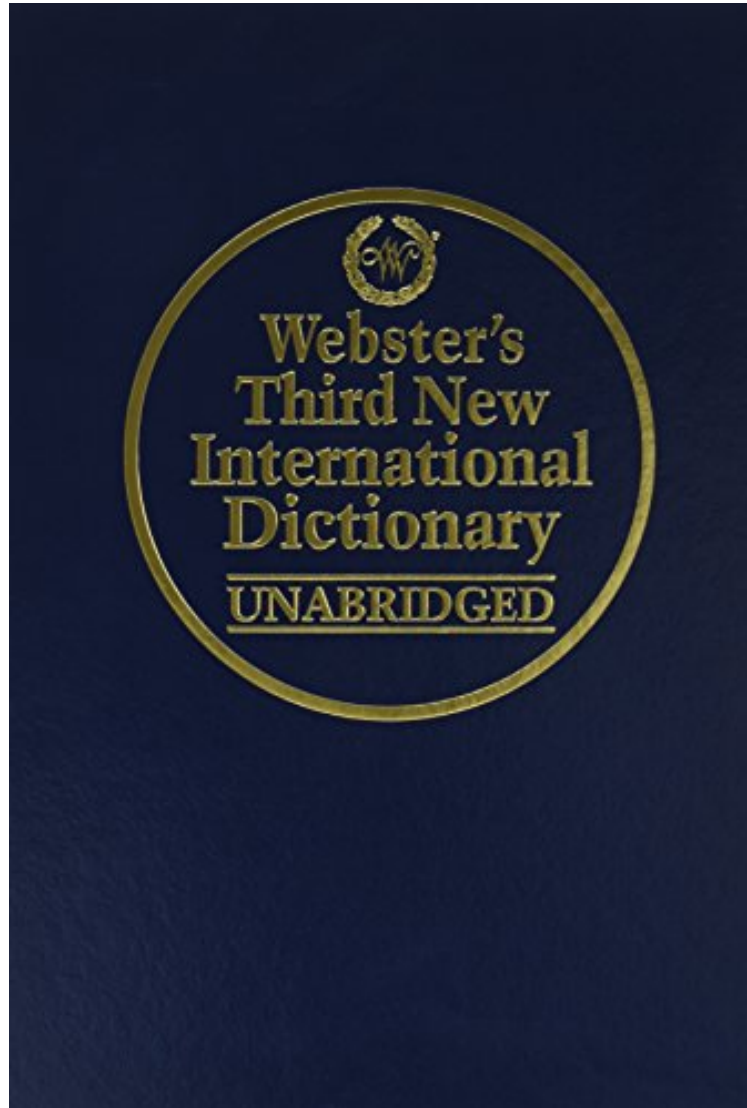


Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language

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From Merriam-Webster, Inc : Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language:

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people found the following review helpful. Must-have
By Richard Jensen
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 CD-ROM 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 CD-ROM 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 ... 0 of 0
people found the following review helpful. words galore!
By Sharon
Fantastic! My granddaughter can't stay out of it.

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.

.com 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.
About the Author
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.