

new oxford dictionary of english

new oxford dictionary of english stands as one of the most authoritative and comprehensive references for the English language, trusted by academics, professionals, and language enthusiasts around the world. This article explores the history, development, key features, and impact of the New Oxford Dictionary of English, providing an in-depth look at what sets it apart from other dictionaries. Readers will discover how this pivotal resource reflects the evolution of modern English, supports writers and students, and adapts to changes in language usage. A detailed examination of its editorial process, digital innovations, and practical applications ensures that anyone seeking to understand or utilize the New Oxford Dictionary of English will find the information they need here. Whether you are curious about its structure, its approach to definitions, or its role in education and publishing, this guide covers every essential topic in a clear and reader-friendly manner.

- History and Evolution of the New Oxford Dictionary of English
- Key Features and Innovations
- Editorial Standards and Approach
- Digital Adaptations and Accessibility
- Applications in Education and Professional Fields
- Comparison with Other Major Dictionaries
- Frequently Asked Questions

History and Evolution of the New Oxford Dictionary of English

Origins and Purpose

The New Oxford Dictionary of English was first published in 1998, aiming to provide a modern, comprehensive, and accurate reflection of contemporary English usage. Unlike earlier dictionaries that focused primarily on historical definitions and etymologies, this dictionary was designed to address the needs of modern users by emphasizing current meanings and practical usage. The project was undertaken by Oxford University Press, building upon its long-standing tradition of producing high-quality, authoritative reference materials.

Development Over Time

Since its initial publication, the New Oxford Dictionary of English has undergone several revisions and updates to ensure its content remains relevant and up to date. Editors and linguists work continuously to monitor changes in the English language, incorporating new words, phrases, and meanings. The dictionary's evolution reflects the dynamic nature of English, adapting to cultural shifts, technological advancements, and global influences.

Milestones and Editions

- 1998: First edition published, setting new standards for modern dictionaries.
- 2003: Second edition released with expanded entries and updated definitions.
- Integration with digital platforms, enhancing accessibility.
- Ongoing annual updates to reflect emerging language trends.

Key Features and Innovations

Comprehensive Coverage of Modern English

One of the distinguishing features of the New Oxford Dictionary of English is its focus on contemporary English. It provides definitions, pronunciations, and usage examples for over 350,000 words, phrases, and meanings. Emphasis is placed on current language as it is spoken and written today, making it an essential resource for students, writers, and professionals.

Evidence-Based Definitions

Definitions in the New Oxford Dictionary of English are supported by extensive research, drawing from real-world sources such as newspapers, academic journals, and digital media. This evidence-based approach ensures that each entry accurately reflects how words are used in everyday contexts, rather than relying solely on historical or literary usage.

Pronunciation and Usage Guidance

- IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) transcriptions for accurate pronunciation.
- Detailed usage notes highlight common errors and regional variations.
- Examples drawn from contemporary sources demonstrate practical application.

Editorial Standards and Approach

Rigorous Quality Control

Oxford University Press maintains strict editorial standards to ensure the reliability and accuracy of the New Oxford Dictionary of English. Every entry is carefully reviewed by expert lexicographers, linguists, and subject matter specialists. The editorial team prioritizes clarity, consistency, and neutrality, making the dictionary a trusted reference for users worldwide.

User-Focused Design

The dictionary is structured to maximize usability, with intuitive organization and clear formatting. Entries are arranged alphabetically, with cross-references to related words and phrases. Special attention is given to accessibility, ensuring that both native speakers and learners of English can easily navigate its contents.

Continuous Updates

- Annual revisions add new words and update definitions as language evolves.
- Feedback from users and linguistic research informs editorial decisions.
- Collaboration with educational and professional institutions enhances accuracy.

Digital Adaptations and Accessibility

Online and Mobile Platforms

The New Oxford Dictionary of English is available in both print and digital formats. Its online edition offers powerful search functionality, interactive features, and regular updates, making it a flexible tool for modern users. Mobile applications provide convenient access to the dictionary's content on smartphones and tablets, supporting learning and reference needs on the go.

Integration with Educational Technology

Digital adaptations of the dictionary are integrated into e-learning platforms, classroom resources, and academic databases. These integrations facilitate teaching, research, and self-study, allowing users to access authoritative definitions and usage guidance in real time. Enhanced accessibility features, such as audio pronunciations and visual aids, support diverse learning styles.

Applications in Education and Professional Fields

Role in Academic Settings

The New Oxford Dictionary of English is widely used in schools, colleges, and universities as a primary reference for language studies. Its evidence-based definitions and comprehensive coverage make it an invaluable resource for essays, research papers, and language instruction. Educators rely on its accuracy and clarity to support curriculum development and student learning.

Support for Writers and Editors

Professional writers, editors, and publishers regularly consult the New Oxford Dictionary of English to ensure correct usage and consistency in written materials. The dictionary's clear definitions, usage notes, and pronunciation guides help maintain high editorial standards across books, articles, and digital content.

Business and Legal Applications

- Clarifies terminology in contracts, reports, and corporate communication.
- Supports accurate translation and localization for global audiences.
- Assists professionals in maintaining precise and effective language use.

Comparison with Other Major Dictionaries

Unique Approach and Advantages

Unlike dictionaries that focus primarily on historical or literary English, the New Oxford Dictionary of English emphasizes contemporary language as it is used today. Its evidence-based methodology, extensive coverage, and clear presentation set it apart from competitors such as the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), Merriam-Webster, and Collins English Dictionary.

Key Differences

- The New Oxford Dictionary of English prioritizes current usage over historical development.
- The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) offers exhaustive etymological detail, while the New Oxford Dictionary of English focuses on practical definitions and usage.
- It incorporates modern slang, technical terms, and global English variations more rapidly than some traditional dictionaries.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of the New Oxford Dictionary of English?

The main focus is on contemporary English usage, providing accurate, evidence-based definitions that reflect how the language is spoken and written today.

How does the New Oxford Dictionary of English differ from the Oxford English Dictionary?

The New Oxford Dictionary of English emphasizes current meanings and practical usage, while the Oxford English Dictionary provides extensive historical and etymological information.

Is the New Oxford Dictionary of English available online?

Yes, the dictionary is available in digital formats, including online platforms and mobile applications, with regular updates for new words and definitions.

Who uses the New Oxford Dictionary of English?

It is widely used by students, educators, writers, editors, professionals, and anyone seeking an authoritative reference for modern English.

How often is the New Oxford Dictionary of English updated?

Annual revisions and ongoing editorial work ensure that the dictionary remains current and relevant, incorporating new words and changes in usage.

Does the New Oxford Dictionary of English include pronunciation guides?

Yes, it provides IPA transcriptions and audio pronunciations to help users correctly pronounce words.

Can the New Oxford Dictionary of English be used for academic research?

Absolutely. Its evidence-based definitions and comprehensive coverage make it a trusted resource for academic writing and research.

Does the dictionary cover global English varieties?

Yes, it includes regional variations, global terms, and examples from diverse English-speaking communities.

What makes the New Oxford Dictionary of English a reliable reference?

Its rigorous editorial standards, evidence-based methodology, and continuous updates ensure accuracy, clarity, and reliability.

How do digital features enhance the New Oxford Dictionary of English?

Digital features like advanced search, audio pronunciation, and integration with educational platforms make the dictionary more accessible and user-friendly for modern readers.

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The New Oxford Dictionary of English: Your Gateway to Linguistic Mastery

Are you a word enthusiast? A grammar guru? Or simply someone who appreciates the power and beauty of the English language? Then you'll want to delve into the world of the New Oxford Dictionary of English. This comprehensive guide isn't just a dictionary; it's a journey through the evolution, nuance, and sheer artistry of one of the world's most influential languages. This post will explore the features, benefits, and overall value of owning this invaluable linguistic resource. We'll examine what sets it apart from other dictionaries and ultimately help you decide if it's the right addition to your bookshelf (or digital library).

What Makes the New Oxford Dictionary of English Unique?

The New Oxford Dictionary of English distinguishes itself through several key aspects:

Comprehensive Coverage:

Unlike abridged dictionaries that focus on common words, the New Oxford Dictionary boasts an extensive vocabulary, encompassing both everyday terms and specialized jargon. This breadth ensures that you'll find definitions for a remarkably wide range of words, from archaic expressions to newly coined neologisms. This extensive coverage makes it invaluable for students, researchers, and anyone who seeks a deep understanding of the English lexicon.

Detailed Etymology:

Understanding a word's origins provides a richer appreciation of its meaning and usage. The New Oxford Dictionary excels in providing detailed etymologies, tracing words back to their roots and highlighting their evolution over time. This feature allows users to grasp the historical context of words and appreciate the intricacies of linguistic development.

Precise Definitions:

Clarity is paramount in any dictionary, and the New Oxford Dictionary doesn't disappoint. Its definitions are concise, accurate, and easily understandable, even for complex terminology. Each entry avoids ambiguity, ensuring that users can confidently grasp the precise meaning of each word.

Illustrative Examples:

Words rarely exist in isolation. The New Oxford Dictionary enhances its definitions with numerous illustrative examples, showcasing how words are used in real-world contexts. These examples demonstrate the nuances of word usage, helping users to understand the subtle differences between similar terms. This contextual understanding is crucial for effective communication.

Regional Variations:

English isn't a monolithic entity; it possesses a rich tapestry of regional dialects and variations. The New Oxford Dictionary acknowledges this diversity by highlighting regional differences in pronunciation, spelling, and meaning. This inclusion broadens its scope and caters to a more diverse readership.

Accessibility and Formats:

The New Oxford Dictionary of English is available in various formats, catering to individual preferences. You can opt for the traditional printed version, a user-friendly online edition, or even a mobile application for on-the-go access. This adaptability makes the dictionary readily available to a wide audience, regardless of their preferred mode of information consumption.

Beyond Definitions: Unlocking the Power of the NODOE

The New Oxford Dictionary of English is more than just a tool for looking up definitions; it's a resource that fosters linguistic exploration and enhances understanding. It's a valuable asset for:

Students: It provides in-depth information crucial for academic success, helping students improve their writing, comprehension, and vocabulary.

Writers: It serves as an invaluable resource for refining style, expanding vocabulary, and ensuring accurate word usage.

Researchers: Its detailed etymologies and extensive coverage are essential tools for scholarly research in linguistics, history, and other related fields.

English Language Learners: Its clear definitions and illustrative examples are beneficial for those acquiring English as a second language, facilitating a deeper understanding of the language's nuances.

The Verdict: Is the New Oxford Dictionary of English Worth It?

For those seriously invested in the English language, the answer is a resounding yes. The New Oxford Dictionary of English offers an unparalleled level of detail, accuracy, and breadth of coverage. It's a lasting investment that will continue to provide value for years to come. While the price point might be higher than some abridged dictionaries, the quality and comprehensiveness more than justify the cost for serious users.

Conclusion

The New Oxford Dictionary of English stands as a testament to the beauty and complexity of the English language. It's a comprehensive, authoritative, and accessible resource that caters to a wide range of users. Whether you're a seasoned academic, a budding writer, or simply a language enthusiast, owning the New Oxford Dictionary of English is a decision you won't regret. Its ability to unlock the power and nuance of language makes it an essential addition to any serious student or scholar's collection.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between the New Oxford Dictionary of English and other dictionaries? The New Oxford Dictionary boasts significantly more comprehensive coverage, detailed etymologies, and richer contextual examples than most other dictionaries. Its focus on historical development and regional variations sets it apart.
2. Is the New Oxford Dictionary of English suitable for all levels? While accessible to all, its depth of information makes it particularly valuable for intermediate and advanced learners and professionals. Beginners might find some entries challenging initially.

3. Is the online version as comprehensive as the print version? The online version mirrors the comprehensiveness of the print edition, often with added features like audio pronunciations and search functionality.
4. How often is the New Oxford Dictionary of English updated? The dictionary undergoes regular updates to reflect the evolving nature of the English language, incorporating new words and updated definitions.
5. Where can I purchase the New Oxford Dictionary of English? The dictionary is available for purchase through major online retailers, bookstores, and directly from the Oxford University Press website.

new oxford dictionary of english: The New Oxford Dictionary of English Judy Pearsall, 1998 1300 special Australian and N.Z. English entries. 2,000 new words that have recently entered the language. Guidance on how words are used today, including hotly disputed points, ranging from the split infinitive to politically correct language.

new oxford dictionary of english: Oxford English Dictionary John A. Simpson, 2002-04-18 The Oxford English Dictionary is the internationally recognized authority on the evolution of the English language from 1150 to the present day. The Dictionary defines over 500,000 words, making it an unsurpassed guide to the meaning, pronunciation, and history of the English language. This new upgrade version of The Oxford English Dictionary Second Edition on CD-ROM offers unparalleled access to the world's most important reference work for the English language. The text of this version has been augmented with the inclusion of the Oxford English Dictionary Additions Series (Volumes 1-3), published in 1993 and 1997, the Bibliography to the Second Edition, and other ancillary material. System requirements: PC with minimum 200 MHz Pentium-class processor; 32 MB RAM (64 MB recommended); 16-speed CD-ROM drive (32-speed recommended); Windows 95, 98, Me, NT, 200, or XP (Local administrator rights are required to install and open the OED for the first time on a PC running Windows NT 4 and to install and run the OED on Windows 2000 and XP); 1.1 GB hard disk space to run the OED from the CD-ROM and 1.7 GB to install the CD-ROM to the hard disk: SVGA monitor: 800 x 600 pixels: 16-bit (64k, high color) setting recommended. Please note: for the upgrade, installation requires the use of the OED CD-ROM v2.0.

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new oxford dictionary of english: The Making of the Oxford English Dictionary Peter Gilliver, 2016-09-22 This book tells the history of the Oxford English Dictionary from its beginnings in the middle of the nineteenth century to the present. The author, uniquely among historians of the OED, is also a practising lexicographer with nearly thirty years' experience of working on the Dictionary. He has drawn on a wide range of sources-including previously unexamined archival material and eyewitness testimony-to create a detailed history of the project. The book explores the cultural background from which the idea of a comprehensive historical dictionary of English emerged, the lengthy struggles to bring this concept to fruition, and the development of the book from the appearance of the first printed fascicle in 1884 to the launching of the Dictionary as an online database in 2000 and beyond. It also examines the evolution of the lexicographers' working methods, and provides much information about the people-many of them remarkable individuals-who have contributed to the project over the last century and a half.

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after time because of spelling, capitalization, hyphenation, and cultural or historical context. As well as lexical terms, there are many proper names included: from place names and personal names to names of institutions, literary references, and books of the Bible. Entries give full coverage of recommended spellings, variant forms, confusable words, hyphenation, capitalization, foreign and specialist terms, proper names, and abbreviations. It is an essential tool for writers, editors, publishers, journalists, and web editors, and together with New Hart's Rules and the New Oxford Spelling Dictionary forms the complete editorial reference set.

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new oxford dictionary of english: Concise Oxford English Dictionary Angus Stevenson, Maurice Waite, 2011-08-18 The Concise Oxford English Dictionary is one of the most popular choices in Oxford's renowned dictionary line. This Luxury Edition is perfect for anyone looking to invest in a reliable resource for home, school, or office. It includes unique features such as cut thumb tabs, printed endpapers, ribbon marker, with coloured head and tailbands making it a centerpiece for all bookshelves. This centenary edition of the Concise Oxford English Dictionary Luxury Edition presents the most accurate picture of English today. It contains over 240,000 words, phrases, and definitions, providing superb coverage of contemporary English, including rare, historical, and archaic terms, scientific and technical vocabulary, and English from around the world. The dictionary has been updated with hundreds of new words—including sub-prime, social networking, and carbon footprint—all based on the latest research from the Oxford English Corpus. In addition, the dictionary features an engaging new center section, with quick-reference word lists (containing, for example, lists of Fascinating Words and Onomatopoeic Words), and a revised and updated English Uncovered supplement, which examines interesting facts about the English language. Sprinkled throughout the text are intriguing Word Histories, detailing the origins and development of numerous words. The volume also retains such popular features as the hundreds of usage notes which give advice on tricky vocabulary and pointers to help you improve your use of English. Finally, the dictionary contains full appendices on topics such as alphabets, currencies, electronic English, and the registers of language (from formal to slang), plus a useful Guide to Good English with advice on grammar, punctuation, and spelling. This Luxury Edition also includes 12 months' of access to Oxford Dictionaries Online at oxforddictionaries.com.

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example sentences, as well as relevant quotations from the scholarly literature of the field. This second edition is written and edited by Professor Bas Aarts of University College London, writer of the acclaimed Oxford Modern English Grammar. It has been fully revised and updated, with particular attention paid to refreshing the example sentences included within the text. There are over 150 new entries that cover current terminology which has arisen since the publication of the first edition, and there are also new entries on the most important English grammars published since the start of the 20th century. Hundreds of new cross-references enhance the user-friendly nature of the text, and the list of works cited has been thoroughly updated to reflect the current state of the field. A short appendix of web links has been added. All in all, this Dictionary is an invaluable guide to English grammar for all students and teachers of the subject, as well as all those with an informed interest in the English language.

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notes, grammar advice, and a gazetteer.

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The leading single-volume English thesaurus explores the richness of the English language with hundreds of thousands of synonyms and antonyms, and thousands of example sentences drawn from the Oxford English Corpus; finds the word you need quickly with carefully chosen and arranged synonyms; broadens your vocabulary and finds solutions to word puzzles and crosswords with hundreds of thematic word lists; and helps express yourself more accurately with hundreds of 'Choose the Right Word' boxes exploring the difference between similar words. --Book Jacket.

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new oxford dictionary of english: A Dictionary of Sociology John Scott, 2014-09-11 A consistent best-seller, the wide-ranging and authoritative Dictionary of Sociology was first published in 1994 and contains more than 2,500 entries on the terminology, methods, concepts, and thinkers in the field, as well as from the related fields of psychology, economics, anthropology, philosophy, and political science. For this fourth edition, Professor John Scott has conducted a thorough review of all entries to ensure that they are concise, focused, and up to date. Revisions reflect current intellectual debates and social conditions, particularly in relation to global and multi-cultural issues. New entries cover relevant contemporary concepts, such as climate change, social media, terrorism, and intersectionality, as well as key living sociologists. This Dictionary is both an invaluable introduction to sociology for beginners, and an essential source of reference for more advanced students and teachers.

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Stevenson, 2003 The New Oxford Dictionary of English was first published in 1998 and quickly established itself as the foremost single-volume authority on the English language. This is a major new edition, now without the New in the title, but with all the features that brought world-wide acclaim to the first publication. The Oxford Dictionary of English is at the forefront of language research, focusing on English as it is used today, informed by the most up-to-date evidence and the latest research from the Oxford English Corpus. The dictionary is unique in that it places the central and most frequent meanings of each word first, followed by secondary and technical senses, slang, idioms, and historical and archaic senses. There are over 500 boxed usage notes, giving guidance on all aspects of the language and backed up by extensive analysis of 100s of millions of words of real English. Featuring 355,000 words, phrases, and definitions, this dictionary offers the most comprehensive coverage of English as it is actually used in the twenty-first century. There is also a brand-new set of appendices, covering topics including countries, heads of state, and chemical elements.

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new oxford dictionary of english: *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English* Henry Watson Fowler, 1995-01 This new edition of Oxford's flagship single-volume dictionary brings you the results of the latest research into the real English of today. Oxford is lead partner in the British National Corpus, a massive and constantly expanding hundred-million-word database which allows dictionary editors to sample today's language - newspapers, magazines, books, advertisements, even transcripts of spoken English. With thousands of occurrences of each common word available for instant analysis, lexicographers are able to track the latest trends in, for instance, spelling and hyphenation or disputed usages, with greater accuracy than ever before. This rolling, constantly updated 'opinion poll of language' combined with Oxford's unparalleled world reading programme (we spend more on language research than any other dictionary publisher in the world), ensures that COD9 is the up-to-date reference for today's English. Bigger and better than ever before, its new features include: * The most up-to-date spellings, with improved coverage of meaning and usage based on a computerized 'snapshot' of today's language * 25% more content than the previous edition * New words, including such items as holiday village, nip and tuck, central locking, ragga, house-sit, Balti, pesto, Cajun, road-pricing, Feynman diagram, supermodel, and slaphead * New, more up-to-date pronunciation system, representing today's received pronunciation * Over 300 new boxed usage notes with guidance on good English * New, clearer etymologies * easier to use with more compounds as main entries

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new oxford dictionary of english: *The Oxford Picture Dictionary* Norma Shapiro, Jayme Adelson-Goldstein, 1998 This reference to essential everyday vocabulary illustrates over 3700 words in full color, each defined in context; offers 140 key topics targeted to meet the vocabulary needs of adults and young adults; topics grouped into 12 thematic areas, several with a vocational strand; a variety of exercises.--From publisher description.

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Teaches English as a second language to Korean speakers through the use of pictures dealing with everyday topics such as the body, post office, law, travel, and family.

new oxford dictionary of english: The Canadian Oxford Dictionary Katherine Barber, 1998
We all use Canadian English every day: when we order a pizza all-dressed, hope to get a seat-sale to go south during March break, or book off work to meet with a CGA to discuss RRSPs. Language embodies our nation's identity, and The Canadian Oxford Dictionary, in its 1,728 pages, covers all aspects of Canadian life. Never before have Canadians been able to see their language, and themselves, so accurately and comprehensively described in a dictionary. The loggers of the west coast, the wheat farmers of the Prairies, the fishermen of the Atlantic provinces, the trappers of the North; Canada's Aboriginal peoples, its British and French settlers, and the more recent arrivals, whether they came from Ukraine, Italy, South Asia or elsewhere - all have contributed to making Canadian English unique, and the dictionary thus reflects the great sweep of Canadian life. It contains over 2,000 distinctly Canadian words and meanings, more than any other Canadian dictionary, covering every region of the country. Whether you call your favorite doughnut a jambuster, a bismark, a Burlington bun, or the more prosaic jelly doughnut may depend on where you live in Canada, but they will all be found in The Canadian Oxford Dictionary. Of course, this is not just a dictionary of Canadian words: its 130,000 entries combine in one reference book information on English as it is used worldwide and as it is used particularly in Canada. Definitions, worded for ease of comprehension, are presented so the meaning most familiar to Canadians appears first and foremost. Each of these entries is exceptionally reliable, the result of thorough research into the language and Oxford's unparalleled language resources. Five professionally trained lexicographers spent five years examining databases containing over 20 million words of Canadian text from more than 8,000 Canadian sources of an astonishing diversity. Inuit Art Quarterly, The Fiddlehead, Canadian Business, and Equinox; the work of writers such as Jack Hodgins, Sandra Birdsell, David Adams Richards, and Pierre Berton; daily and weekly newspapers from across the country; and, of course, the Canadian Tire catalogue - all find a place in the evidence of The Canadian Oxford Dictionary. The lexicographers also examined an additional 20 million words of international English sources. For many Canadians one of the more puzzling aspects of writing is trying to determine whether to use the American spelling or the British spelling. Should it be colour or color, theater or theatre, programme or program? By examining our extensive Canadian databases, our lexicographers have been able to determine which, in fact, is the more common spelling: colour, theatre and program. Favoured Canadian pronunciations have also been determined by surveying a nationwide group of respondents. Oxford's thorough research has also ensured that new words that have recently appeared are well-represented. So if you're someone who puts on your bicycle shorts and blades over to the gym to do some crunches for your abs followed by work on your lats, pecs and delts, finishing up with a step class, because you're afraid that being a chocoholic who loves comfort food will affect your body mass index and you want to avoid yo-yo dieting, you'll find all these common words in The Canadian Oxford Dictionary. An added feature of this dictionary is its encyclopedic element. It includes short biographies of over 800 Canadians, ranging from Elvis Stojko, Celine Dion and Jean Beliveau to Nellie McClung, Lester B. Pearson, and Kim Campbell. It also contains entries on 5,000 individuals and mythical figures of international significance, and almost 6,000 place names, more than 1,200 of them Canadian. Indeed, all Canadian towns with a population of 5,000 or more are featured, and their entries not only explain the origin of the place name, but also include the population based on the 1996 census. With the publication of The Canadian Oxford Dictionary, Oxford University Press adds another work to its highly respected range of dictionaries, and Canadians finally have a dictionary that truly reflects their nations.

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new oxford dictionary of english: *The Compact Oxford English Dictionary* J. A. Simpson, E. S. C. Weiner, 1991 The standard dictionary of the English language micrographically printed in one volume

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