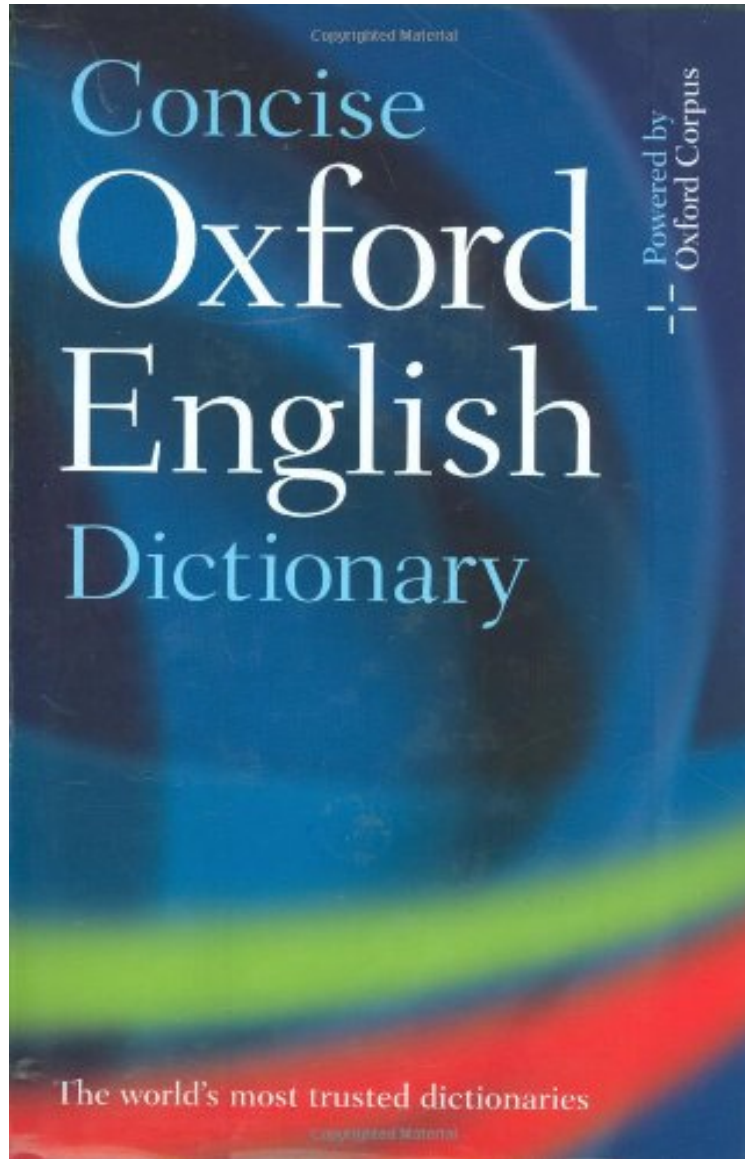


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From Oxford University Press : Concise Oxford English Dictionary: 11th Edition Revised 2008 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Concise Oxford English Dictionary: 11th Edition Revised 2008:

24 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Sterling Desktop Reference inadequate for learnersBy Dr CHUANG Wei PingAs a desktop reference, this dictionary has no peer. Compared to other dictionaries of similar size,

it is simply the best by a long shot. It is authoritative enough to have its definitions used in a court of law. The Editors tell us it contains 75,000 root words compared to the usual 25,000 root words, because infrequent and rare words are likely to be crucial in particular contexts when they crop up. No wonder I have never had the frustrating experience of a futile search for a word when using previous editions. Each succeeding edition brings to it changes in format. The current 11th 2008 revised edition has all supplementary material relocated from the back end to the "Centre Section" after the letter "L". It is not the first dictionary to do this, but its 24-page "Centre Section" makes fascinating reading.

1. English Uncovered. Benefits of data collected by Oxford are divulged. The list of 100 commonest words revealed are "the" #1, "I" #10, to "us" #100. Lists of commonest nouns, verbs and adjectives are included. Interesting trivia includes the words with most meanings as "set" (156), "stand" (104) and "fall" (101). Subtle shifts in spelling include "just deserts" to "just desserts" (58% actual usage); buck naked 53% to butt naked 47%; and "strait-laced" being overwhelmed by 66% actual use of "straight-laced". "Miniscule" changes are overtaking correct forms like "Minuscule".
2. Fascinating words. Absquatulate, adscititious, afreet start this 4 page list. "callipygian" having shapely buttocks, "ecdysiast" strip tease performer, "vexillology" study of flags, "toxophilite" archery student, join words like ylem, sudd, flew, stiction, plew and yes, floccinaucinihilipilification and pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis. I am fascinated.
3. Collective nouns. The usual "pride" of lions, "fling" of dunlins, "murmuration" of starlings, "school" of whales, is usefully retained, although it could be more exhaustive.
4. Imitative Words. 2 pages of onomatopoeias. I have not come across such a list in an Oxford. Vroom, whoosh, zoom.
5. Foreign Words and Phrases. This is an extremely useful list of frequently encountered foreign terms. The absence of a connected pronouncing key is a most regrettable omission, as this is precisely where a pronouncing key would be most appreciated. Nothing fancy, and nobody would argue the inclusion of: a cappella, alfresco, au fait, je ne sais quoi, mnage a trios, schadenfreude, verboten and zeitgeist. Delightful section.
6. Guide to Good English. Same old, same old. There are more "Usage" bubbles in this edition. After "discreet", a tinted bubble explains the difference with "discrete". It is "Fowler's Modern English Usage" appended to the apposite words. Naturally, there are more words and material with every new edition. I suspect the similar number of pages as the preceding edition was achieved by reducing the font size of the print. For the huge number of entries, there would be no examples of usage in sentences, nor any illustrations. The International Phonetic Transcription is used and is consistent with its increasing popularity over the Merriam Webster pronouncing key. Etymology is the best I have seen. Curiously, "Viagra", reputed to be a portmanteau of "virility" and "Niagra" (fluids emanating like Niagra Falls is hopeful optimism) in the 10th 2002 edition, reverted to "unknown origin" in the 11th 2008 edition. The commonly encountered "Cialis" (Cincinnati/Minneapolis) is not yet recognised by Oxford. This dictionary sounds almost too good to be true. Bear with me as I explore possible shortcomings. The Concise Oxford is not for students of English. It is for those who are way, way, way past the early learning stage. This sterling reference work is quite unsatisfactory as a learning tool. It is more of an aide-memoire and for quick reference when wandering into unfamiliar disciplines. The Paperback Oxford or the Oxford Advanced Learner's would better serve students. Collins, Cambridge, Longman, Chambers, MacMillan and other competitors publish dictionaries with the specific aim of educating students, replete with examples of usage, mnemonics, pictures, and so on. Some throw in a thesaurus. My 2002 Concise Oxford has these supplementary materials, now deleted from this 2008 edition:
 1. Countries of the World, capital cities, currencies, etc,
 2. Alphabets (Arabic, Hebrew, Greek, Russian),
 3. Accents and diacritical marks,
 4. Phonetic Alphabet: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie to Zulu,
 5. Weights and measures, British and American and metric conversions,
 6. Metric prefixes, like nano-, pico-, femto-, atto-,
 7. SI units
 8. Proofreading marks,
 9. List of two letter words, like "mu", "re" (musical note), "ye",
 10. Words with Q not followed by U, like tariqa, qiviut,
 11. SMS abbreviations, emoticons.Some dictionaries include a map of the world, Nobel Prize winners, Famous People, Common Proverbs; but this may be going over the top. Really, where else can you realistically expect to find such handy nuggets of critical information at your fingertips other than your desktop dictionary. A small investment of 20 to 30 additional pages to the Concise Oxford will fix these omissions found in various previous editions. Various previous editions of the Oxford had different combinations of these useful Dictionary-related appendices:
 1. The Periodic Table, chemical symbols with atomic numbers and weights, (useful for following "Breaking Bad" TV series),
 2. Books of the Bible,
 3. Geologic Table, placing words like "Jurassic", "Silurian" in context,
 4. Common Geometric formulas,
 5. Musical notations, dynamics, indicators and Orchestral layout,
 6. States of the United States, capital, informal name (North Dakota, Bismarck, Peace Garden), and similarly for Canada, South Africa, Australia, even India,
 7. Braille, Morse Code, Manual alphabet for the hearing impaired,
 8. Presidents of the United States of America (the one after this publication is Obama :), and the President after Obama might still make it to the next edition), Kings and Queens of England and the UK, Prime Ministers of important countries
 9. The Solar System, principal moons; Taxonomy,
 10. Zodiac Signs, Chinese Zodiac (2010 is the year of the Tiger), Wedding Anniversaries, birthstones.A list of Shakespeare's works, Greek and Roman deities, and a tabulation of military ranks would be welcome. Compared to 1700 pages, the addition of principal appendices would take up another 20 to 30 pages, tops. Some words make more sense in the context of lists, charts, tables and diagrams, yet we would still be nowhere inching towards an encyclopaedia. This Concise Oxford is printed in UK. The paper looks cheap compared to older editions with sturdier paper. Yet my yellow marker highlightings cannot be seen from

the reverse pages. The binding gets shoddier with each edition. If it remains on the desktop, it will come to little harm. It has a Bargain edition feel to it, and it does not inspire confidence that it will last a lifetime - until the next edition perhaps. Bring it around, as in a school bag, and its gradual destruction is assured. Far cheaper dictionaries from other publishers feel more solid, with paper much more pleasing to touch. If "Concise" led to the notion that this dictionary is small, check the dimensions, as it is larger than expected. Very few books are two and a half inches thick. I would like to see the inclusion of more supplementary material so it will be the only reference book on my cluttered desktop. In spite of perceived shortcomings, the Concise Oxford is the one I want to occupy that precious real estate on my desktop.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Not necessarily inferior to full OED
 By Joseph Shead
 Although, I was disappointed to find that the Concise OED was considerably smaller in height and width dimensions than their foreign language dictionaries (e.g., Oxford-Hachette French Dictionary, or Oxford Spanish Dictionary), it is still pretty good, and in some ways is better than the full Oxford English Dictionary. Take for example the word Paradigm. I'll give just the meanings offered by each dictionary.

-----Concise OED (11th ed., rev.):
 Paradigm ---- 1. a typical example, pattern, or model of something.-- 2. a world view underlying the theories and methodology of a scientific subject.-- 3. [Linguistics] a set of items that form mutually exclusive choices in particular syntactic roles. Often contrasted with Syntagm.-- 4. [Grammar] a table of all the inflected forms of a word.

-----Full OED (2nd ed.):
 Paradigm ---- 1.a. a pattern, exemplar, example.---- b. attrib. as 'paradigm case', a case or instance to be regarded as representative or typical.-- 2. Rhet. (In L. form) See quot. Obs.-- 3.a. An example or pattern of the inflexion of a noun, verb, or other inflected part of speech.---- b. transf. and fig.

-----In the full OED, each definition is followed by examples that go back even as far as 1483. Only in the last case, 3b, do we find anything approaching definition 2 of the Concise OED (the 'world view' definition). It is in quotes referring to Wittgenstein, Chomsky, Kuhn, etc. They are fascinating, but if you were looking the word up, because you were trying to read something else, instead of a dictionary, then the full OED makes you work too hard to extract the word's most common usage.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
 By Jordan Glew
 Absolutely essential, in compact form.

Now in print through its various editions for almost a century, the Concise Oxford English Dictionary is one of the most popular choices in Oxford's renowned dictionary line, selected by decades of users for its up-to-date and authoritative coverage of the English language. This revised eleventh edition of the Concise Oxford English Dictionary presents the most accurate picture of English today. It contains over 240,000 words, phrases, and definitions, providing superb coverage of contemporary English, including rare, historical, and archaic terms, scientific and technical vocabulary, and English from around the world. The revised edition of the dictionary has been updated with hundreds of new words--including sub-prime, social networking, and carbon footprint--all based on the latest research from the Oxford English Corpus. In addition, the dictionary now features an engaging new center section, with quick-reference word lists (for example, lists of Fascinating Words and Onomatopoeic Words), and a revised and updated English Uncovered supplement, which examines interesting facts about the English language. Sprinkled throughout the text are intriguing Word Histories, detailing the origins and development of numerous words. The volume also retains such popular features as the hundreds of usage notes which give advice on tricky vocabulary and pointers to help you improve your use of English. Finally, the dictionary contains full appendices on topics such as alphabets, currencies, electronic English, and the registers of language (from formal to slang), plus a useful Guide to Good English with advice on grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Authoritative and up to date, the Concise Oxford English Dictionary offers unsurpassed coverage of English, perfect for anyone who needs a handy, reliable resource for home, school, or office.

A dictionary may not contain narratives and poems, but the best ones, like this one, give you the tools. David Malcolm, Times Literary Supplement This is the dictionary par excellence for the general reader. David Malcolm, Times Literary Supplement It answers a lot of questions; it is easy to use; it does not take up too much space on a crowded desk. David Malcolm, TLS