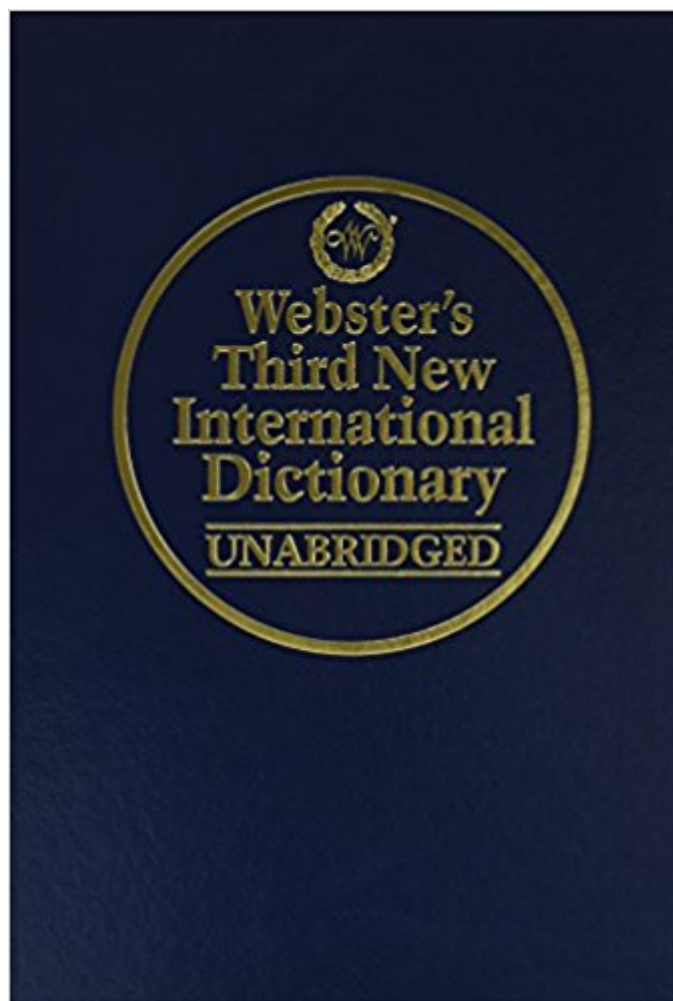


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# Webster's Third New International Dictionary Of The English Language



## Synopsis

Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged is the largest, most comprehensive American dictionary available in print! Over 476,000 entries. Special updated Addenda Section of new words and meanings. 3,000 illustrations and 140,000 etymologies describing word origins. 200,000 verbal illustrations and quotations. Includes free one-year subscription to Merriam-WebsterUnabridged.com.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 2662 pages

Publisher: Merriam-Webster (1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0877792011

ISBN-13: 978-0877792017

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 3.4 x 13 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 142 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #87,881 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > English](#) #85 in [Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Reference > Dictionaries & Terminology](#) #108 in [Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Reference > Dictionaries & Terminology](#)

## Customer Reviews

If big is better, the unabridged Webster's Third New International Dictionary is among the best. Weighing 12.5 pounds and measuring 4 inches thick, its 2,662 pages define more than 450,000 words spanning "a" to "zyzzogeton," including words ("disselboom" for instance) not found in other dictionaries, plus clear definitions, comprehensive etymologies, interesting asides, literary usage quotes, and a comfortable typeface. More than 150 years of accumulated scholarship helped collect the 10,000,000 usage examples that accurately provide definitions, and \$3,500,000 went into producing this impressive volume. With Webster's Third you get a lot of dictionary for your money.

The Merriam brothers desired a continuity of editorship that would link Noah Webster's efforts with their own editions, so they selected Chauncey A. Goodrich, Webster's son-in-law and literary heir, who had been trained in lexicography by Webster himself, to be their editor in chief. Webster's son William also served as an editor of that first Merriam-Webster dictionary, which was published on

September 24, 1847. Although Webster's work was honored, his big dictionaries had never sold well. The 1828 edition was priced at a whopping \$20; in 13 years its 2,500 copies had not sold out. Similarly, the 1841 edition, only slightly more affordable at \$15, moved slowly. Assuming that a lower price would increase sales, the Merriams introduced the 1847 edition at \$6, and although Webster's heirs initially questioned this move, extraordinary sales that brought them \$250,000 in royalties over the ensuing 25 years convinced them that the Merriams' decision had been abundantly sound. The first Merriam-Webster dictionary was greeted with wide acclaim. President James K. Polk, General Zachary Taylor (hero of the Mexican War and later president himself), 31 U.S. senators, and other prominent people hailed it unreservedly. In 1850 its acceptance as a resource for students began when Massachusetts ordered a copy for every school and New York placed a similar order for 10,000 copies to be used in schools throughout the state. Eventually school use would spread throughout the country. In becoming America's most trusted authority on the English language, Merriam-Webster dictionaries had taken on a role of public responsibility demanded of few other publishing companies. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

nice having this on my phone/tablet.

This is an old gem that every serious writer must have. I remember the stir it made when it first came out 40 years ago. In recent years my paper dictionaries gather dust and I use the cdrom versions more than ever. The OED is online at many colleges and Oxford will soon release version 3.0 on cd-rom (...). It's useful only for major research projects. For ordinary lookup I have been using the Shorter OED and the Random House. Both are OK, but the Random House quotations are mostly made up, and the OED ones are from British literature. The MW-3 has much richer and more sophisticated definitions, and its quotations are marvelous. Bellow, Updike and Capote are well represented (but only one Rushdie and one Naipaul). Historians are well covered--about 150 quotes from Oscar Handlin, 40 from Schlesinger, 30 from Woodward, 25 from the Beards; good magazines abound, with 400 quotes from the New Republic, 600 from Newsweek, and 740 from the New Yorker; they added some newer cites for the cd-rom edition. The search routines are superb. MW and Random House both integrate with WORD. How did I miss the cdrom version when it came out two years ago?? Dunno--they have not promoted it very well. p.s. online you can use a good 90-year old unabridged dictionary: the CENTURY ....

...that is, not enough words to describe how fabulous this dictionary is! I was tired of the "abridged" dictionaries where one could not find what one needed to. This one lists all of the variants of words plus all the plurals and other oddities and a CD-ROM to boot! Can't beat that. This book lets you know all about it! I need a magnifying glass to see the words but, having 62-year-old eyes, I don't mind a bit. I love it!

This is my second order of this book. My second one was a present and my dad loved it. We use our books all the time. It holds all the words in this world. I love it.

I've always loved this dictionary, lost mine during a move, been years without it. Finally got this fabulous, indispensable writer's tool back in my library.

Webster's 3rd International is a terrific dictionary, but it becomes even better with this CD-ROM. The software starts up within 2 seconds of clicking the icon, and you can simply start typing the word you want to look up. "Of course," you say? Well...check out the OED, which I bought and subsequently returned. With that, it takes about 20 seconds to get started (assuming you already have the CD-ROM in your drive--otherwise it will take you longer), and then leaves you with a page full of options to choose. And then...but I digress. Let's just say the software for Webster's is just what you want--click on the icon, type the word, hit RETURN, voila. And you can double click on any word in the definition and you are instantly brought to that word's definition--which is REALLY nice. The software is good enough that it significantly enhances the value of the dictionary. And if you don't believe me, do what I did: buy the OED first, let the world's worst software package frustrate the heck out of you for a week, then return it and buy Webster's 3rd.

I love this dictionary. It was shipped to me instantly at a great price. Nice quality! The dictionary itself is supremo. The best of the best!

There aren't all that many choices for dictionaries on CD-ROM yet, at an affordable price. The price was right, but after using this dictionary for about a month now, I must say I am very disappointed by what is missing from this reference "book"! There are no: geographical names, biographical names or even names of Ivy League schools (such as Yale)! When I tried to look up "Master's" and "Masters" for the proper punctuation when speaking of a master's degree, even this was not listed! The software design seems already old-fashioned, slow and a bit clumsy, reminding of the

kind of software that was more common eight to ten years ago. When installing the software, one is given the choice of whether to install it into WordPerfect or Word software -- but there is no choice of installing into both. When I tried installing into WordPerfect after installing into Word, the CD-ROM would only let me do this if I were willing to uninstall the copy in Word! (The company is aware of this flaw, and they told me the next version will have this corrected.) I have carpal tunnel problems and my wrists are very weak. This is the main reason I need a dictionary on CD-ROM rather than book form. So I am glad to have one in my computer at all -- but really, for the price I do not feel this dictionary was worth it. I hope they will try to improve it.

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