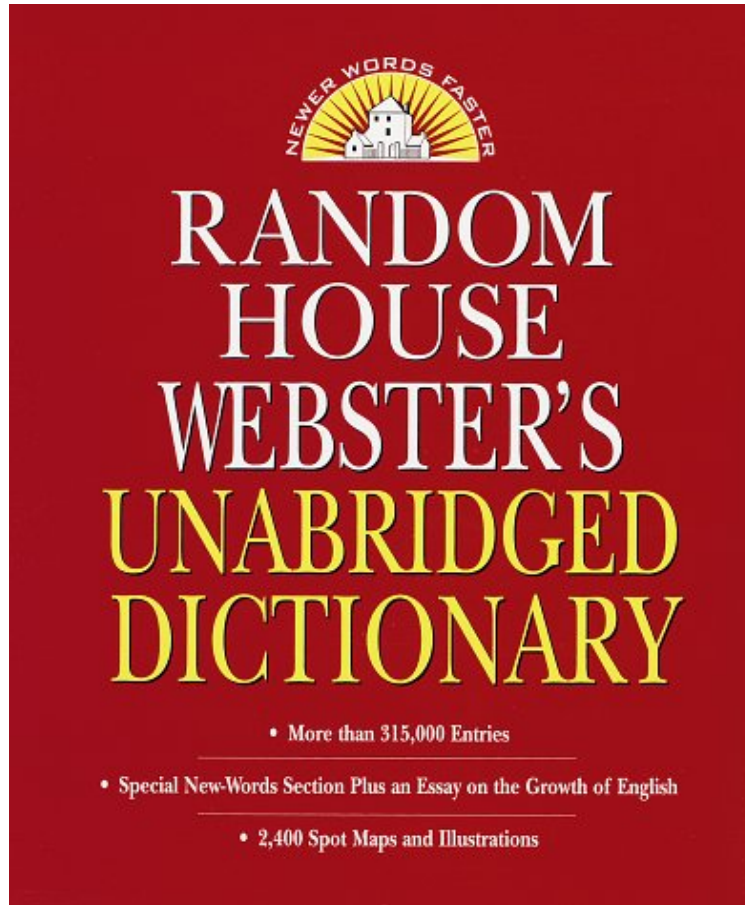


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Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary : Indexed

Dictionary

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unsatisfying

By A Reader I bought the version without CD - if you own a Mac, you'll be in the same soup, so give a thought to that. I checked out other dictionaries for weeks, decided an unabridged was the only way to go for definitive source-checking. If you want a very good, main-source dictionary, this is the cheapest, most-up-to-date one I found. Good news: It has a nice up-front section with all the new words jargon, so you can check out how the language has changed (or how dictionaries are slow to change!). Bad news: the words are not incorporated into the main body of the dictionary - so if you can't find a new word, you have to flip to the front section. If you remember to. Because it may give you some idea of how important it might be to get an updated dictionary, here are some of the "new" words: timeline, slam (as in poetry), gravitas, green (as in ecologically-minded), bullypulpit. Bear in mind, I'm one of those who loves to browse a dictionary. Although I'll probably get used to its quirks, I find myself getting frustrated with this dictionary. Some of the definitions are wonderfully informative; many others seem so inadequate you're brought up short, wondering at the rationale. I think the bias is that if it's not a domestic word, you need more help with it it's given. And then there's the etymology. It's a better dictionary than most for this, for sure. It tracks the development of the main meaning of the word gives dates first used in print. OK, but it doesn't tell what some of the other meanings' sources are, the ancillary infusions of sense into our culture's vocabulary. It doesn't give the dates of the other meanings, either. Many, many words have multiple meanings that obviously weren't there in the beginning usage; many words have changed meaning or usage over time. I wish there was brief help in that. (Yes, I do have use the OED, but that's cumbersome, right? And as far as you're concerned, expensive.) It's not that you won't be unhappy with this choice; you just won't be satisfied very long.

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