Compact Oxford Spanish Dictionary

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Synopsis

With over 90,000 words and phrases, and 120,000 translations of contemporary Spanish and English, this dictionary offers excellent coverage of both European and Latin American Spanish. All the words you will need from Spanish and English have been added from computing and technology to health and lifestyle. More than just a dictionary, this handy reference book also includes extensive sections on grammar, culture, and communication, giving you the tools you need to communicate effectively and understand cultural differences. The grammar supplement provides full information on key points of Spanish grammar, including verb tables for quick reference. The section on culture offers lively, useful information on life in the Spanish-speaking world. The communication supplement provides guidance on all types of correspondence, including example letters, emails, résumés, and text messaging. New to this edition is a section on the internet, covering shopping, banking, buying travel tickets and finding information online. Compact and affordable, this is Oxford’s bestselling bilingual dictionary, perfect for students, travelers, business people, and anyone on the go who needs a reliable and easy-to-use Spanish reference. Discover more on oxforddictionaries.com, Oxford’s hub for dictionaries and language reference.

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Customer Reviews

Okay, I’m an American (estadounidense) student about to complete week six of a summer immersion program here in Bilbao, Spain (en el País Vasco). Since I’ve been here, I think I’ve seen most of the current Spanish/English dictionaries available and in use by ‘English-first’ speakers. For my money, this "Compact Oxford Spanish Dictionary" is the one dictionary I would
recommend for study-abroad in Spain. I can’t say how one would fare with it in Central or South America, but it is ‘spot-on’ for Spain. The dictionary I brought with me, a $17 copy of a Defense Language Institute version once issued by DOD, went right in the trash before week one was complete (actually I abandoned it in a random bookcase at the institute). Our little class has one well-worn copy of this great reference tool and it is the one dictionary all of us 'English-first' speakers prefer. Notice the title says "compact" and not "pocket." This is a full-size 8" x 5" book with a bit of heft to it. Don't get it if you’re trying to save on size and weight. And even though most folks here have a dictionary 'app' on their phone, they will quickly resort to this book if it is nearby. It’s faster and easier. I prefer a book to an 'app' anyway, but I'm old school. So quick re-cap, for study-abroad in Spain, two thumbs-up.

I recommend this dictionary to individuals whom I am tutoring in Spanish because it tells you when a word is vulgar or only used in one particular country or region. Most dictionaries, incredibly, do not include this sort of information and the student is likely to say something that isn’t generally understood outside one particular country, or even really offensive. As an example, "catch" is basically never a vulgar word in English, but the first entry in a Spanish-English dictionary is always listed as... [I’m not even going to spell it out, but it begins with a "c" which also means... [um, again I’m not going to spell it out but it begins with "F"]. You must be fairly fluent to know when you can actually say that particular word beginning in "C" without it being an instant joke. The Oxford dictionary helps you out with a notation "vulg" (vulgar) for that "C" word, which clues you in that you’d be better off choosing one of the words listed next in the entry, like agarrar, detener, etc. The Oxford dictionaries and Larousse dictionaries are the only ones that reliably provide this sort of information, in a clear, easy-to-understand format. Of those two, Oxford is the only one as far as I know who makes a compact (paperback) version under $15.

This has everything a large dictionary would have. It’s not small but it is portable and it is complete. Has everything you need in portability. No need to buy the huge version. Not that small print in most pocket versions.

I never leave reviews but I am so fed up with this dictionary I had to say something! As a department, we bought 5 classroom sets (over 100 dictionaries) for our Spanish classes to keep on the tables for the students. Our last dictionaries, Mirriam-Websters, had lasted us about 6 years but were becoming a little haggard. The Oxford dictionaries didn’t even last 5 months!!!!! Every single
one has split in half. The binding is cheap and ineffective. They are not useable, as all the pages have fallen out all over the room. I spend every period picking up papers from the dictionaries and recycling them. I know it’s not my students, because they were able to use the Mirriam-Webster dictionaries for over 6 years! I am so angry we have spent all our money on these. They are now more of a head ache than a support in the classroom.

As other reviewers have noted, this dictionary is rather large. It weighs a hefty 2 pounds 7 ounces and is 2.5 inches thick. It is also quite comprehensive. The Spanish to English section is 428 pages and the English to Spanish section is comparable in size. It has a section of traditions, festivals and holidays in the Hispanic world, which is helpful, especially because it lists the holidays and festivals by calendar date. This is useful if you are planning a vacation and want to include (or avoid) a holiday event. It also includes 37 pages of "An A-Z of Hispanic Life and Culture" and a comparable section in Spanish on the culture of English-speaking countries. I found the section on composing correspondence and emails quite useful when making reservations for hotels, etc. abroad. Also included are many tables of irregular verb conjugations and a summary of Spanish and English grammar. There is a lot of value for the money.

I love this dictionary! I am studying Spanish in school and decide to invest in this dictionary to use during class and tests. It has every word I need and explains everything well.

Great for high school students.

This didn’t disappoint. I really like Oxford Dictionaries & have been using them ( among others ) for many years. I highly recommend them to anyone looking for quality.

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