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The Oxford New Desk Dictionary And Thesaurus: Third Edition

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**Synopsis**

I feel simply silly reviewing a dictionary, but I am a teacher, so I guess it's ok. I love this dictionary! I've used it since high school and now I've got one in my classroom. It has clear definitions and also synonyms listed for many words (the Thesaurus is "built in" to the dictionary, not a separate section). It is a convenient size and if you are careful to not crack the binding, it will last for years. I use one in my classroom with my 4th through 6th graders and it's their favorite dictionary too!

While browsing this dictionary at a bookstore, I was hooked up by the feature "Synonyms Study". This dictionary is packed with lists of synonyms grouped by common meaning(s) but yet slightly different purports. The subtle differences are clearly elucidated; some are also exemplified by sentences demonstrating correct usage. Other dictionaries contain this feature too, but some of them are often vague, which leaves the user perplexed; it didn't happen WHILE USING THIS DICTIONARY. Headwords are accurately and concisely explained, including their alternative meanings, and are followed by synonyms grouped according to their distinctions. This grouping
facilitates choices for the precise meaning that one has in mind. Antonyms are omitted; otherwise, it could have been the perfect dictionary for vocabulary enrichment and fine-tuning the usage of the English language.

This is my second one. I literally wore my first one out from 10 years of constant use. This is an extremely useful, easy to grab, wonderfully sized reference book for spelling, synonyms, and definitions.

I mistakenly wrote this review for another Oxford dictionary, this is the proper review for this dictionary, though mine is an earlier addition: To be clear, I have the 1997 edition. This is by far the most useless book I have ever purchased. It lacks so many words (no hits I guess they are called) and as a result it is a big TIME WASTER! And to be even clearer, the words it lacks have little or nothing to do with the age of my 1997 edition/ I mean words that have been in the English language forever. I guess I do not just throw it away because now I almost find it amusing, though frustrating, at just what a poor excuse for a dictionary this book is. And almost every word that is missing is found in the Webster's New World College Dictionary.

When, I first bought this dictionary, it was one of the required books for my Critical Thinking class. You're given a sheet of words that are used by genius people, sometimes. A sheet was given to the class--cover to back with A-Z words that would challenge a genius. I had never given much thought to looking up words daily, as I am a writer and went the lazy route with the word version, where you just click on a word and the definition pops up, as you type. The Oxford made me work for the definition, and it also has a thesaurus. Got through Critical Thinking with this book. As a college senior, I have now owned three. One accidentally fell off the bed and into the trash; I think. I ordered another one. Can't live without this dictionary. Then I misplaced the second one, somewhere among my thousands of typed papers. Now, I'm on Oxford number III and I plan on taking better care of it. If you are serious about writing, or literary works, in general, or you are a housewife or someone who just wants to know what a word means, you still need this dictionary. I do remember the first word in Critical Thinking that I had on our weekly tests. Don't be offended, but it was on the list: misogyny, which means hatred of women. I will never forget that one word, because I am a woman and the professor was male. I highly recommend this dictionary, or I would not be on the third one now.
I write constantly and find it most helpful. It's amazing to find different words that mean the same as the one you have chosen. It really broadens your word selections...and their meanings.

The dictionary is good, but I was disappointed that there were not as many etymologies as I expected, based on the review by the Montessori teacher.

I have had this dictionary and Thesaurus on my home desk for years. Now I have one at work, where I teach in a GED program. It is a great resource. It is the one I recommend to my students. My only complaint is that it should have a plastic or firmer cover. The cover gets beat, due to constant use.

*Download to continue reading...*