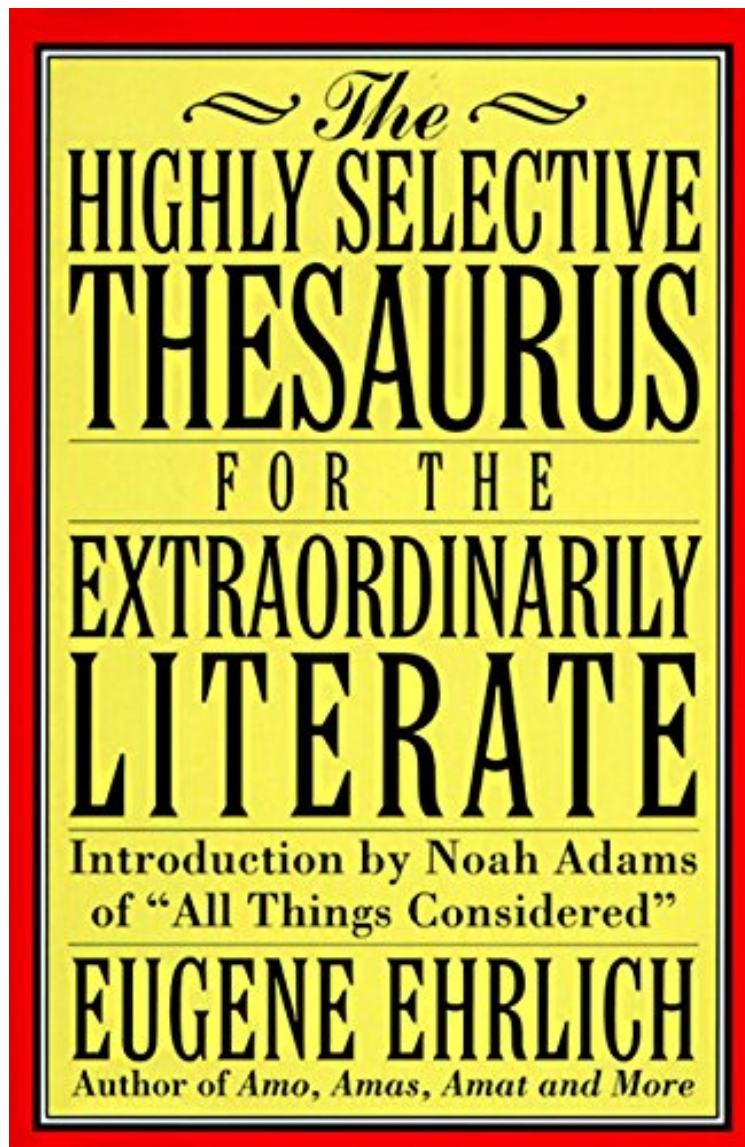


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## The Highly Selective Thesaurus for the Extraordinarily Literate (Highly Selective Reference)

*Eugene Ehrlich*

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**Eugene Ehrlich : The Highly Selective Thesaurus for the Extraordinarily Literate (Highly Selective Reference)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Highly Selective Thesaurus for the Extraordinarily Literate (Highly Selective Reference):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Disappointingly limited and inaccurate  
By JG  
Terribly disappointing. I am designing a game and was looking for a good thesaurus with unusual and archaic words. When I cracked this book open I was immediately surprised at the paucity of available words. My guess is that this was not created in a comprehensive manner like most others- it has the feeling of being compiled backwards, as if the author kept a notebook of odd words he ran into and eventually said "Oh, I guess I should make a thesaurus." In addition to the word selection being grossly limited, many of the entries are just plain wrong. I looked at the synonyms for "survivor" and one of the options was "hibakusha". If you aren't aware, that word is the Japanese term for survivors of the atomic bomb, and not used euphemistically or for survivors of other things. The author's bio mentions that he spent a significant amount of time in Japan, making that error inexcusable and confirming my theory that this was not a serious lexicographical project, but rather a halfassed money grab.  
9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Very useful, but take caution  
By Le Panda Du Mal  
This is a very useful thesaurus that definitely fills a gap left by normal thesauri. However, Ehrlich often picks words that are not really synonyms but more like particular examples or even vaguely related terms. For instance, under "priest" he gives, as a synonym, "bacchante." Sorry, but a bacchante is a female worshipper of Dionysus. I can't really think of any instances where "bacchante" would be a good synonym for "priest", even if you're speaking figuratively. Another example- under "street," he gives "cul-de-sac" (is that really such an obscure word?). Everyone knows a cul-de-sac is a kind of street, but not a synonym for it. Ehrlich does this again and again, probably because he had difficulty finding enough real synonyms to fill up his book. As Ehrlich himself advises in the preface, if you come across a word you're not familiar with, be sure to look it up in a dictionary before you use it as a synonym.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Britt Hall  
Great product for a great price.. Thank You !!

Anyone looking to improve his or her vocabulary and anyone who loves words will be enthralled by this unique and impressive thesaurus that provides only the most unusual -- or is it recondite? -- words for each entry.

.com If you're serious about writing and speaking language that crackles with delightful and obscure words, then you must have this book. As indicated by the title, it is a selective thesaurus containing 50,000 words and phrases, focusing on the more arcane or colorful choices. The main weakness is lack of cross-referencing, but it is nonetheless a superlative supplement to standard thesauri or synonym dictionaries.  
From Library Journal  
Ehrlich, coeditor of the Oxford American Dictionary, here indulges his obvious love of uncommon words with a short list of terms paired with an idiosyncratic selection of synonyms. Containing fewer than 8000 entries and illustrated with amusing line drawings, it is a fun book to browse. A majority of the entries give only a single synonym, which could be found in a standard paperback thesaurus. While it is intriguing to scan the bizarre and unfamiliar synonyms chosen, the size and selectivity of this work limit its usefulness. Browsers and word collectors will have fun with this little book, but writers and speakers searching for the right word will be better served by a more comprehensive and less quirky thesaurus.  
Paul D'Alessandro, Portland P.L., Me.  
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About the Author  
Eugene Ehrlich wrote and edited numerous reference books on language, including the original Oxford American Dictionary and Amo, Amas, Amat and More.