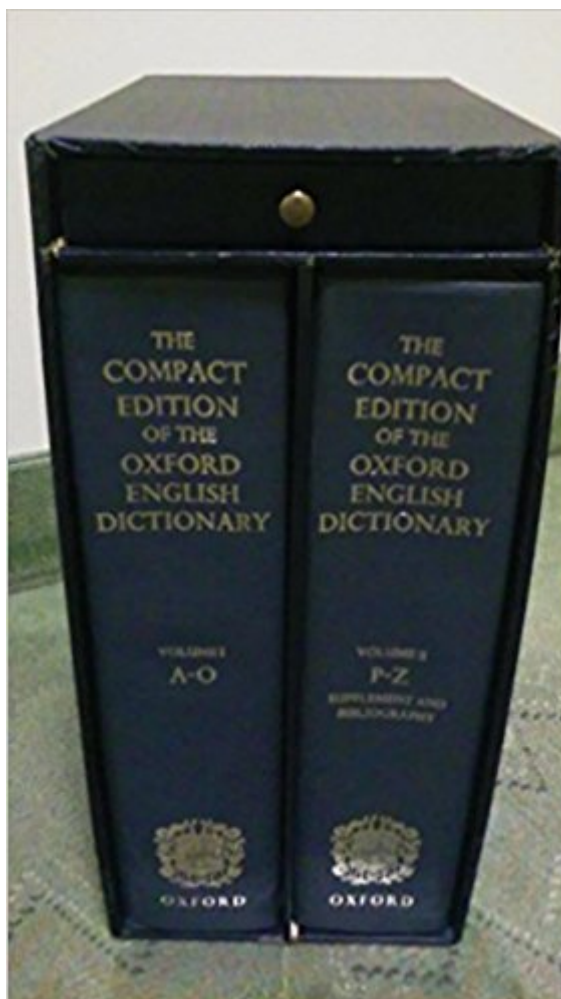


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I bought this photoreduced version of the O.E.D. when it first came out. I use it nearly every day and, in short, don't know what I would do without it. One viewer wrote of having problems since a

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I am an English composition major and therefore have a certain level of love for English dictionaries. There is no better dictionary than the Oxford English Dictionary which compiles a comprehensive list of words from every English speaking country in the world. This dictionary also includes a detailed etymology of words, which includes both the evolving meaning of the word and examples of works from the time period referenced. The full version of the OED is around 20 volumes long and costs around \$1,500-\$2,000. This compact edition is two volumes with four micrographed pages from the original on each page. The words are obviously very small but legible. Most also include a magnifying glass. For someone who wants this dictionary for its function, rather than just to take up space on a book shelf, the compact version is an amazing compromise. I paid around \$80 after shipping for mine, which is in a well used condition, but I have used it so many times since purchasing it. I love it.

English intellectuals have no sense of practical use; this is one difficult reference to use. Admittedly, it's got every word ever used in English since Chaucer, but it's ghastly to use. Be warned. The origin of the word and especially the pronunciation are excruciatingly difficult to figure out. Incidentally, I bought a used set, and it came without a hand lens. Harbor Freight (if you have one near you) sells a decent replacement for the Bausch and Lomb lens for \$2.

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