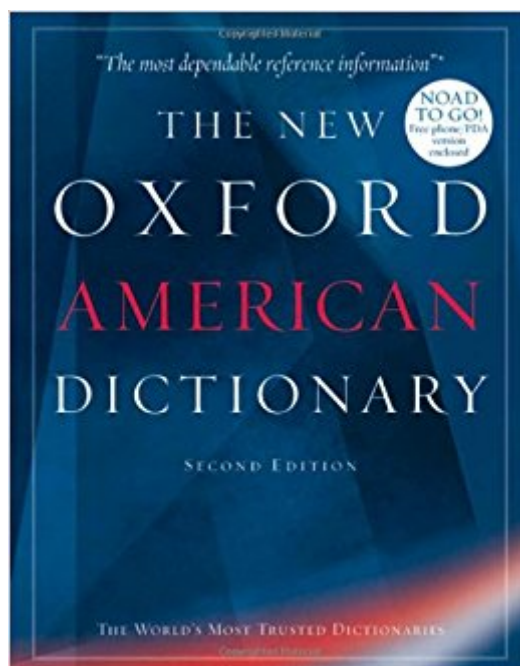


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# The New Oxford American Dictionary



## Synopsis

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## Book Information

Hardcover: 2096 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 2 edition (May 19, 2005)

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## Customer Reviews

**\*Starred Review\*** Recently there has been publicity about young lexicographers and their work with major American dictionaries. Erin McKean, 34, is the editor of the second edition of The New Oxford American Dictionary (NOAD) and continues the tradition of publishing a well-researched and current source of U.S. English. The first edition, with different editors, was published in 2001. What has changed in four years? Words, of course, have been added and deleted. There are more than 2,000 new entries. Google and weblog are now in, information superhighway is out. The type appears larger, and a line or two has been added to the brief country histories to bring them up to date. Another addition is the useful feature "The Right Word," which discusses synonyms. An example is the entry for attack, which, in addition to a half-column definition, has another half-column discussing the differences in meanings for the synonyms assault, besiege, charge, molest, and storm, among others. The first edition was criticized for not having a pronunciation key on every page, something the new edition remedies. The lists of U.S. presidents and states, tables of weights and measures, and most other features of the ready-reference section remain, but the lists of members of selected halls of fame have been dropped in favor of a "Language Guide," which includes commonly misspelled words and redundant expressions. Definitions continue to be organized around the "core" meanings--that is, "the one that represents the most literal use that the word has in ordinary modern American usage." Similar to other current dictionaries, biographical,

proper, and place-names are included--al Qaeda; Botox; 9/11; Rice, Condoleezza; Splenda; and Sunni Triangle are new additions to NOAD. Black-and-white photographs and line drawings are still interspersed in the text, with the entry for novelist Nadine Gordimer now having a photo. Julia Child's and Ronald Reagan's deaths in 2004 are noted. NOAD is more current than its closest rival in size, the fourth edition of the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (2000). For any library that did not purchase the first edition of NOAD, or wants to keep its dictionary collection up to date, this is a buy. Christine Bulson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

"It runs more than 2,000 pages and weighs upward of 800 pounds, so will need one forklift or three sumo wrestlers to hoist it, but you will love this gorilla once you get to know it."--James Kilpatrick, "Writers Life" "Includes some unique and useful extras."--School Library Journal Curriculum Connections "NOAD is an eminently usable dictionary with an attractive layout; clear, crisp illustrations; usage guidance; and synonyms with connotations. Sure to be everyone's favorite dictionary! Summing up: Essential."--Choice "More current than its closest rival in size.... This is a 'buy.'"--Booklist STARRED REVIEW "Erudite, accessible.... If you're looking for a desk dictionary that covers the spectrum of American English, with a fair quantity of encyclopaedic information thrown in, you could do a lot worse." --World Wide Words "Ms. McKean had been dubbed "America's lexicographical sweetheart" by National Public Radio's program "Talk of the Nation." "The New York Times Reviews for the previous edition: "The gold standard of American dictionaries."--The Providence Journal "With its unique approach to language, this is easy to use and provides clear, well-written definitions."--Library Journal. "Oxford has always been so good at dictionaries, and lexicographical publishing needs a boost after Random House suddenly abandoned the field.... I'd give the New Oxford American Dictionary to a person looking for a quick answer."--William Safire, The New York Times. "In both definitions and pronunciations the dictionary emphasizes American English.... This is a useful quick-reference type of dictionary."--Houston Chronicle

Got this Second Edition at a great deal. This edition still has the old CD for registration, which I don't believe works any longer. The print and font are just the right size. The binding is sewn and sturdy. The derivation of words is easy to read and understand, complete with a 'how to use the dictionary' section at the front. The thumb index and finding words with the guide words atop each page makes for fast look-up. Recommended.

I previously used Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition religiously. A couple of weeks ago, they did not have a word that I was looking for. That's when I decided that it was time for a change. Oxford always had a good reputation for reference books. I can see why. This book has many more listings. The only thing about this dictionary that I am disappointed with is that it does not have thumb tabs. I find those helpful to have in a dictionary.

I hope hardback is the only option! This is a full dictionary in a font that you can read without a magnifying glass. Many people only use the computer to check words, but having a dictionary in the house is vital for when you have a quick question and the computer is not on or the internet is down or you want more than a two sentence definition fast. This book is a gem for scrabble lovers (the scrabble dictionary sucks and is missing too many words). Definitions are well put and it includes history of many words and an occasional drawing. The only dictionary if you are an American word snob in my opinion; my editor friends agree.

This is the paper version of the dictionary included in Mac OS X. I use the built-in one the most, but like to grab this one when away from the computer. Sometimes paper is better on the eyes too. What I like most about this dictionary is the succinct definitions. They are easy to understand and don't send me on a word hunt with definitions that require definitions--explain the explanation syndrome. What I like least is the weight. It's paper and there are a lot of definitions in it, so it is bound to be heavy. The hard-cover keeps it together pretty well. This is a great dictionary than I can definitely recommend.

This is a great dictionary. I love it because I have referred to it many times since purchasing it and have always found the answers to what I am looking for. It has helped me with game show questions, crossword puzzles and word debates between my husband and I. It is so much more than just a dictionary. The only reason I did not rate this dictionary a "5" is because of it's size. It is quite large and bulky, but then again, if it wasn't - it might not contain all the answers I was searching for. This is truly an informative book which I would highly recommend.

NOAD is the best single-volume American English dictionary I know. In my opinion, the best single-volume dictionary of the English language is the British dictionary entitled Collins English Dictionary in Color. I have over ten abridged desk monolingual dictionaries; NOAD stands out in my shelf altogether with Collins followed by The American Heritage. NOAD impresses because of its

contextual examples. They are based on a corpus incorporating over a hundred millions words. The best dictionaries support on linguistics corpus because they use natural examples that bring English to "life". That is, this corpus has millions of sentences extracted from authentic spoken and written language. According to the official Oxford site, all their dictionaries are based on huge linguistics corpus -- over one billion occurrences. If you are interested, however, in purchasing the best unabridged dictionaries for a reasonable price; I would recommend the "Webster's New Third International Dictionary" and "The Compact Oxford English Dictionary", 1991 -- the most authoritative sources of the English language.

Disclaimer: I have not read this entire book ;-)

This is a great dictionary and if you want a real dictionary that you can put on a PDA then the combined package is a terrific deal. However... I bought this in large part for the software. I saw a version of this dictionary for MobiPocket at \$60 that I wanted to use to look up words while reading eBooks. That seemed pretty steep. Then I found this. "Terrific", I thought. Unfortunately, the software does not integrate with MobiPocket as the \$60 version presumably does. Still, the software works well on its own, and I'm glad to have it.

However... There are some entries missing from the electronic version, such as "Saturn". The definitions also suffer regular errors, such as the fact that alternative word forms are always run together with no space in between. In addition, the hyperlinks don't work. The application has also crashed once or twice and required a reboot of my device to get it to run again. (The device itself did not crash). The foregoing applies to Version 1.0 running on PocketPC 6.0. The print dictionary is a little disappointing at first glance. It does not include the word "euhemerism" and related words which are included in my 1987 copy of "The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, 2nd Ed., Unabridged". Sure it's an oddball word. I don't buy a dictionary to look up words like "car" and "dog". So I won't be able to get rid of my old dictionary, but it did include every other oddball word I tried so I won't have to get too much exercise getting out of my chair and power-lifting another huge dictionary. Despite the drawbacks, the book is of good quality (acid-free paper and all), contains a huge number of definitions, includes a PDA version far more complete than anything else I'm aware of, and the combination is a bargain at this price.

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