

compact oxford english dictionary of current english

Introduction to the Compact Oxford English Dictionary of Current English

The Compact Oxford English Dictionary of Current English is a valuable resource for anyone seeking a comprehensive understanding of the English language. It serves as a compact yet thorough reference guide that combines the richness of the Oxford English Dictionary with an accessible format, catering to both casual readers and serious linguists. This dictionary is designed to meet the needs of modern users by providing clear definitions, contemporary usage examples, and a wide range of vocabulary that reflects current English.

History and Evolution

The origins of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) date back to the late 19th century, and since then, it has evolved significantly. The Compact Oxford English Dictionary was developed to make this vast repository of knowledge more accessible.

Key Milestones

1. Initial Publication: The first edition of the Compact Oxford English Dictionary was published in 1991. It aimed to condense the extensive content of the OED into a more portable format without sacrificing the quality of information.

2. Digital Age: With the rise of digital technology, the dictionary adapted to include online versions, making it even more accessible to users around the world.

3. Regular Updates: The dictionary is regularly revised and updated to reflect changes in language use, ensuring that it remains relevant in a rapidly evolving linguistic landscape.

Features of the Compact Oxford English Dictionary

The Compact Oxford English Dictionary of Current English stands out for several reasons. It is not only user-friendly but also packed with features that enhance the learning experience.

Comprehensive Vocabulary

One of the most notable features of the dictionary is its extensive vocabulary. It includes:

- Common Words: Everyday language that is essential for communication.
- Technical Terms: Specialized vocabulary used in various fields, such as science, technology, and business.
- Colloquialisms: Informal expressions that are prevalent in contemporary speech.

Clear Definitions

Definitions in the Compact Oxford English Dictionary are crafted to be straightforward and easy to understand. They often include:

- Synonyms and Antonyms: Providing users with alternative words can enrich their vocabulary.
- Usage Examples: Real-world examples demonstrate how a word is used in context, aiding

comprehension.

User-Friendly Layout

The dictionary's layout is designed with the user in mind. Key features include:

- Alphabetical Arrangement: Easy navigation through words.
- Highlighted Words: Important terms are often bolded for quick reference.
- Cross-References: Related words are linked, enabling users to explore language connections.

Who Can Benefit from the Compact Oxford English Dictionary?

The Compact Oxford English Dictionary of Current English is versatile and serves a wide audience.

Here are some groups of individuals who can greatly benefit from this resource:

Students

Students at all levels, from primary school to university, can utilize the dictionary for:

- Homework Assistance: Definitions and usage examples help clarify assignments.
- Essay Writing: Enriching their vocabulary improves the quality of their writing.

Professionals

In the workplace, professionals can use the dictionary to:

- Enhance Communication Skills: Clear definitions and synonyms can improve written and verbal communication.
- Stay Current: Understanding contemporary language trends can be crucial in fields like marketing and public relations.

Writers and Editors

Writers and editors will find the dictionary invaluable for:

- Researching Vocabulary: Finding the right word is essential for effective writing.
- Ensuring Accuracy: Definitions and examples help maintain precision in language usage.

Comparative Analysis with Other Dictionaries

While the Compact Oxford English Dictionary is a leading resource, it is essential to compare it with other dictionaries to highlight its unique features.

Oxford English Dictionary (OED)

- Depth vs. Brevity: The OED offers in-depth historical and etymological information, while the Compact version focuses on current usage and succinct definitions.
- Portability: The Compact edition is more portable and user-friendly, making it suitable for everyday use.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

- Regional Variations: The Merriam-Webster dictionary is more focused on American English, whereas the Compact Oxford English Dictionary encompasses both British and American usage.
- Format: Merriam-Webster has a more straightforward layout, but the Compact Oxford version provides additional context through usage examples.

How to Use the Compact Oxford English Dictionary Effectively

To maximize the benefits of the Compact Oxford English Dictionary of Current English, users can adopt a few strategies:

Regular Reference

Make it a habit to consult the dictionary regularly. This practice helps in:

- Expanding Vocabulary: Discovering new words enhances language skills.
- Improving Spelling: Frequent use reinforces correct spelling.

Contextual Learning

When learning new words, pay attention to the context provided in usage examples. This approach aids retention and understanding.

Engaging with Language

Consider using the dictionary in group settings, such as study groups or book clubs, to foster discussions about word meanings and usage. This interaction can deepen understanding and make learning more enjoyable.

Conclusion

The Compact Oxford English Dictionary of Current English is an indispensable tool for anyone interested in the English language. With its extensive vocabulary, clear definitions, and user-friendly layout, it caters to a diverse audience, from students to professionals. By providing an accessible format that reflects contemporary language use, this dictionary bridges the gap between the historical richness of the English language and the dynamic nature of modern communication. Whether you are a casual reader, an aspiring writer, or a seasoned professional, the Compact Oxford English Dictionary is a resource that can enhance your understanding and mastery of English.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Compact Oxford English Dictionary of Current English?

The Compact Oxford English Dictionary of Current English is a concise dictionary that provides definitions, pronunciations, and examples of usage for contemporary English words.

Who publishes the Compact Oxford English Dictionary of Current English?

It is published by Oxford University Press, a leading publisher known for its authoritative dictionaries.

How does the Compact Oxford English Dictionary differ from the complete Oxford English Dictionary?

The Compact Oxford English Dictionary is a more concise version, focusing on current usage and essential vocabulary, while the complete Oxford English Dictionary includes historical definitions and a broader range of words.

What types of entries can be found in the Compact Oxford English Dictionary?

Entries include definitions, phonetic pronunciations, part of speech, and example sentences to illustrate usage.

Is the Compact Oxford English Dictionary available in digital format?

Yes, the Compact Oxford English Dictionary is available in both print and digital formats, including online access.

What audience is the Compact Oxford English Dictionary intended for?

It is intended for a general audience, including students, educators, and anyone needing a reliable reference for current English.

Does the Compact Oxford English Dictionary include regional variations of English?

Yes, it includes some information on regional variations, highlighting differences in usage and spelling.

Can the Compact Oxford English Dictionary help with understanding idiomatic expressions?

Yes, it provides definitions and examples of common idiomatic expressions used in contemporary

English.

Is there a focus on recent additions to the English language in the Compact Oxford English Dictionary?

Yes, the dictionary regularly updates its entries to include new words and phrases that reflect current trends and usage.

How can I access the Compact Oxford English Dictionary for study purposes?

You can access the Compact Oxford English Dictionary through libraries, bookstores, or by purchasing a subscription for the digital version online.

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