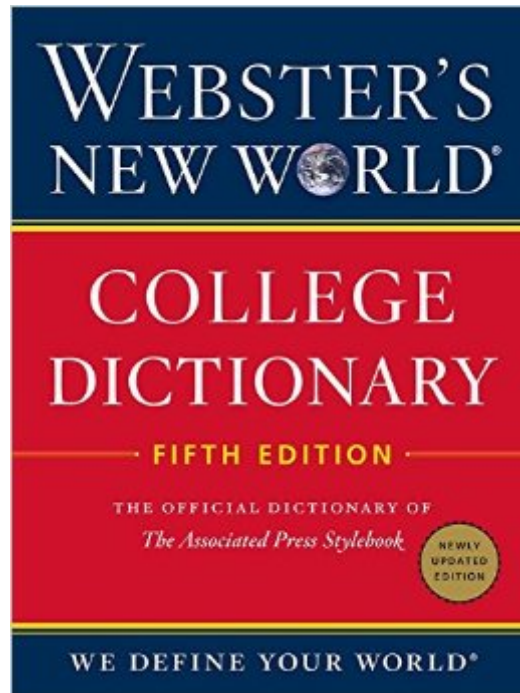


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Webster's New World College Dictionary, Fifth Edition



Synopsis

Newly updated for 2016, Webster's New World College Dictionary is the most comprehensive, up-to-date college dictionary available. Webster's New World College Dictionary, Fifth Edition, presents the very best a college dictionary can offer, with all the user-friendly qualities that have distinguished the Webster's New World name for decades. It is a favorite of newsrooms and copyeditors nationwide, and it is the official dictionary of The Associated Press Stylebook and the New York Times. Webster's New World College Dictionary is collaborating with The Associated Press Stylebook Online to offer a combined service. Please see www.apstylebook.com for details. This dictionary features a clear and accessible defining style, abundant synonym notes, full-page tables and charts, hundreds of drawings that complement the definitions, and authoritative guidance on usage and style points. It also includes extensive coverage of Americanisms (words, phrases, and senses coined by an American or first used in the United States), all 12,000 of which are specially identified. For this 2016 edition, the editors have made hundreds of revisions and additions. New words include co-working, emoji, jizya, lambic, and vape. Webster's New World College Dictionary is the perfect dictionary for use at school, at the office, or at home.

Book Information

Hardcover: 1728 pages

Publisher: Webster's New World; 5th ed. edition (June 28, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544598229

ISBN-13: 978-0544598225

Product Dimensions: 7 x 2.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Reference > Dictionaries #20 in Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > Dictionaries

Customer Reviews

I long have used the Webster's New World Dictionary of American English, the most recommendable and comprehensive of its variants being any designated for "college" (in U.S.A. lingo including "university") use. Having just received the new Fifth Edition ("new" in this year of 2014) causes me to ponder the unbroken excellence of every edition of this great American dictionary. The edition which most people usually think of as the first one of this dictionary was the

only English dictionary which students at the college where I did my freshman and sophomore years of study, in the mid-1960s, were permitted to cite as their lexical authority (the then recently debased "Collegiate" dictionary from Merriam-Webster, having been prime among the dictionaries that students were forbidden to use in writing their papers and assignments). By the time of its Fifth Edition, the Webster's New World Dictionary has become so compendious, so hefty, that it now barely fits the format of a single volume dictionary. The Fourth Edition already had been "groaning at the seams". To accommodate what appears surely to be a larger base of vocabulary of terms, abbreviations, names, etc. (the totals of which the dictionary's introductory features themselves do not quantify explicitly, unless something has eluded my glance), the Fifth Edition (comparing it here only to the Fourth Edition), even though it has decreased slightly in pagination, has cut out some extraneous (albeit useful) features from the "Reference Supplement", and has decreased slightly (but noticeably) the print size in the main bulk of the work. To limit the comparison to the main paging sequence between the two most recent editions, one goes from the Fourth's 1716 p. to the Fifth's total of 1703 p.

I awarded five stars to the 4th edition of this dictionary (Webster's New World) but this new 5th edition misses the high marks of the 4th. The neologisms seem to be adequately covered, and the simple, clear definitions for which Webster's New World takes pride are still here, at least for now. However, the production is a downgrade, with smaller page size and smaller print. Gone are the half-tones (photos) and the superb illustrations of the 4th edition which are now replaced with the less attractive drawings from the 3rd edition. The paper is noticeably lower grade (bulked, non-alkaline) and much of the encyclopedic material (US Constitution, Bill of Rights, color maps, lists of US presidents, Rivers, etc.) has been dropped. (Admittedly, not a big deal for some.) But I am most disappointed that after careful scrutiny of the book and the Houghton-Mifflin-Harcourt websites I was unable to find any contact information for the offices of Webster's New World reference books. All I could find was contact info to Houghton-Mifflin-Harcourt's corporate office in New York. Webster's New World Dictionary now seems to be a dictionary without a home or even an Internet address that one might send an inquiry to. From this, one might surmise that the former New World Dictionary home offices at 850 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, OH 44114 are no longer, and the dictionary database may now be maintained on line by part-timers from home. All of the above seems to indicate a corporate decision calling for draconian cost reductions at WNW Dictionary. If so, we are witness to the decline of an American institution, one which for decades drove competing dictionaries to excel. It now remains for the consumer to decide if such extreme cost-cutting

measures prove efficacious.

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