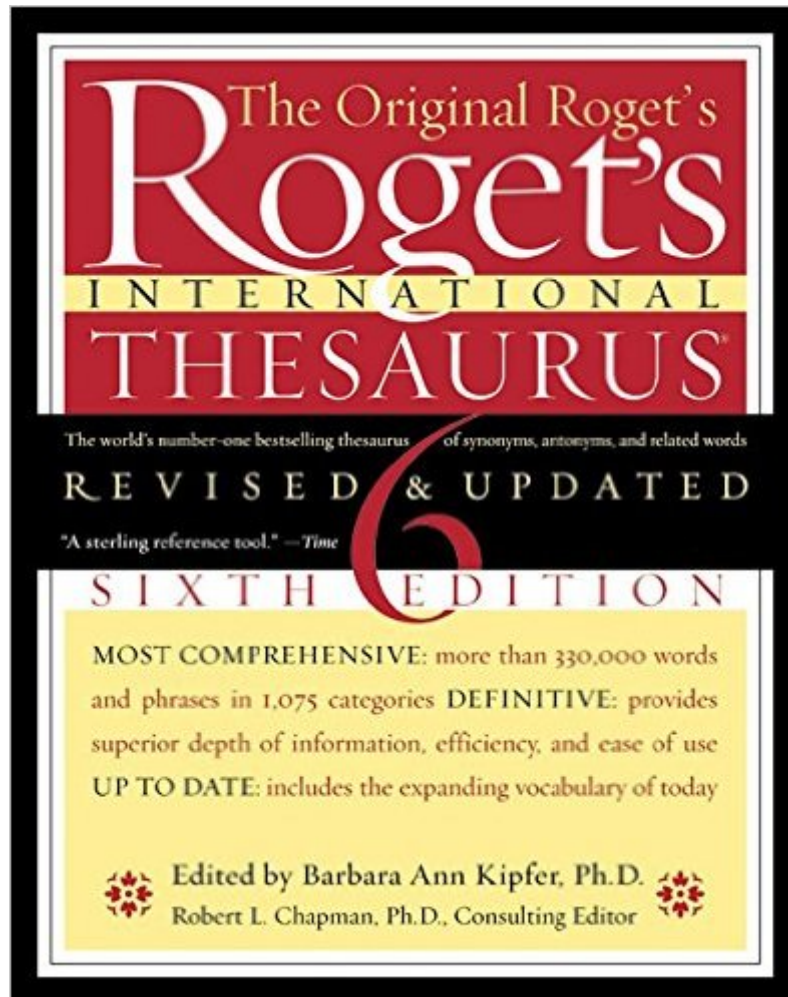


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Roget's International Thesaurus, 6th Edition



Synopsis

The revolutionary achievement of Dr. Peter Mark Roget's first edition in 1852 was the development of a brand "new principle: the arrangement of words and phrases according to their meanings. Dr. Roget's system brings together in one place all the terms associated with a single thought or concept; it allows a wide "ranging survey of language within a book of relatively modest size, without the space "consuming repetitions that so severely limit the scope of thesauruses arranged in a dictionary format with A "to "Z entries. This brilliant organization makes Roget's International Thesaurus® both the most efficient word finder and a cutting "edge aid in stimulating thought, organizing ideas, and writing and speaking more clearly and effectively. This revised and updated sixth edition features thousands of new words and phrases, including the newest slang words and expressions that color and inform everyday language. It retains all of the hallmarks that have made Roget's International Thesaurus® an enduring classic: a "ore than 330,000 words and phrases organized into 1,075 categories. a "pinpoint reference system that directs the user quickly from a comprehensive index to the numbered category of the right word. Thousands of cross "references throughout lead to other helpful categories. a "undreds of supplemental word lists that supply the names of things which have no synonyms (measurements, wines, weapons, animals, state mottoes, and more) as well as hundreds of quotations that amplify the meanings of selected words. Generations of students, writers, editors, and speakers have made Roget's the most popular word reference book next to the dictionary. Continuing a legacy that dates back more than 150 years, Roget's International Thesaurus® is an indispensable work for everyone who wants to use the English language with clarity and precision.

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Customer Reviews

An earlier reviewer, John L. Pope, is right on the money about this. The organizational arrangement used for the editions up to and including the 4th was a sublime and beautiful exploratory exposition of the English language. The new editions suffer from the idea that simplistic presentation, aimed at the "average" user, will be more "user-friendly". In fact, the opposite is true, as those who are most likely to use this work are precisely those most likely to be frustrated by this 'dumbing down' of what is an unparalleled and irreplaceable reference tool. I pray that Roget's recognize the folly of this course eventually, for I, too, have returned to the 4th edition, which means that I don't get the benefit of the new words & phrases that have been added in the two published since. Those who claim that a thesaurus in dictionary form is better have no idea what they are talking about. If you don't realize that an indexed type is infinitely superior, it's because you don't know how to use it properly. A thesaurus is not meant as a dictionary replacement, but is meant to be used in concert with a dictionary. Each is arranged in the way most proper for its purpose. The fact is, this thesaurus does have an alphabetical listing, and that is properly the place where one starts when using it -- it's called the index, and it takes up about 1/4 or more of the entire volume. When looking for a synonym or related word, one goes to the index and looks up the word one wants a synonym for in the alphabetical listing. Several senses of the word will be presented, with a different page listing for each. Choosing a sense of the word, you now proceed to the page referenced in the index for that sense.

"Roget's International Thesaurus" is organized by subject as opposed to alphabetically, although all words are also indexed in the back. Which type of organization you prefer will depend upon your needs and tastes. If you are looking for a thesaurus that will simply give you the most and best alternative words, an alphabetical thesaurus such as Rodale Press' "Synonym Finder" is easier to use and more efficient to that purpose. On the other hand, "Roget's International Thesaurus" has traded ease of use for versatility. If it's a synonym you seek, look it up in the index, which will direct you to the appropriate section and subsection. There, you will find synonyms for your word, and if you let your eyes wander up and down the page perusing the contents of that section, you will also find words related to your subject, including antonyms. The part of speech for each word is always given, and abbreviations for "nonformal" and the origins of foreign words are provided for clarity. There are no word definitions. Section/subsection numbers are conveniently found at the top of each page to aid in locating words. If you have no idea what word you need, you can consult the list of 1,075 categories in the front of the book, which will direct you to words related to that subject.

Word lists are another of the book's useful features. If you are looking at the subject of lakes, for example, you are provided with a list of the world's major lakes. Other examples include a list of words describing different types of engraving found in the graphic arts section, and over 100 types of ceramic are listed in the ceramics section.

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