American Slang Dictionary And Thesaurus
This unique reference volume is two books in one: a dictionary of slang and a slang thesaurus, with both sections treating the same words and phrases. And this is one poshed up volume! Entries are arranged alphabetically in the dictionary and thematically in the thesaurus, and include definition, pronunciation, part of speech--and origins, usage information, and usage alerts when applicable--in both the thesaurus and the dictionary. All entry words are visually coded to help you distinguish slang that is potentially objectionable from other slang, and all synonyms are coded for the level of formality (formal, informal, no register) and separated by part of speech. This gives you more information about the potential effects of your word choice on your audience, so you have a much better chance than with a "regular" thesaurus of picking the right word for your particular context the first time. Graphics and brief articles are added to show you slang "under the hood"--the patterns and features that characterize slang usage. With this book, you'll be able to find out how the screaming meemies got their name, why someone might be offended if you use the apparently inoffensive word crumbs, which words that mean "to kill" also mean "to cause riotous laughter," and easily distinguish whether someone is an old fart, a son of a bitch, or just a silly ass. Here is a handy reference book for students, word buffs, and professional writers--a title that merits a place in every reference library. Printed throughout in two colors.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Paperback: 600 pages
Publisher: Barron's Educational Series; 60608th edition (September 1, 2009)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0764138618
Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 6 x 9 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars--See all reviews (7 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #821,858 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #173 in English Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > Thesauruses #180 in English Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > Slang & Idioms #651 in English Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses

Customer Reviews
I purchased this book, sight unseen, because I was hoping for a useful resource to aid me in writing memorable characters. However, despite its high page count, it actually has very few entries and is organized in a crazy way and with NO index, which is insane. It's practically impossible to find anything of use in it. You are far better off with "Synonym Finder" by Rodale. As it is, this book is gathering dust on the shelf.

Extremely disappointed. This book would be perfect for whom English is a second language. For native speakers the slang is simplistic and any 10 year old would already be acquainted with it--expected more.

Like the book for the above reason, but it could have been more helpful had it been more up to date and comprehensive. But nice if you need slang that is slightly dated for a writing project.

At first look, the book looks overly personalized, per the author's interpretations of her experiences in this culture, etc.; the divisional categories especially. I'll look more carefully, but it's not accurately described as a true "dictionary" or "thesaurus" from my perspective.

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