



Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus

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This new edition of the *Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus* is more exceptional than ever, solidifying its place as the one thesaurus every writer (or aspiring writer) will want to have.

This book provides more than 300,000 synonyms and 10,000 antonyms, with copious real-life example sentences and careful selection and ordering of the most relevant synonyms. Additional features include notes on American English usage and word spectrums showing the shades of meaning between polar opposites. The text is enhanced with thoughtful mini-essays on favorite words by ten noted contemporary writers--David Auburn, Michael Dirda, David Lehman, Erin McKean, Stephen Merritt, Francine Prose, Zadie Smith, Jean Strouse, David Foster Wallace, and Simon Winchester.

This new edition has been updated and enhanced, including a new foreword by award-winning author Rick Moody. Additionally, the second edition introduces new Word Toolkits, which use an exciting visual display of information to demonstrate the nuances in meaning and use of closely related words. Also new to this edition is a center section including thematic word lists, as well as a comprehensive language guide with writing tips. The new features are based on findings from Oxford's groundbreaking language research program and the *Oxford English Corpus*.

The Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus is truly (surely, certainly, unquestionably) the perfect tool for discriminating writers of all varieties looking for the perfect word.

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"In the jargon of sportscasters *The Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus* is a triple threat: It's a freshly conceived guide to finding just the right word, it's published by the greatest name in English reference books, and it offers thoughtful, amusing and provocative mini-essays on 240 favorite words by nine distinguished contemporary writers."

--Michael Dirda, Pulitzer Prize winning critic and longtime journalist for *The Washington Post*

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Editorial Review

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An improvement over sterile word books and scattered online reference works, this succinct and focused thesaurus offers 300,000 synonyms and 100,000 antonyms, with pedagogy sprinkled along the way. A readable layout blends boldface entries and italicized models among word lists and limits dingbats to arrows. The text favors a variety of users. For the beginning writer or student of composition, "Choose the Right Word" notes encourage contrast, such as sterile versus sanitary. "Word Links" advance readers to alternate listings, for example, from reptile to herpetology. "Word Spectrum" sidebars offer a word continuum, as with the scale of terms from plain to fancy, and new "Word Toolkits," a form of cross-referencing, connect the reader to close synonyms, such as daunting and formidable. Signed commentary under "Word Notes" offers insight into how and why connotations collect around words. Some, such as David Lehman's analysis of foundation garments, stray from pedagogy to a cutesy irrelevance. Michael Dirda's definition of patriotic implies that lovers of their homeland are all male. For this edition, the thematic tables of words from architecture, cooking, geography, and other areas have been collected in a "Wordfinder" section in the center of the volume along with a three-page list of archaic terms and a two-page compilation of such artsy terms as troublous and espy. Although the thesaurus does not seem to have grown, and updating appears to be minimal, this edition is easier to read. Recommended for most libraries that did not acquire the first edition as well as for libraries where the first edition is dog-eared.

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From reader reviews:

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