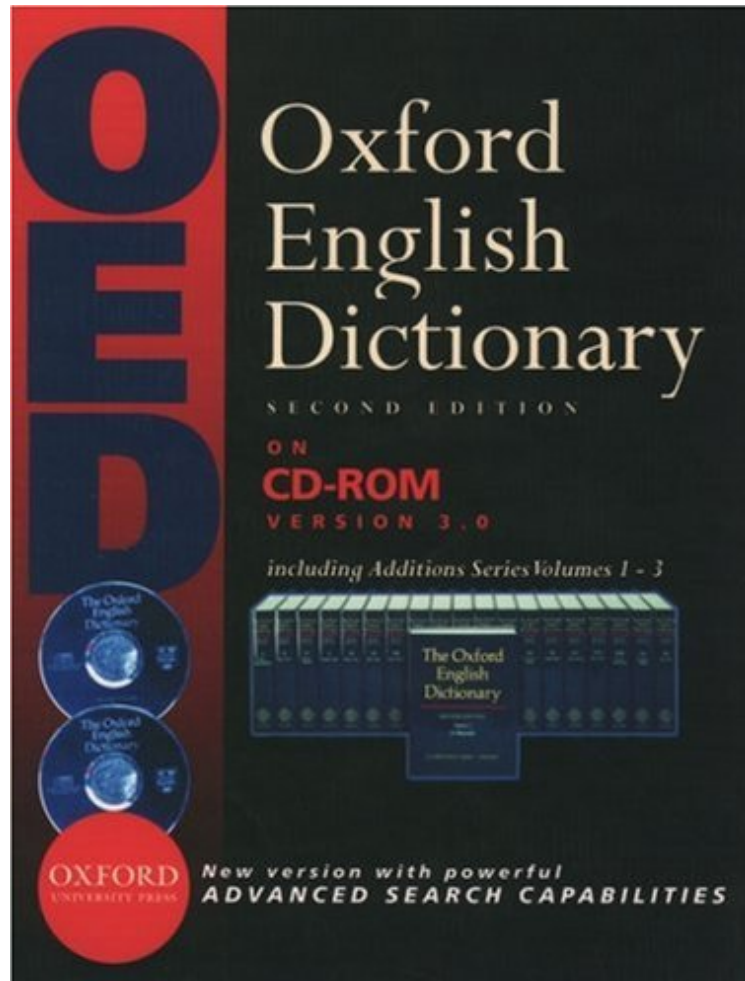


Oxford English Dictionary, Version 3.0: Single User Windows Version

John A. Simpson

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17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Oxford Dictionary in Waltz Time By Richard P. McDonough This ne edition is still a fine word book, of course, but the argument here is with the technology. Installation takes a long time, startup allows delay allows you to write a letter or two in Word complete with spelling errors before the dictionary program is usable. (There is a paranoid fear of pirating, I guess, that makes setting up and using the dictionary a bit silly.) Graphic component is prettier but not as straightforwardly clear and usable. Type more stylized and apparently smaller. When you tamper with the redesign of a classic book/newspaper/website, etcetera, you run the

risk if fouling up. That happened here, and though I love the data I hate the package. The only reason I bought it was I was told by Oxford that my earlier edition, which was occasionally coming up garbage rather than English, was not meant to be run with XP. An obligatory upgrade, alas. 23 of 28 people found the following review helpful. The Word Lover's Guidebook By Marc Ruby You wouldn't be here if you didn't love the English language. Thus, I do not need to wax over-eloquently on the joys of investigating words. Of finding their common and rarer meanings and learning their history. Nor do I have to dwell on the great pleasure of knowing that you have used exactly the correct word in its correct context. Whether you are an etymologist, a student, writer, lover of the obscure, or even someone who likes to make a wager now and then, the OED has to be one of your most vital references. Untold man years of effort have gone into the collection and redaction of the atoms of written and spoken English. To peer into the many pages of the OED is to peer into the many corridors of the human mind. Until the popularization of the compact disk, the only way to take this journey was via the ponderous 20 volume set, or the nearly unreadable miniaturized version (magnifying glass included). Now, thanks to modern technology, I can have all this incredible word wizardry on my computer, quickly responsive to my needs and curiosity. The OED arrives as a set of two CDs, one of which contains the software and indices, the other of which holds the definitions and data. Installation was straightforward on my Windows 98, 1 Gigahertz machine, although the software did develop a slight glitch which then went away. The data CD is required for operation. It cannot be copied, unfortunately, which means it must be treated with considerable care and love. It is possible to get a replacement CD once, for a fee. This is an unfortunate arrangement, but one can understand that the publishers wish to prevent the pirating of very valuable data. I would have preferred that they had found a better way to accomplish this. When you initiate the software there is a slight delay while it checks the CD for the copy protection scheme. On my machine this was hardly noticeable, but I see that others have complained about this, so slower drives (mine is 40X) might cause irritation. In use the OED works very much like a web site, providing search facilities and entry lists to aid you in tracking down a word. The entries themselves are displayed clearly, and several options are provided to simplify or extend the display. Cross-reference links are also provided. It is possible to search definitions as well as entries themselves. The CD version of the OED is technically every bit as useful as the paper editions. In some ways it is an improvement. My only complaint is that it lacks the feel of a book. I'm used to letting my eyes range over the pages after looking up a particular word, spelunking, if you will, for new words to add to my personal collection. Browsing is still possible, but it is reduced to an unbookish scanning of the index list. This is a small price to pay for the overall convenience and economy of the CDs, so I will survive it. One other negative is that Oxford University Press has not quite mastered the support of software yet. The support website for the CD edition is promising but incomplete. Resign yourself to having to take on their technical support in a more direct fashion. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By PJH Excellent item, in excellent condition.

The Oxford English Dictionary is the internationally recognized authority on the evolution of the English language from 1150 to the present day. The Dictionary defines over 500,000 words and traces their usage through 2.5 million illustrative quotations from a wide range of literary and other sources. It is an unsurpassed guide to the meaning, pronunciation, and history of the English language. This new version of The Oxford English Dictionary (Second Edition) on CD-ROM thus offers unparalleled access to the world's most important reference work for the English language. The text of this version has been augmented with the inclusion of the Oxford English Dictionary Additions Series (Volumes 1-3), published in 1993 and 1997, the Bibliography to the Second Edition, and other ancillary material. New Features *The powerful Advanced search makes it possible to make use of the full potential of the OED. Complex search expressions can be built through the use of Boolean operators, case-sensitive searching, exact character searching, restricting searches to previous search results, searching in pronunciations, and an extended range of wildcard options *A new installation option makes it possible to run the Dictionary from the hard disk *The Automatic Look-up feature enables fast access to OED headwords from any Microsoft Office 97 or 2000 application. This feature can be used within the OED CD-ROM itself to look up words in the definition or quotation text System requirements: PC with minimum 200 MHz Pentium-class processor; 32 MB RAM (64 MB recommended); 16-speed CD-ROM drive (32-speed recommended); Windows 95, 98, Me, NT, 2000, or XP (Local administrator rights are required to install and open the OED for the first time on a PC running Windows NT 4 and to install and run the OED on Windows 2000 and XP); 1.1 GB hard disk space to run the OED from the CD-ROM and 1.7 GB to install the CD-ROM to the hard disk: SVGA monitor: 800 x 600 pixels: 16-bit (64k, high color) setting recommended.

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