unnecessary white space. That is positive if you are in need of a new eyeglasses prescription, but otherwise the book looks like a child's dictionary. This volume could have been half the size and save a lot of trees, were it not hiding its lack of text.2) The quality and quantity of definitions vary wildly. Often well-known words are delved into unnecessarily while other more difficult or obscure words are barely addressed at all.3) Synonyms choices are random--which words contain thesaurus entries is always a surprise. Not the kind that anyone needs.4) A pedestrian "Language Guide" is located in the middle of the book -- I kid you not. You must thumb through the volume to pages with a bit of gray color at the edge of the binding to find the guide. Ironically, Oxford buried this guide following the word "juxtapose." That is a horrible user interface choice for a book, but at least there's a little humor in the error. Essentially, this book is neither a useful dictionary nor a useful thesaurus. I'd recommend getting a separate dictionary and thesaurus. This volume is cheap enough but it won't service your needs effectively. Indeed, I will be returning my copy. I regret panning the work of a no-doubt superb linguistic team on a just-published project, but this volume was not a product for which to be proud. Oxford, what were you thinking?

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