The Merriam-Webster Dictionary
New Edition (c) 2016
Synopsis

New Edition (2016 copyright) of the best-selling dictionary covering core vocabulary of everyday life. More than 75,000 updated definitions, pronunciations, word origins, and synonym lists. Some 8,000 usage examples aid understanding--more than ever before. New words from today’s world include: bromance, carbon footprint, droid, e-book, fracking, frenemy, hashtag, malware, mash-up, regift, robocal, smackdown and vlog. Also included are useful tables and special sections on Foreign Words and Phrases, Biographical Names, and Geographical Names. Based on Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary Eleventh Edition. This book has sold more than 50 million copies!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The best pocket-sized, paperback dictionary of American English. With 70,000 words, this dictionary abridges the 215,000-word "Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary" (which, in turn, abridges the 445,000-word "Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged"). The name "Webster’s" long ago passed into the public domain, but these three dictionaries--and the Merriam-Webster brand--are the lineal descendants of Noah Webster's original nineteenth-century dictionaries, the first dictionaries of American English, which have been in print continuously for almost two centuries. I keep this paperback handy on my desk for ready reference (along with a thesaurus, a style manual, and a usage dictionary). On the shelf nearby, I keep a more extensive basic reference set, including the heftier hardbound "Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary," of which this paperback version is a subset. This dictionary is highly abridged, thus not the most appropriate reference if you are looking for a word’s detailed etymology, for an obscure word, or for thoroughness. But when writing for a nonliterary audience, when clear and simple communication is
the goal, this book is a good check against writing that is getting too high and mighty. If a word does not appear here, I think twice about using it, keeping in mind the Fowler brothers’ first "general principle" of good writing: "Prefer the familiar word to the far-fetched." If you are buying one and only one dictionary, go with the hardbound "Collegiate Dictionary": it is more complete, yet stays within the realm of familiar words. But if you can manage, I recommend stocking both that dictionary and this one. Keep the hardbound version on the shelf, within reach, and consult it as necessary; but keep this one at your fingertips, and consult it routinely.

This 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. It is a great source and I highly recommend this product! You will not be disappointed!

This paperback was a major disappointment. I already have excellent hardback dictionaries, including the Collegiate version. But this version doesn’t come close the Collegiate, and may not even be resourceful for eighth graders. The book struck out on the first of three inquiries. A closer look revealed polysyllabic words are few, and less common words are rare. If you’re looking for a lightweight paperback to supplement your other resources, this dictionary is NOT it.

When we bought the dictionary, we looked for the most current one. this was the most current, but you need an magnifying glass to read anything. Even our 10 year old with great vision complained about the print. After receiving it, we looked for a large print edition but were not able to find a current copy, but there is none available.

Words are to small!

For instance, I can not find "COSSET" in this paper back dictionary and "BOGGLE" is only explained as "to overwhelm or to be overwhelmed by fright". So it’s a pity that when I usaully use this dictionary, I have to use a heavier dictionary to look up such words as "COSSET" and "BOGGLE". After all, this dictionary is a suitable one for common use. I expect that it could diminish the differenc with its HOME and OFFICE Edition. M-Webster should not make this dictionary more like a pocket and simple one. Thank you!
I like having a dictionary rather than just the internet. This is nice but it only has 75,000 words. I will keep this but look for a larger dictionary.

Great dictionary. Perfect size to take in your backpack. Letters are legible.