

<<剑桥美国英语词典>>

图书基本信息

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内容概要

本书收录了4万余条最常用的美国英语单词和短语，兼有英国英语和加拿大英语中的重要词条。反映了经济、教育、艺术和科技等社会生活各方面的最新发展。

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媒体关注与评论

Preface The ancient Romans said that in matters of language, usage is more powerful than Caesar. Their language was Latin, but this saying applies to English at the end of the 20th century as well. There is no central authority that decides what is and is not correct; it is all those who speak and write English, either as their first language or as a language they have learned later in life, who determine the ways in which the language grows and changes. This dictionary describes the ways American English is used now--what words mean, how they are pronounced, their usual grammatical behavior, and typical contexts in which they appear. It was written using the Cambridge International Corpus, a computerized collection that includes some 100 million words of written and spoken American English taken from recent books, magazines, newspapers, radio and television broadcasts, and even telephone conversations. This resource provides substantial evidence of how words are used, which allows dictionary writers to describe the language accurately and to give examples that are based on genuine, present-day writing and speech. The Cambridge Dictionary of American English has a number of features that make it a very user-friendly dictionary: **GUIDEWORDS** help you find the meaning of a word you are looking for; **LANGUAGE PORTRAITS** explain the complexities of English, from "Addresses" to "Zero"; **IDIOMS** and **COMPOUNDS** are defined within the entry for their first important word; the **IDIOMS INDEX** helps you find an idiom even if you only can remember part of it; **USAGE LABELS** tell you when a word is appropriate, and when it is not; **USAGE NOTES** give additional information about a word; and **FULL COVERAGE** of the words and phrases that students of American English will want to look up. Every effort has been made to make this book the most accurate, realistic, up-to-date, and helpful tool of its kind. Like many types of tools, it will become even more useful as you become more familiar with it. The following pages explain the various features of CDAE and how to make the dictionary work for you. We hope this book will help you to master the challenging language known as English, so that your usage will help influence the ways in which it changes and grows during the 21st century. Paul Heacock
Managing Editor June 1999

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