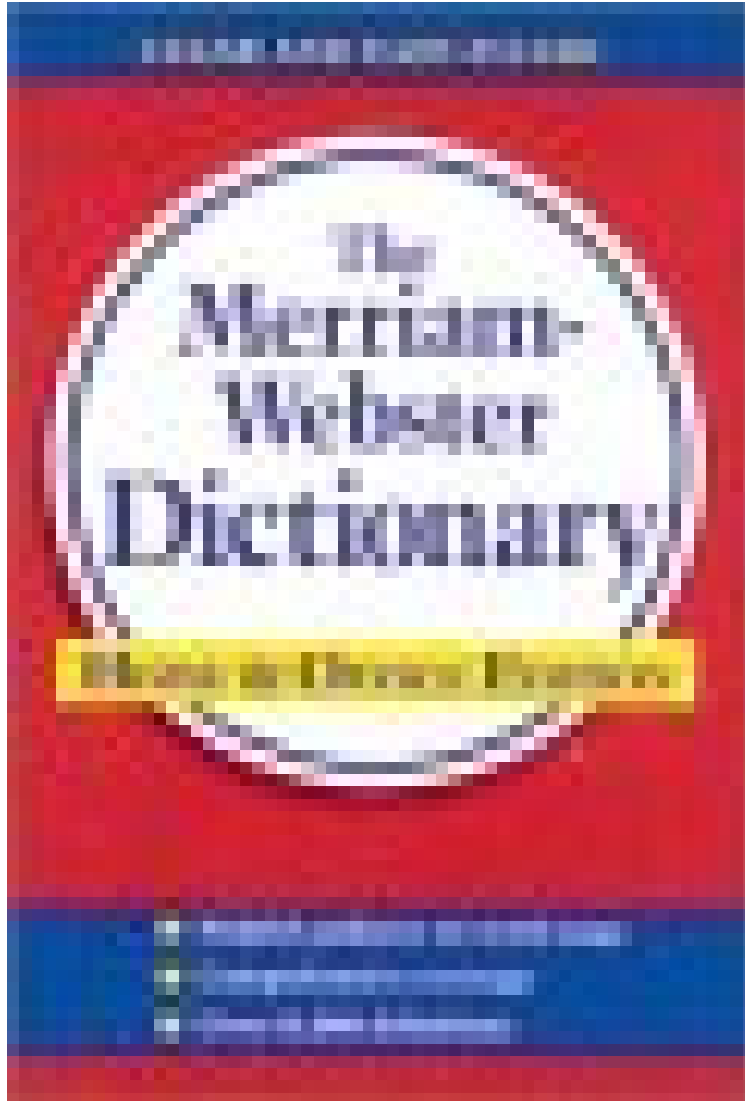


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The Merriam-Webster Dictionary

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Merriam-Webster : The Merriam-Webster Dictionary before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Merriam-Webster Dictionary:

49 of 50 people found the following review helpful. Great Paperback of Dictionary + Additional ResourcesBy LMRisleyThis is a great paperback version of the dictionary. It's a bit thick, but the weight is fine and easy to keep with you. It's also updated, has great explanatory notes, pronunciation page, the periodic table and metric/measurement system. In addition it has a section of foreign words, biography and geography - common names of people and places.

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A handy, reliable and authoritative dictionary that provides a wealth of information about the words most frequently used in English. This book is packed with features you would only expect to find in larger dictionaries, with more than 70,000 definitions and 150 illustrations.

About the Author The Merriam brothers desired a continuity of editorship that would link Noah Webster's efforts with their own editions, so they selected Chauncey A. Goodrich, Webster's son-in-law and literary heir, who had been trained in lexicography by Webster himself, to be their editor in chief. Webster's son William also served as an editor of that first Merriam-Webster dictionary, which was published on September 24, 1847. Although Webster's work was honored, his big dictionaries had never sold well. The 1828 edition was priced at a whopping \$20; in 13 years its 2,500 copies had not sold out. Similarly, the 1841 edition, only slightly more affordable at \$15, moved slowly. Assuming that a lower price would increase sales, the Merriams introduced the 1847 edition at \$6, and although Webster's heirs initially questioned this move, extraordinary sales that brought them \$250,000 in royalties over the ensuing 25 years convinced them that the Merriams' decision had been abundantly sound. The first Merriam-Webster dictionary was greeted with wide acclaim. President James K. Polk, General Zachary Taylor (hero of the Mexican War and later president himself), 31 U.S. senators, and other prominent people hailed it unreservedly. In 1850 its acceptance as a resource for students began when Massachusetts ordered a copy for every school and New York placed a similar order for 10,000 copies to be used in schools throughout the state. Eventually school use would spread throughout the country. In becoming America's most trusted authority on the English language, Merriam-Webster dictionaries had taken on a role of public responsibility demanded of few other publishing companies.