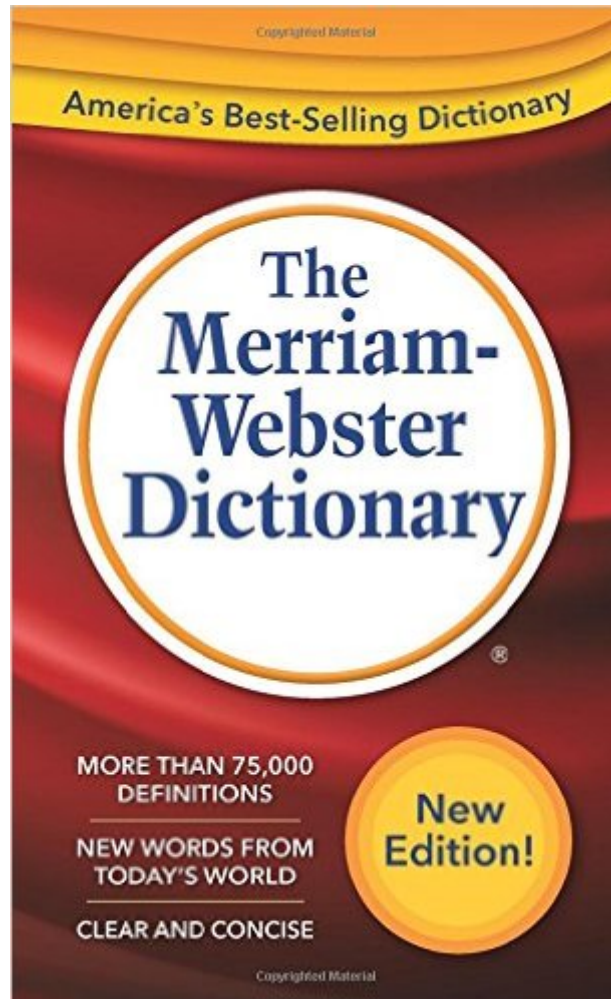


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# The Merriam-Webster Dictionary New Edition (c) 2016



## Synopsis

New Edition (2016 copyright) of the best-selling dictionary covering core vocabulary of everyday life. More than 75,000 updated definitions, pronunciations, word origins, and synonym lists. Some 8,000 usage examples aid understanding--more than ever before. New words from today's world include: bromance, carbon footprint, droid, e-book, fracking, frenemy, hashtag, malware, mash-up, regift, robocal, smackdown and vlog. Also included are useful tables and special sections on Foreign Words and Phrases, Biographical Names, and Geographical Names. Based on Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary Eleventh Edition. This book has sold more than 50 million copies!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The best pocket-sized, paperback dictionary of American English. With 70,000 words, this dictionary abridges the 215,000-word "Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary" (which, in turn, abridges the 445,000-word "Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged"). The name "Webster's" long ago passed into the public domain, but these three dictionaries--and the Merriam-Webster brand--are the lineal descendants of Noah Webster's original nineteenth-century dictionaries, the first dictionaries of American English, which have been in print continuously for almost two centuries. I keep this paperback handy on my desk for ready reference (along with a thesaurus, a style manual, and a usage dictionary). On the shelf nearby, I keep a more extensive basic reference set, including the heftier hardbound "Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary," of which this paperback version is a subset. This dictionary is highly abridged, thus not the most appropriate reference if you are looking for a word's detailed etymology, for an obscure word, or for thoroughness. But when writing for a nonliterary audience, when clear and simple communication is

the goal, this book is a good check against writing that is getting too high and mighty. If a word does not appear here, I think twice about using it, keeping in mind the Fowler brothers' first "general principle" of good writing: "Prefer the familiar word to the far-fetched." If you are buying one and only one dictionary, go with the hardbound "Collegiate Dictionary": it is more complete, yet stays within the realm of familiar words. But if you can manage, I recommend stocking both that dictionary and this one. Keep the hardbound version on the shelf, within reach, and consult it as necessary; but keep this one at your fingertips, and consult it routinely.

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