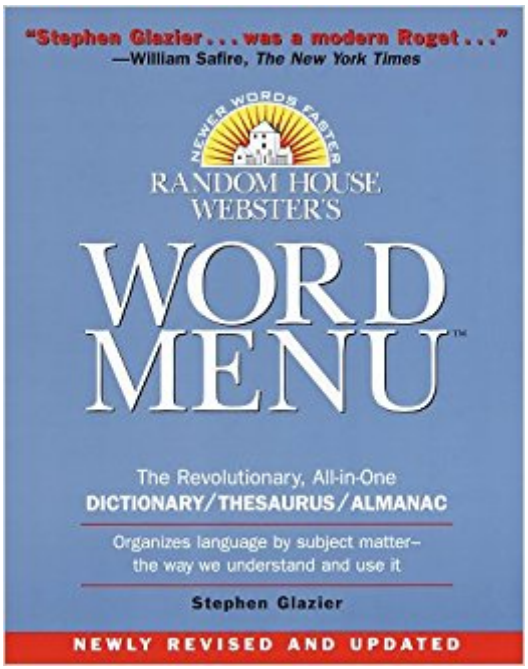
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Random House Webster's Word Menu (Random House Newer Words Faster)



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Synopsis

The revolutionary, all-in-one dictionary/thesaurus/almanac.Glazier’s critically acclaimed Random House Webster’s Word Menu is the definitive language reference for anyone who reads, writes creatively or simply loves to explore linguistic relationships.This rich storehouse of language organizes the vocabulary of English by subject matter, reflecting the way we actually look at the world around us. A totally new kind of language resource, Random House Webster’s Word Menu combines the virtues of an entire shelf of reference works:Full dictionary, thesaurus and almanacReverse dictionary: when you can’t think of the obscure word you’re looking for, find it by looking up the common word you already knowMultiple glossaries: find just the right terms for foods and finery, weather and weapons, romance and relativity

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Part thesaurus, part dictionary, part glossary, part vocabulary builder, part logophile’s delight, this unique wordbook can be used productively for both quick reference and browsing. The book, which first appeared as a software product for PCs under the title Inside Information (Microlytics, 1990), classifies approximately 65,000 words into seven general categories (Nature, Science and Technology, Domestic Life, Arts and Leisure, etc.), which in turn are divided into numerous subcategories and sub-subcategories. Under Eating, for instance, a major subdivision of Domestic Life, the user finds several headings, including Foods, Cooking and Cuisine, and Eating Verbs;

under the last heading, such terms as bolt , chew , chow down , devour , engorge , inhale , masticate , pig out , and quaff are briefly defined. A detailed table of contents provides access to the classification scheme and an A-Z index lists all words included in the book. Sometimes the Word Menu fails. Just two examples: superlatives such as best, first-class, outstanding, topnotch, and world class are not included, nor is amniocentesis found under Pregnancy and Birth. Notwithstanding its limitations, this book is enthusiastically recommended for all libraries, even the smallest. Glazier, a brilliant amateur lexicographer who died in early 1992 at age 44, has created the first bona fide classification of the English language since the 19th century, when Peter Mark Roget, another talented amateur, made a lasting name for himself.- Ken Kister, author of "Best Encyclopedias," Tampa, Fla.Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Stephen Glazier. . . was a modern Roget."--William Safire, The New York Times

After 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 un-thought 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!

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!

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 NatureÃƒâ Ã Â- Ãƒâ Ã Â- The human body, living things, and the earth. Chapter One (The Human Body) is then divided into five subcategoriesÃƒâ Ã Â- Ãƒâ Ã Â- Anatomy, Medical Problems, Health/Fitness/Enhancement, Hair and Grooming, Phsyical 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 indespensible tool for any type of writer, student, or anyone who wants to learn something.

I first ran across this years ago, but it was only last week when my ex found a copy on a shelf at a restaurant we were at. I ordered it immediately on getting home, and I have not been disappointed. It is organized much more usefully than your average thesaurus. I expect it will shortly be as worn

as my favorite dictionary. If you love words, this is one you should not pass up!

Great book!

This book belongs on the reference shelf of every serious author. It is extremely easy to navigate through and can help you come up with the appropriate word or phrase that you are searching your brain for. I forgot who suggested this book to me but I am overjoyed that they did. I actually have two copies (one for each one of my offices).

I had this book before and lost it. It is organized in such a unique way that I could not get along without it.

Great resource for writers.

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