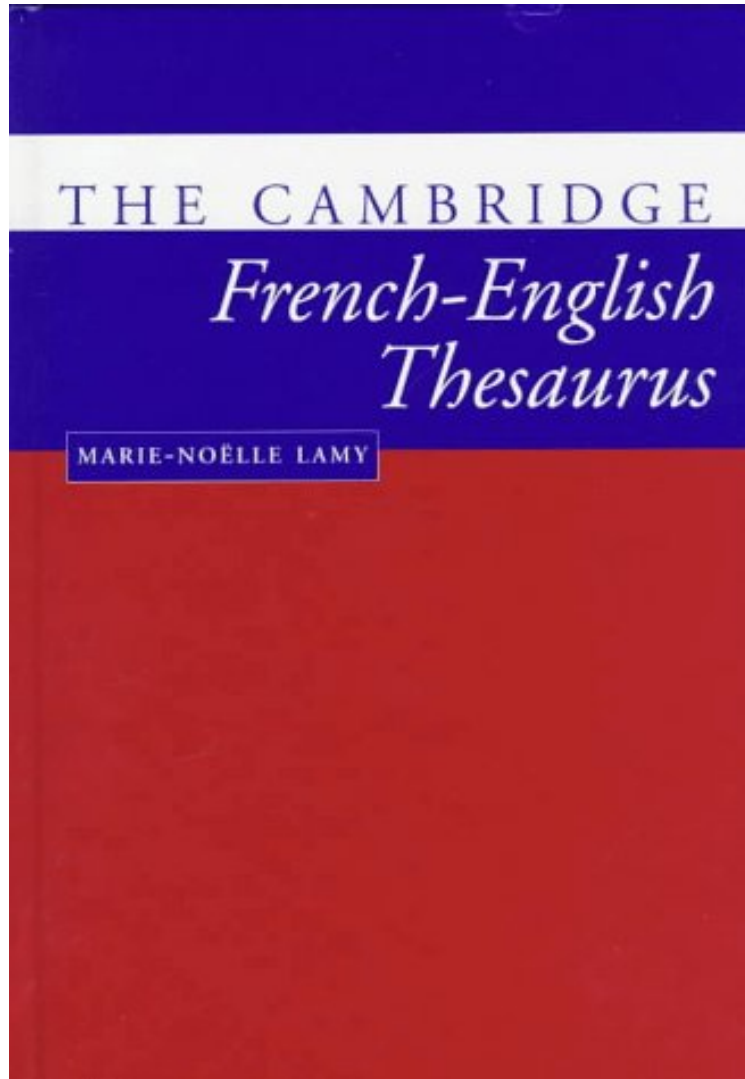


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The Cambridge French-English Thesaurus

Marie-Noëlle Lamy

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Marie-Noëlle Lamy : The Cambridge French-English Thesaurus before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cambridge French-English Thesaurus:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. For studying French: a joy to use and peruse By Merrily Baird You are a committed student of French and already have a bilingual dictionary and a French-French equivalent. What can and should be added next to your arsenal of reference books? A most outstanding choice is "The Cambridge French-English Thesaurus." This hardback volume is easy to use and a handy guide to all manner of things other than just synonyms. Many of the bonuses come at the end of the book, where there are tutorials on polite language, letter-writing, and verb conjugations. Of course, the main part of the volume (the first 207 pages) is devoted to providing

words that relate to a given subject, and it is this part of the thesaurus that I find so compelling for pleasurable grazing, so to speak. Take, for example, words related to weather, which figure prominently in the writing of several favorite authors of mine. These are broken down into the subsets of weather and climate, weather conditions, rain, wind, fog and clouds, unusual phenomena, cold, and heat. In most instances there are literal English one-word equivalents, but as appropriate the Cambridge thesaurus presents full sentences and indications of which choices equal informal speech. Idiomatic uses are also presented at the end of subsections and are labeled as "locutions", i.e., "idioms." Thus, we have the following: "un coup de tonnerre dans un ciel serein," the French version of a 'bolt out of the blue.'" Even more figurative is "qu'il pleuve ou qu'il vente," which equates to "come hell or high water." 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Great concept; flawed execution By Stavros Macrakis A thesaurus for English-speaking learners of French, organizing words by subject rather than by alphabet, is a great idea. This one is pretty good, but weak in several areas (see below). I don't know of anything better, but it's only really useful in conjunction with both a good bilingual dictionary -- I highly recommend the Collins-Robert -- and a French dictionary of synonyms -- I've found Henri Benac, *Dictionnaire des Synonymes*, helpful. -- It's not at all clear how its French vocabulary is chosen. Common words like "colleague", "essuie-tout", and "pote" are missing, while uncommon words like "branchage", "velleitaire", and "buraliste" are included. Also, common usages of words, e.g. "(c'est) exact" to mean "just so" are missing. -- There are occasional articles contrasting near-synonyms, but in a work like this, there should be many more. This is where Benac is very useful. -- The indexes are incomplete. For instance, "towel" only shows up under "bath towel". -- Although it tries to show both American and British usage, it is clearly British-based, and is often missing the American term, or gives an unidiomatic one. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Mother Effingby An excellent resource for building vocabulary and an aid to speaking more naturally.

This highly useful bilingual thesaurus is aimed at all English-speaking learners and users of French at intermediate and more advanced levels. Structured in a uniquely helpful way, it is arranged thematically, with extensive subdivisions into topic categories. Two alphabetical indexes of more than 8,000 words each, one listing English vocabulary and the other French, help readers find what they're looking for easily. This is the best bilingual thesaurus available. Like the best thesauri, it gives not only analogous words but analogous phrases and expressions as well; moreover it explains in what contexts the different synonyms should be used. Contains a wealth of information. Let's say you want to look up the French for the word "difficult." You may know that this translates into French as "difficile" but may be curious about other, synonymous words that could be used to mean "difficult" in slightly different contexts. Look up "difficult" in the English-French index at the back of the book, and you're directed to a section that gives you a range of synonymous words and tells you when to use them. Explains nuances and contexts. In this way it's like a very elaborate dictionary, with phrases as well as words. Easy to use in French and English. There's not only a long English-French index, but a long French-English one as well, so you can come at it from either language, to find your lists of synonyms in either English or French. Moreover, it gives American English expressions as well as British English ones, wherever they differ.

From Booklist Students of French learn the basics of grammar and vocabulary, but, unless they spend time in France or have other opportunities to immerse themselves in the language, they do not pick up the nuances of native speakers. This volume offers students at an intermediate or advanced level a guide to more sophisticated French usage. Unlike most thesauri, this one is organized thematically. Fifteen major categories such as Position, Movement, and Travel; The Natural Environment; and Emotions, Feelings, and Attitudes are further divided into 142 more precise subdivisions: Direction and Distance; Animals; Positive and Negative Feelings; etc. Each subcategory is numbered. The section Knowledge and Thought Processes serves as an example. It begins with a sidebar explaining the difference between the verbs *savoir* and *connaître*, and a list of idioms using each one. This is followed by related expressions, explaining which are ironic, slang, or informal. The section is then divided into categories such as Ways of Knowing and Finding Out, Thinking, and Differentiating and Identifying, with several more specific topics listed under each. All words, phrases, and examples are translated. Information provided for each headword may include synonyms, idioms, quotations, glosses, grammatical information, "false friends," pitfalls for English speakers, and differences between American and British English. Sidebars and even the occasional illustration are used to further clarify meanings. Specific information on commonly used slang and vulgarisms appears throughout the book. An explanation of the routine informal use of the verb *emmerder* and its components to indicate boredom, and variations of *fouter* and its less vulgar substitute *ficher* to indicate irritation will help users who wish to use colloquial French correctly. The section on communicating electronically contains important vocabulary relating to computers, fax machines, and telephones. The book concludes with a section called Conversational Gambits which provides common expressions needed to introduce people, ask for things, conduct routine business, and write both personal and business letters. A verb conjugation chart and alphabetical English and French word indexes complete the volume. The Cambridge French-English Thesaurus, a bridge between the classroom and real life, is a useful source for all libraries where there is interest in the French language. The paperback version is inexpensive enough for the personal libraries

of serious students. "This volume offers students at an intermediate or advanced level a guide to more sophisticated French usage." Booklist ".this exciting new work is strongly recommended for all reference collections. It is not just a list of words but a rich network of interconnected ideas in both languages." American Reference Book AnnualLanguage NotesText: English, French