

(Free pdf) Random House Word Menu

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Stephen Glazier

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Stephen Glazier : Random House Word Menu before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Random House Word Menu:

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding!By D. S. HeersinkAfter the OED, this is my all-time favorite reference work. Nothing else comes close to this grand work. Words are associated according to predominant use (yes, a tricky proposition at best), but amazingly, for the most part, it works. Words are categorized like Linnaean taxonomy, such as "science, arts, economics," etc. Systematic thinkers will have no difficulty finding associated words and concepts, while those who prefer a more direct route can simply consult the "index" at the end, which leads to the place it has been categorized in the front. Either way, everyone wins.But the associations are magisterial, not just "related" or similar, but the whole constellation of likely associated words, acronyms, synonyms, and hierarchies of genus, species, and sub-species. There are more "linked" words than anyone can possibly imagine, or if one can imagine them, Word Menu has too. Short of an unabridged edition of the English language, nothing compares to this compilation.Two observations. (1) Don't waste money on the "pocket-book" edition, it's too tiny and too microscopic to be as useful as this reference will be. (2) The only "oddity" is that all biological terms and concepts are under "Living Things," not under "Science," much less "Biology." No matter how many times I tell myself of this odd feature, I always default to "Science Biology" and then find nothing. All those biological concepts and words are under "Living Things" apart from the section "Sciences." Odd. Very odd. Who conceived "Living Things" as a category of Human Thought along a Linnean taxonomy distinct from "Science?" Even so, why not just move "Living Things" to Science, and then to "Biology," rather than leaving "Biology" an empty (indeed, an "unmentioned" set)? Well, there's always the index for these situations.Unfortunately, at time of review, no hardbound copy is in print

(shame on Random House). And aside from the "Living Things" oddity, I find this reference so intuitive, so helpful, associating associations I would have to think long and hard to recall, that are here in an instant, plus a treasury unthought or unconsidered too. Thesauruses are great references (assuming one finds a good one), but this reference has riches that even the best Thesaurus cannot match. And best of all, both systematic and direct thinkers can access the same work from different directions and both achieve their desired ends. A "must" reference for all of us who seek associations we weren't even sure were associated, and then some!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Writer's Dream Tool! By Veronica
The Word Menu helps when I know there should be a better word, but it eludes me even when I use the thesaurus. By opening the menu to the topic of my paper, an enormous array of related words is revealed and ready for the plucking. While later editions have been published in a smaller format, they are more difficult to use because the font within has been shrunk correspondingly. I was so pleased with my purchase, I ordered two more as gifts for fellow writers!

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Indispensable By Deborah Woehr
Has anyone heard of Eschatology? I hadn't until my writing instructor used that word in a letter he sent to me. Baffled, I looked it up in the Webster's Dictionary, but didn't find it. I checked with The Synonym Finder, but it wasn't listed there either. Finally, I turned to this book and found it in the table of contents. Eschatology is the study of afterlife. This book has been a godsend for me as a creative writer. There were times when I was writing a scene and couldn't think of a word to describe something or a term I couldn't remember. Most of the time, I found what I was looking for in these pages.

Word Menu is broken down into four parts. Part One deals with Nature
The human body, living things, and the earth. Chapter One (The Human Body) is then divided into five subcategories
Anatomy, Medical Problems, Health/Fitness/Enhancement, Hair and Grooming, Physical Appearance. Under these, you will find hundreds of definitions, terms, and cross-references. This dictionary covers everything from everyday items, customs, religions, etc. to the obscure and strange. For example, Eschatology. Word Menu is an indispensable tool for any type of writer, student, or anyone who wants to learn something.