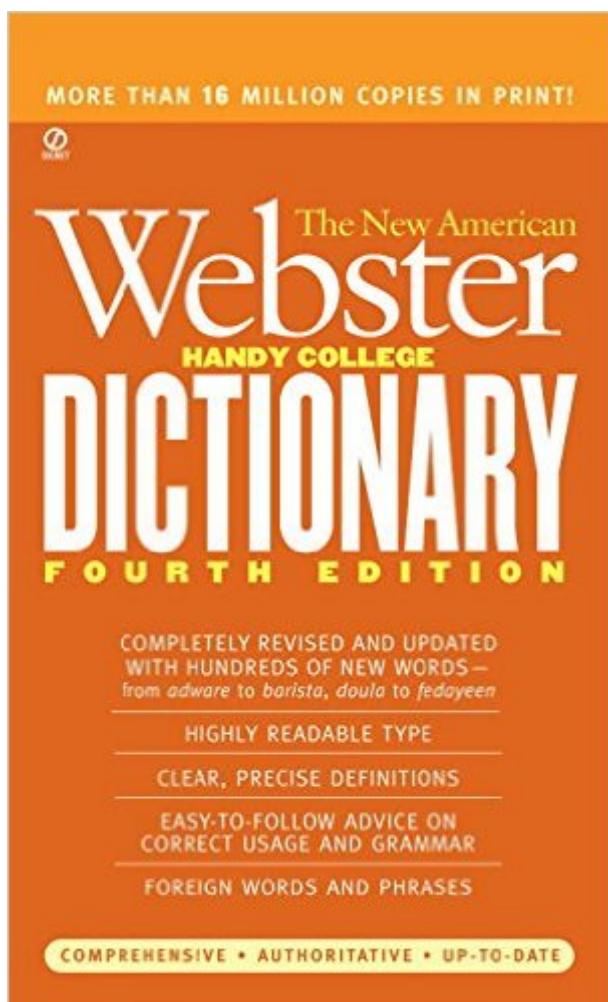


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# The New American Webster Handy College Dictionary: Fourth Edition



## Synopsis

â ª Boxed inserts on etymologies and language usageâ ª Pronunciation key on each pageâ ª Current phrases, slang, and scientific termsâ ª Special notes on word originsâ ª World gazetteerPLUSâ ª Tables of weights and measurementsâ ª Languages and language familiesâ ª Tables of signs and symbolsâ ª Forms of addressâ ª Comprehensive listing of abbreviationsâ |AND MORE!â

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have a BA in History, but that doesn't mean I don't come across words I don't know. I wanted a handy, AUTHORITATIVE book for the nightstand for those odd words that come up in history texts (and, yes, novels). "Strake" is a good example (thank you Bernard Cornwell). That word is not in this book. Neither is the "F" word - ironically, the true touchstone of collegiate work. This book is good for the High School level, but would flunk for any college level. Sad, because Webster's hardcover collegiate is one of the best.

I bought this as a handy way to look up words I was unfamiliar with (BA English Lit) as I read. As I read a popular newsmagazine, a popular British murder mystery and watched a popular TV comedy, I looked up about a dozen words. Only about a third were listed, and a few of those had incomplete or erroneous definitions. VERY disappointing. I guess this could help you spell.

Let's be clear: I'm reviewing "New American Webster Handy College Dictionary, 4th Edition (Newly

Revised)". 's crossed this dictionary's reviews with those of a thesaurus, and I hope is working on a correction. The word "college" in the title is a saddening sign of the times. It might pass in a vo-tech school or a community college, but this one isn't for the Ivy League. In fact, I wouldn't recommend it as a primary resource for even a fairly advanced middle school pupil. Simply put, it's a short dictionary with limited paper to put definitions on. The cover describes the definitions as "clear", but "concise" would be more forthcoming. Here's a simple example of what's wrong with this dictionary: sup"pos"-i-ti'tious [pronunciation] adj. 1, pretended; spurious. 2, supposed. Also, sup"po-si'tious [pronunciation] My problem here is that this dictionary missed the essential difference between the words suppositious and supposititious. The former essentially means "supposed", while the latter implies intent of fraud -- which in light of the publisher's claims for this dictionary seems strangely appropriate.

Very good and handy little dictionary. I look up a lot of old or unusual words and have found just about everything in this book. I also like the little boxes on almost every page explaining differences in usage between similar sounding words. And they also contain interesting information of the origin of some words. Definitions are succinct and to the point. It is also the right size to thumb through quickly and find what you're looking for.

Pros: Easy to find words. Abbreviations and gazeteer appendices very useful. Cons: This is a pretty good college dictionary, but there have been a number of words that I could not find. For those words, I ended up getting my laptop out and going on line. I docked one star. They mailed me a July, 2006, edition with which I was not very happy about - that's eight years old! Certainly not worth the money I paid. I docked one more star. I do not recommend that you purchase any dictionary that does not provide the publication date. It uses a poor grade of dirty recycled paper. It is not easy to read without bright light. I docked one star. It might be that it's because it's already eight years old, but then it shouldn't be sold that old.

Know the word but can't quite get it from your mind to the page? Can't remember whether it is spelled with an "ie" or a "y"? How about that word than ends with "el", or is that "le"? Are you pretty sure of a word's meaning but you are not 100 % sure? Then this is the book for you.

Excellent dictionary that isn't too big or heavy to carry. Print is easy to read without a magnifier. A great all-around dictionary for anyone!

I discovered my small dictionary next to my computer was so old it didn't have the word I wanted to look up. I love my new Webster and it did have my word in it. Thanks.

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