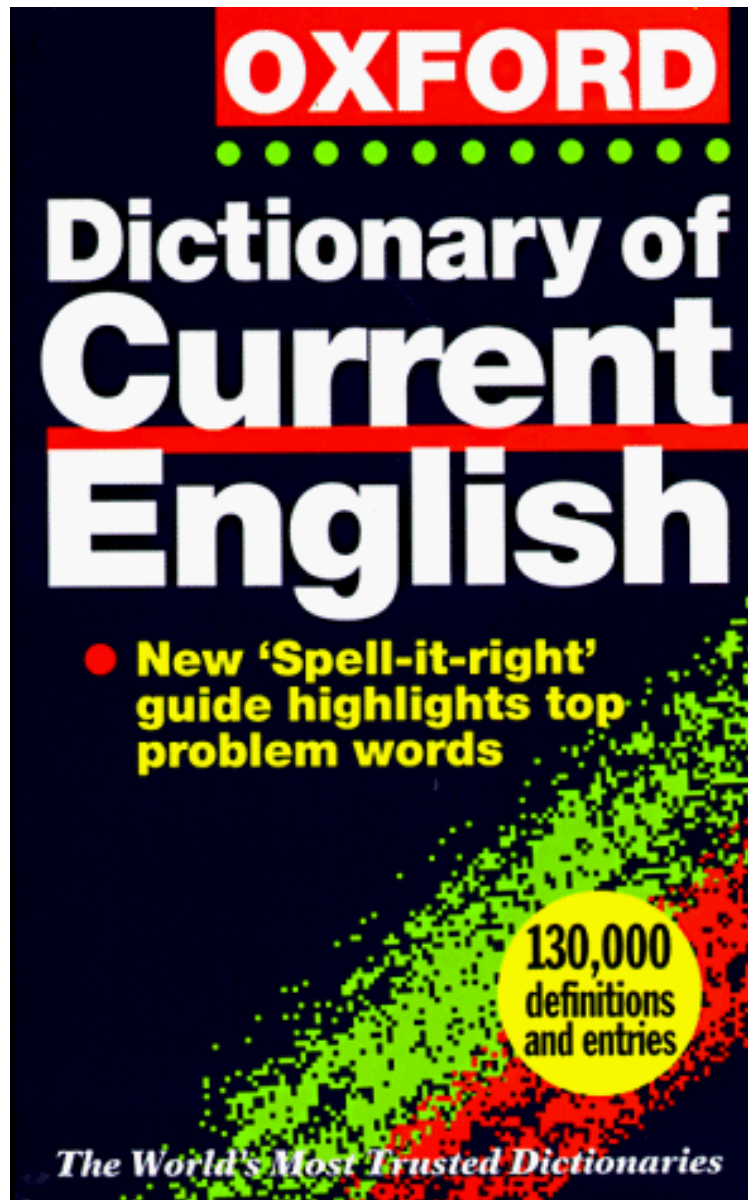


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The Oxford Dictionary of Current English

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From Oxford University Press : The Oxford Dictionary of Current English before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Oxford Dictionary of Current English:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, especially when used with an American dictionaryBy Jim GreenhillOK. Here's the dilemma. I was born raised in Britain, but I live write in the United States ... we're two nations

divided by a common language. I'm writing about an autopsy I describe it as the deceased's "last and best medical." What the heck is that, my wife asks? Using my "Webster's New World Dictionary," I determine that, indeed "medical" does not mean "physical" in the U.S. So now I'm wondering if I imagined the idea that anywhere people say someone "passed her medical with flying colors" or whatever. So I turn to my "Oxford Dictionary of Current English," where I learn that "medical" IS colloquially acceptable in Britain for what in the U.S. we'd call a "physical." All of which may seem obtuse, but as an expatriate Brit who's made his life in the States, it's great to have the resource of both a solid American dictionary and an English one, especially if you work with words for a living ... and I really like the Oxford to cover the English side of things. It's very portable yet also thorough (though I note the objections of other reviewers). I guess Oxford has always been a bit slow on allowing new words/usages, but it is THE authority on English English, as opposed to American English. ... Which also means you don't want this dictionary if you're writing solely for an American audience because it will steer you wrong in some areas give you spellings not acceptable here. It's a great choice for Anglophiles, people writing for the U.K. market or doing business there, though. Reasonably priced, reasonably sized, usefully comprehensive. (My choice for the American side of things is "Webster's New World" mainly because it's the authority at most newspapers I'm often writing within style guidelines set by newspapers).

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not Current Enough
By A Customer
Doesn't have words like "internet" or "world wide web" or acronyms like "HTML." It does have all the swear words, though. Sadly, I already know the definitions for most of those. Also, if you're used to using Webster's pronunciation symbols, it may take a while to get used to Oxford pronunciation symbols. For example, does it seem intuitive that the symbol "d3" would represent the sound of "j"? How about "3:" for "er"? Or, "i:" for "ee"? I can't even create most of the greek-type characters they use for their pronunciation symbols. Also, wouldn't it be great if these pocket dictionaries saved space by eliminating all the simple words like "sit," "red," "door," etc? Then maybe they'd have room for the words we were trying to look up!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not Current Enough
By A Customer
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Containing over 140,000 clear definitions and entries written to offer accessible coverage of today's English, the Oxford Dictionary of Current English is the largest paperback dictionary of its kind, providing a handy source for all the most frequently needed words, meanings, origins, usages, and spellings. The book's rapid-access format presents a clear, open page layout that takes you straight to the word you need. A special new words appendix provides a fascinating survey of new words in the language, including such neologisms as "animatronics," "chromosome map," "pro-choice," "tanga," and "World Wide Web." Over 280 "good usage" boxes gives guidance on difficult or confusing aspects of English usage, and the expanded offerings on word origins are presented in a concise, easy-to-understand form. With its compact size, clear layout, and handy paperback format, this dictionary is ideal for all quick reference needs.

About the Author
About the Author: Della Thompson is the managing editor of the Concise Oxford Dictionaries Group. Her publications include The Concise Oxford Dictionary (9/e) and the Oxford Russian Minidictionary.