

(Download free pdf) Neo-Words: A Dictionary of the Newest and Most Unusual Words of Our Times

# Neo-Words: A Dictionary of the Newest and Most Unusual Words of Our Times

*David K. Barnhart*

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**David K. Barnhart : Neo-Words: A Dictionary of the Newest and Most Unusual Words of Our Times** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Neo-Words: A Dictionary of the Newest and Most Unusual Words of Our Times:

"Neo-words" is a compact reference book that collects words and phrases so new they have not yet been recorded in dictionaries: "celebutante" (a person who is famous for not really doing anything); "ultraconsumer" (a person who has a compelling desire to buy the newest and often the most faddish products); and "DINK" (acronym for double income, no kids). Illustrated by Elwood Smith, "Neo-words" is designed both as a useful tool for the serious lexicographers and a lighthearted look at some of the most unusual words in the English language.

From Library JournalLexicographer Barnhart, who publishes a quarterly updating of general dictionaries, The Barnhart Dictionary Companion , here assembles some 100 terms that gained currency during the 1980s. Many (e.g., fax, hacker, HIV, smartcard) reflect new technologies, discoveries, or lifestyles; others might have arisen in any era. The tersely written entries give the part of speech, short definition, first recorded usage, and probable derivation, occasionally adding a note on pronunciation (e.g., glasnost) or other background. Some terms may be awkward

amalgams or dated curiosities, but the need to keep pace with the language suggests that this should be in most libraries. However, a wider selection of new words is found in *The New New Words Dictionary* by Harold Lemay, Sid Lerner, and Marian Taylor (Ballantine, 1989). Illustrations were not seen.- William A. Donovan, Chicago  
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