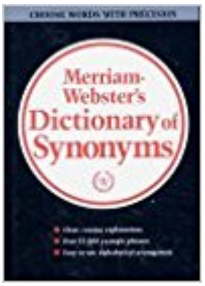
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Synopsis

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Book Information

Hardcover: 909 pages

Publisher: Merriam Webster,U.S. (1984)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0877792410

ISBN-13: 978-0877792413

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 1.8 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,233,901 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 inÃ Â Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > Synonyms & Antonyms #1985 inÃ Â Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > Dictionaries

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I’ve known this book for years. If you like precision in thought. If you have a yen to carefully calibrate your meaning. If you must have mot justes - then here’s the book for you. The Merriam-Webster team has done an excellent job in discriminating nuances. But beyond that, to me, it’s a monumental piece of analysis of and insight into human mentation. Discrimination of synonyms are sometimes appended to dictionary definitions; but I know of no other book that is devoted entirely to this objective. My only criticism is that the book ignores many words - BTW "mentation" used above is one word not included. I wish this team would embark on a project (with the same high-quality output) to include EVERY word in the English language, discriminate it from near-meaning words and pin down the precise shade of meaning for each?

I owned this book many decades ago. The shades of meaning were so excellently displayed with long paragraphs showing subtle distinctions between synonyms .. I am not a writer, but for me there is no book quite like this book.

For years, I used a tiny, vinyl covered synonym reference book. Now, finally, I have a thorough

volume (942 pages). The synonyms are in alphabetical order, alleviating the inconvenience of flipping back and forth between an index and the corresponding synonyms. There is an informative and interesting Introduction; there are wonderful quotations which serve as examples of precise usage; and there are "antonyms, analoguous words, and contrasting words." Any casual or serious writer will find this book to be a treasure trove of just the right words to be used at just the right time.

I was introduced to this book, while in college in 1984. It was invaluable then, and still is now after multiple career directions.Unlike a thesaurus that simply lists synonyms, Webster’s New Dictionary of Synonyms provides definitions and gradations of use, explaining when each synonym is appropriately used. As a result, I have been viewed as the "go-to Word-Smith" in business and academia.I have one copy for the office, one for home. Great gift for college-bound high school grads, so they don’t take off with your copy!

Do not buy a thesaurus. Buy this. The key is found on the title page: "A dictionary of disciminated synonyms with antonyms and analogous and contrasted words."This text tells you what the words actually mean and discriminates them from one another. It is extraordinarily helpful.

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