

Lecture 8

Fundamentals of English Lexicography

Plan:

1. Encyclopedic and linguistic dictionaries. Classification of linguistic dictionaries.
2. Basic problems of dictionary-compiling.
3. Learner's dictionaries and some problems of their compilation.

- *Dictionaries are like watches: the worst is better than none and the best cannot be expected to be quite true.*

Samuel L. Johnson

**1. Encyclopedic and
linguistic dictionaries.**

**Classification of linguistic
dictionaries**

Lexicography:

the science of dictionary
compiling

Lexicography is closely connected with Lexicology



The object of lexicography and lexicology:
vocabulary of a language

- The material collected in dictionaries is widely used by linguists in their research.
- The principles of dictionary making are always based on linguistic fundamentals.

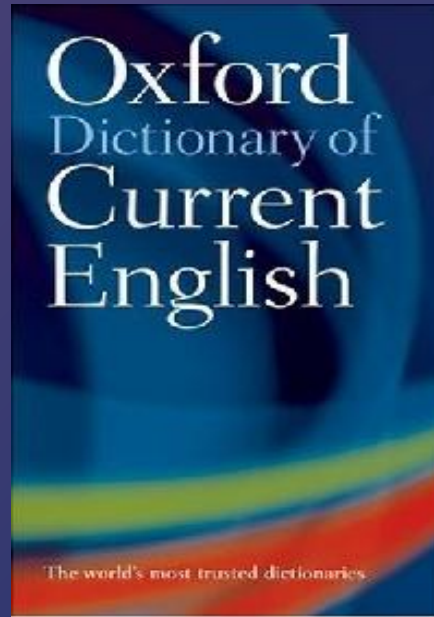
Dictionary:

a wordbook with lists of vocabulary units and their specific semantic, structural and functional characteristics

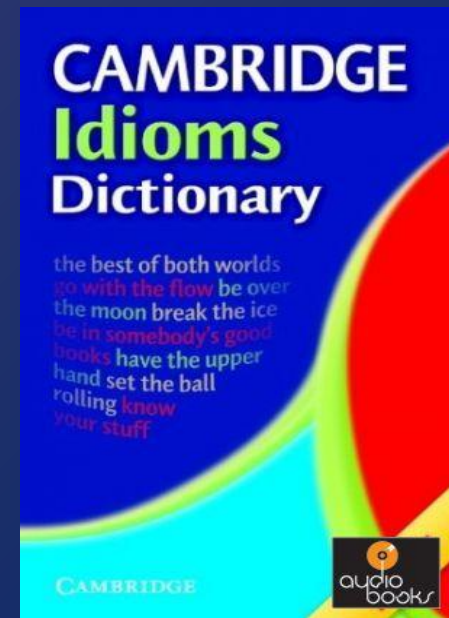
There are about 250
different kinds of
dictionaries and their
typology is not easy.

In Great Britain

- Oxford

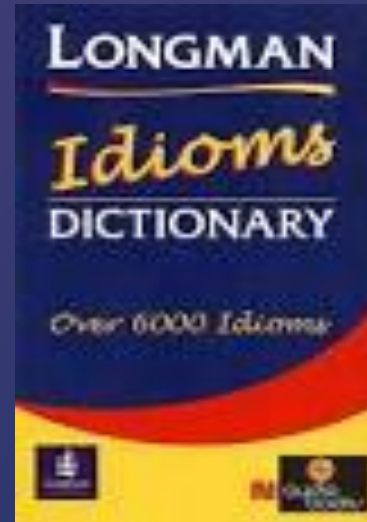


- Cambridge dictionaries

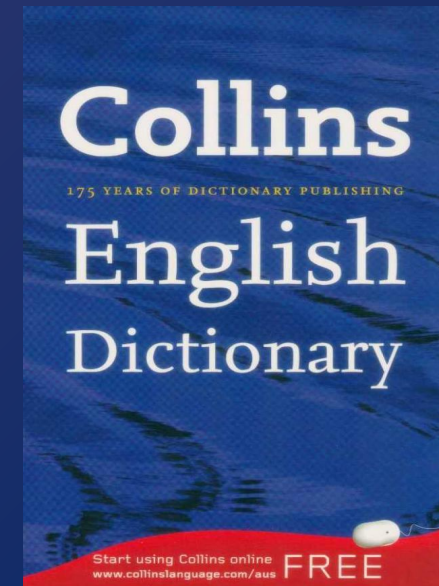


In Great Britain

- Longman

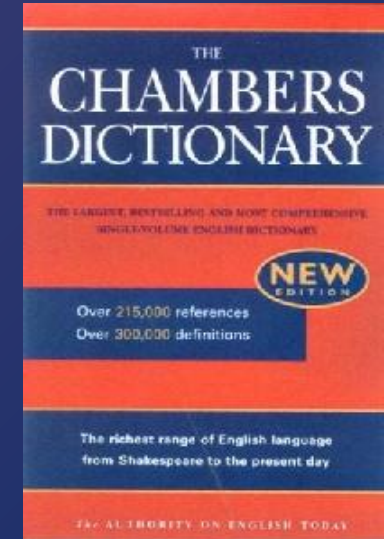


- Collins dictionaries

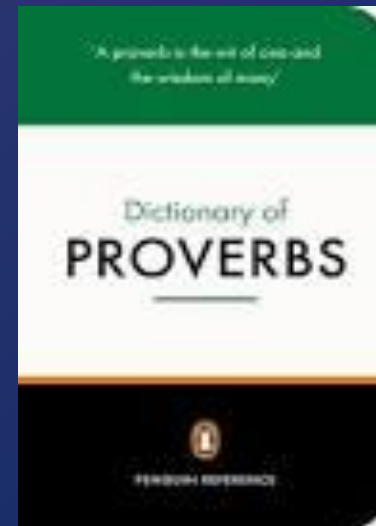


In Great Britain

- Chambers' dictionaries

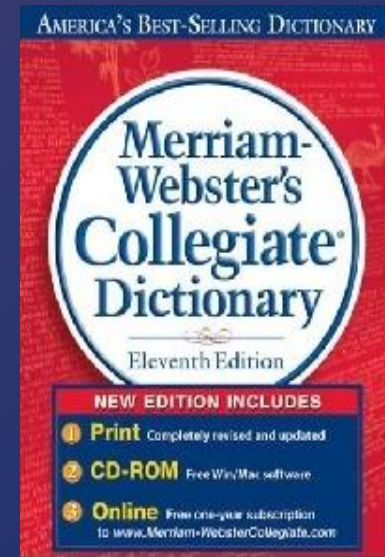


- Penguin dictionaries

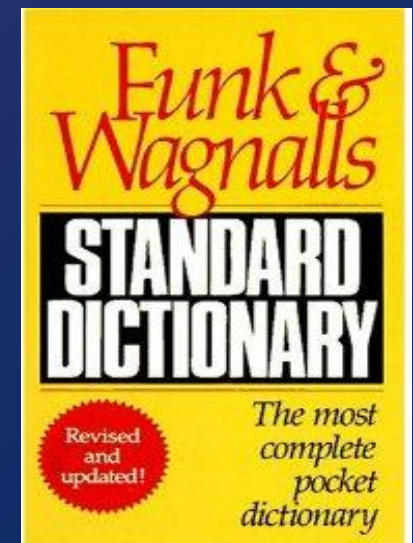


In the USA

- Merriam-Webster's

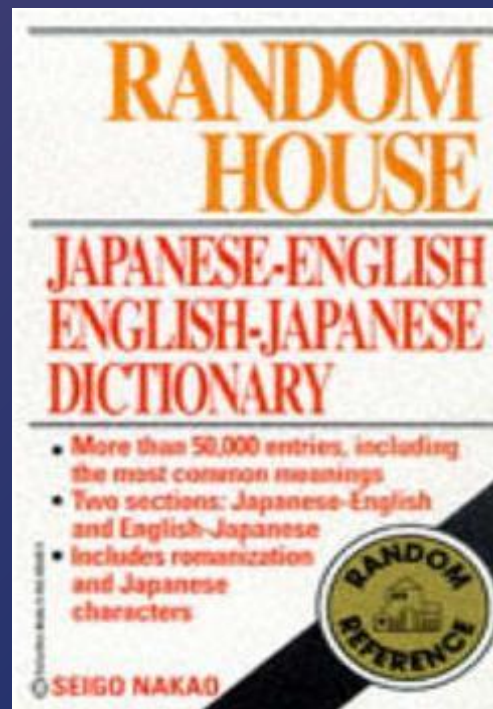


- Funk and Wagnalls Co.



In the USA

- Random house dictionaries



**According to the choice of items
included and the sort of
information given about them:**

- Encyclopedic dictionaries
- Linguistic dictionaries

- Linguistic dictionaries are word-books.

Subject matter: lexical units and their linguistic properties (pronunciation, meaning, peculiarities of use, etc)

- **Encyclopedic dictionaries** are thing-books that give information about the extra-linguistic world.

Subject matter: concepts, their relations to other objects and phenomena, etc.

INFLUENZA

in a linguistic
dictionary:

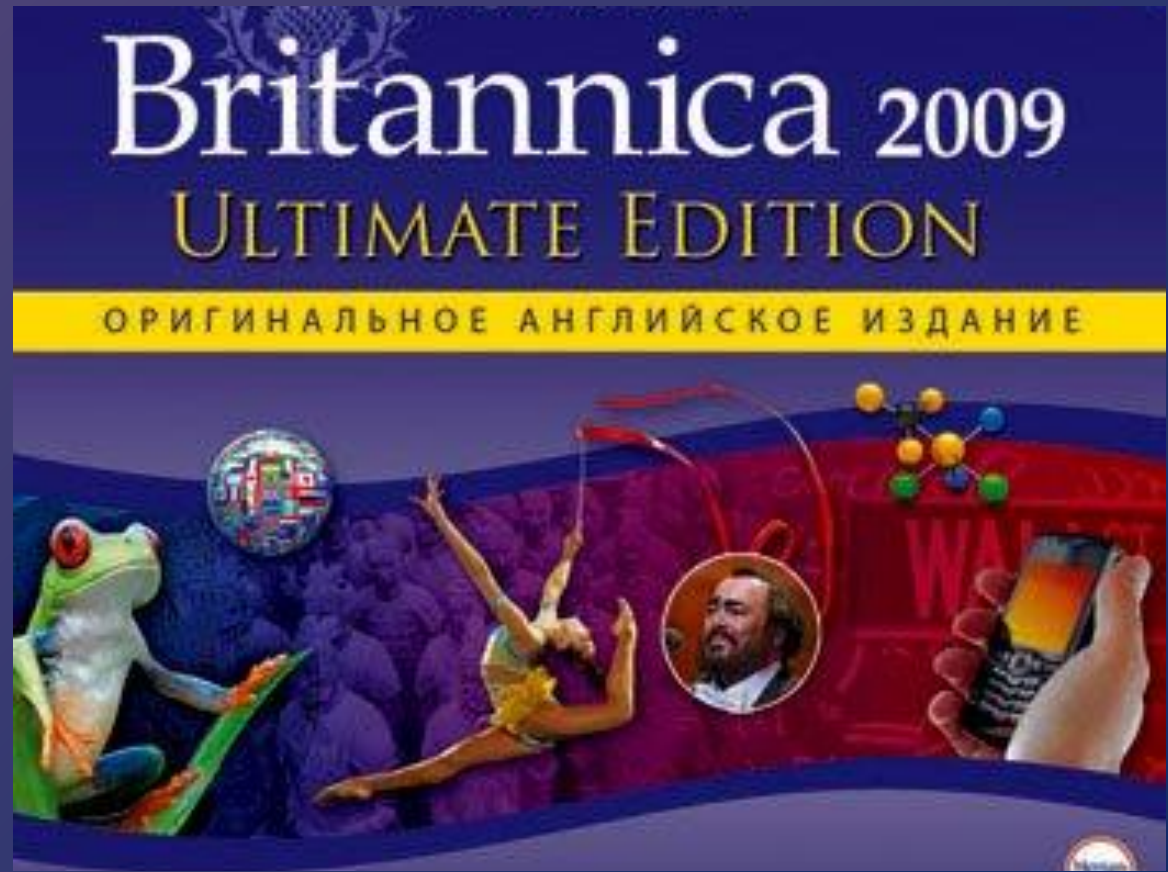
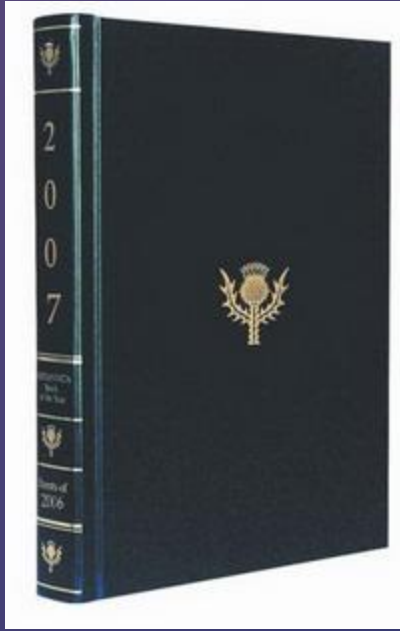


- spelling
- pronunciation
- grammar
- characteristics
- synonyms, etc.

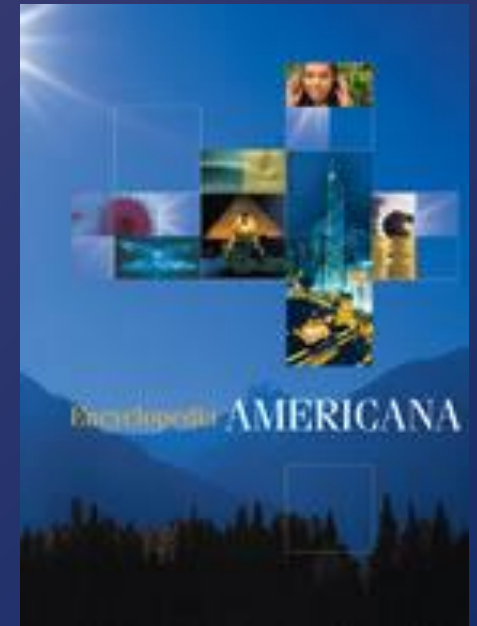
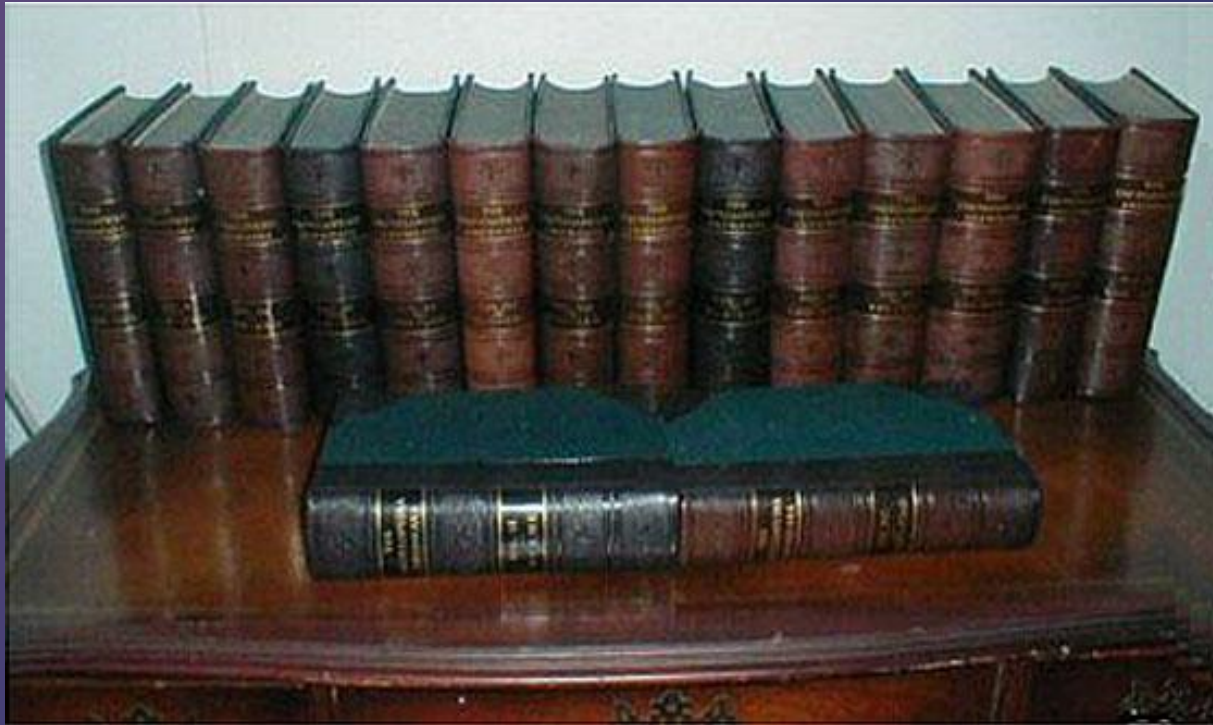
in an encyclopedic
dictionary:



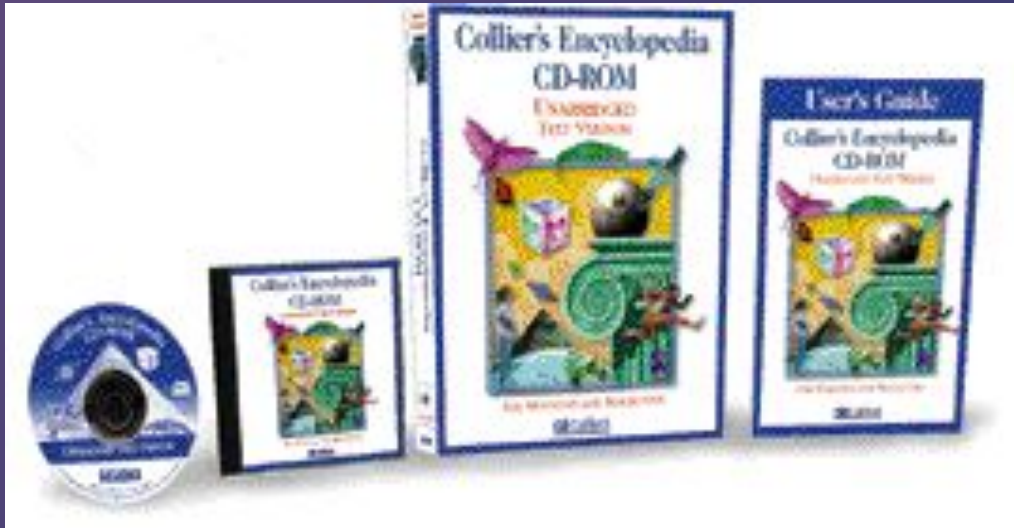
- the causes
- symptoms
- characteristics and varieties of this disease
- treatment, etc.



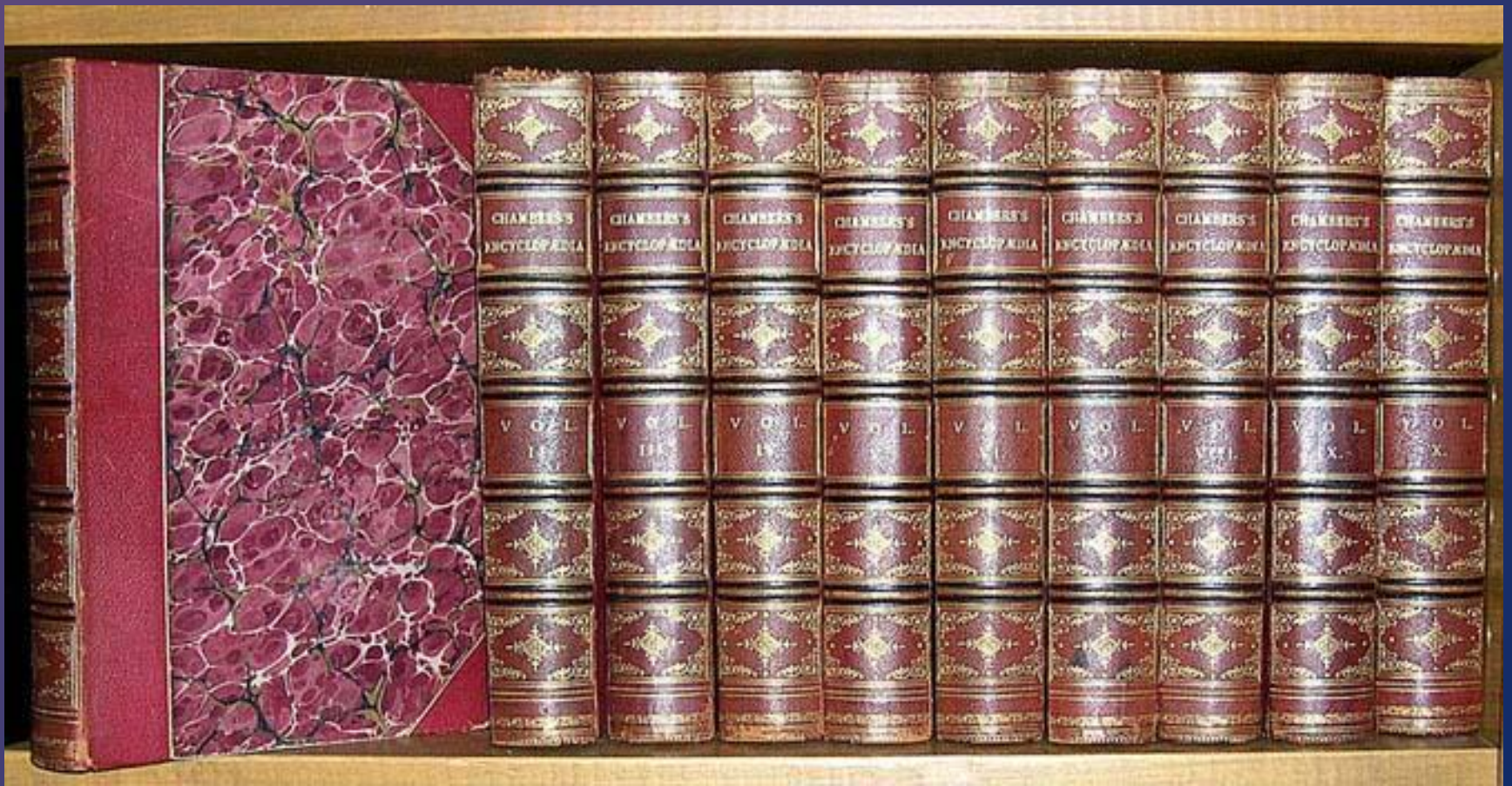
The Encyclopedia Britannica (24 volumes)



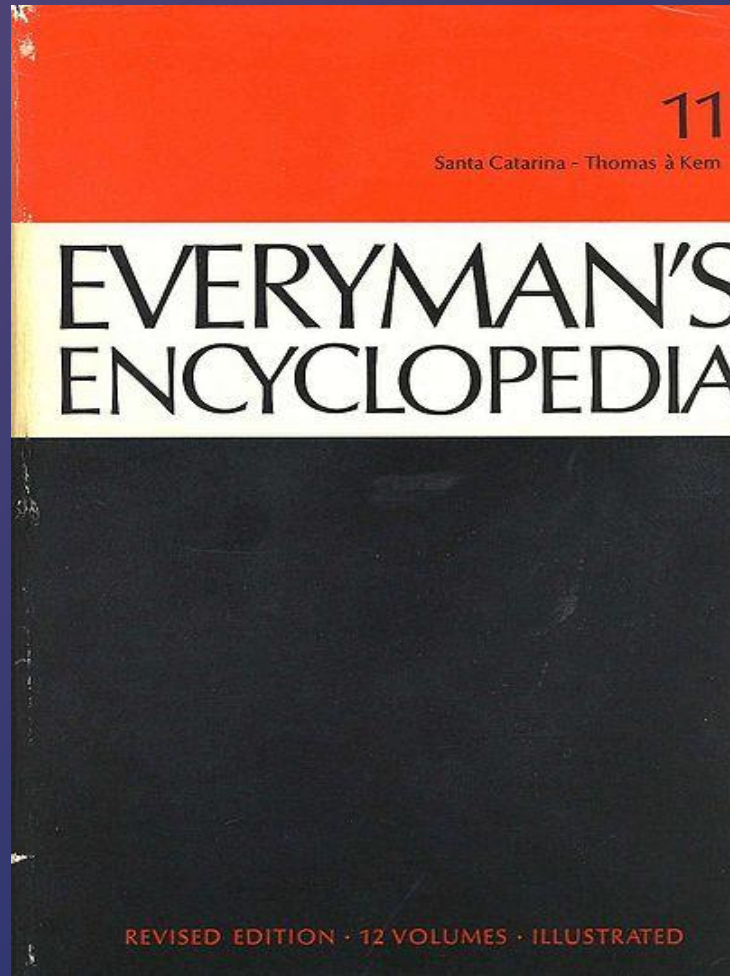
The Encyclopedia Americana (30 volumes)



Collier's Encyclopedia (24 volumes)



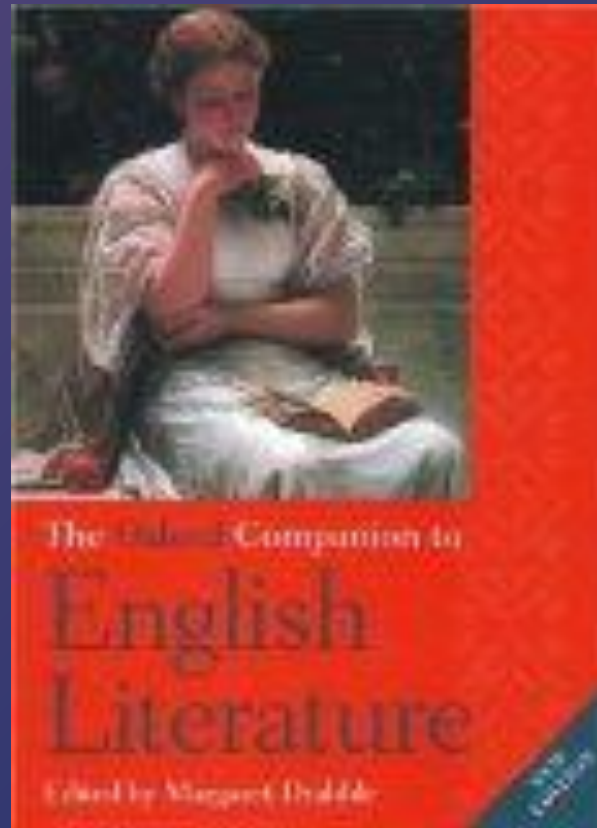
Chamber's Encyclopedia (15 volumes)



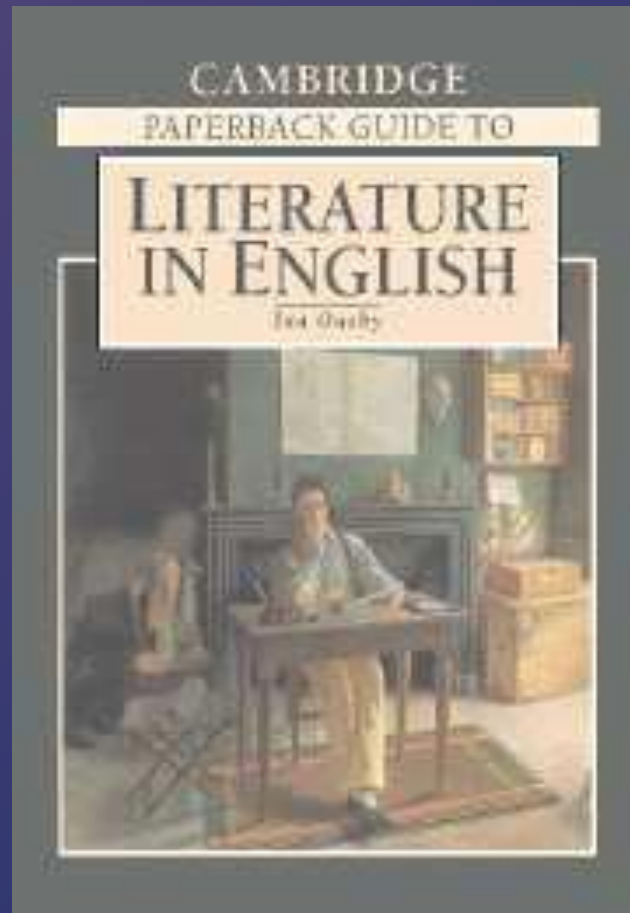
Everyman's Encyclopedia (12 volumes)

Reference books:

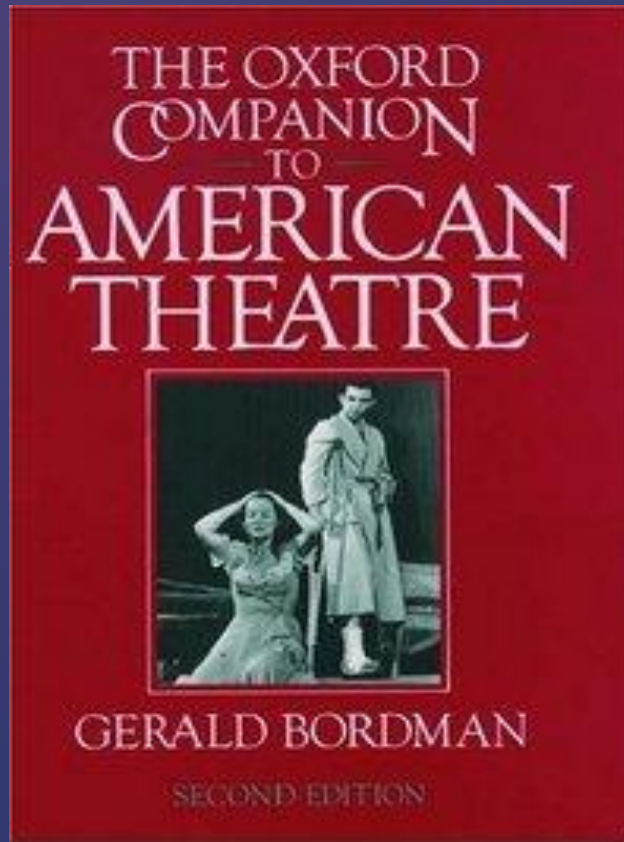
- books confined for definite fields of knowledge



The Oxford Companion to English Literature



CAMBRIDGE PAPERBACK GUIDE TO LITERATURE IN ENGLISH



The Oxford Companion to American Theatre

Encyclopedic and
linguistic dictionaries
often overlap.

Linguistic Dictionaries:

1. nature of the word-list:

- general – contain lexical units in ordinary use with this or that proportion of items from various spheres of life;
- restricted – contain lexical units from a certain part of the word-stock (terminological, phraseological, dialectal, etc.).

2. the information provided:

- explanatory – present a wide range of data, especially with regard to the semantic aspect of the vocabulary items entered;
- specialized – deal with lexical units only in relation to their etymology or frequency or pronunciation.

3. the language:

- monolingual (information is given in the same language);
- bilingual.

No dictionary can be a general-purpose word-book. Each is designed for a certain set of users.

Characterization of a Dictionary:

1. the nature of the word-list;
2. the information supplied;
3. the language of the explanations;
4. the prospective user.

Main types of linguistic dictionaries

Explanatory Dictionaries:

provide information on all aspects of the lexical units entered: graphical, phonetical, grammatical, semantic, stylistic, etymological, etc.

Synchronic: deal with the form, usage and meaning of lexical units in modern English, taking no account of its past development.

- *Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English;*
- *Universal Dictionary of the English Language.*

Diachronic: concerned with the development of words occurring within the written history of the language.

- *New English Dictionary on Historical Principles;*
- *The Shorter Oxford Dictionary on Historical Principles.*

Translation Dictionaries:

word-books containing vocabulary items in one language and their equivalents in another language.

- *New E.-R. Dictionary by Prof. I.R. Galperin;*
- *The E.-R. Dictionary by Prof. V.K. Muller;*
- *The E.-R. Dictionary under Prof. A.I. Smirnitsky.*

Phraseological Dictionaries:

have vast collections of idiomatic or colloquial phrases, proverbs.

- *An E.-R. Phraseological Dictionary by A.V. Kunin*

New Words Dictionaries:

reflect the growth of neologisms in the English language.

Dictionaries of Neologisms:

- *A Dictionary of new English. A Barnhart Dictionary (1973)* (covers the period of time from 1963 – 1972);
- *The Longman Register of New Words (1990)*;
- *Bloomsbury Dictionary of New Words (1996)*;
- *Beyond the Dictionary* by Brian Locket (1998).

Dictionaries of Slang:

contain elements from areas of substandard speech (vulgarisms, jargonisms, taboo words, curse-words, colloquialisms, etc.)

- *Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* by E. Partridge;
- *The Dictionary of American Slang* by H. Wentworth and S.B. Flexner.

Usage Dictionaries:

investigate usage problems of all kinds:

- the difference in meaning between words – *e.g. formality and formalism;*
- give the proper pronunciation of words;
- give the plural forms.
 - *Dictionary of Modern English Usage by N.W. Fowler.*

Dictionaries of Word-frequency:

inform the user about the frequency of occurrence of lexical units in speech.

Reverse Dictionary:

a list of words in which the words are arranged in alphabetical order starting with their final letters.

- *Rhyming Dictionary of the English Language by John Walker.*

Pronouncing Dictionaries:

record contemporary
pronunciation, indicate various
pronunciations.

- *English Pronouncing dictionary by Daniel Jones.*

Etymological Dictionaries:

trace present-day words to the oldest forms available, establish their original meaning, point out the source of borrowing.

- *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*
by C.T. Onions

Ideographic Dictionaries:

contain words grouped by the concepts.

- *Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases by P.M. Roget.*

Dictionaries of Synonyms:

- *A Dictionary of English Synonyms and Synonymous Expressions* by R. Soule;
- *Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms*;
- The best known bilingual dictionary of synonyms is *English Synonyms* compiled by Y. Apresyan.

Types of dictionaries

Aspect	Dictionaries
Semantics	Explanatory
Word –structure	Reverse dictionaries
Semantic ties	Ideographic dictionaries
Combinability with a) free collocations b) set collocability	a) dictionaries of collocations b) phraseological dictionaries
Division according to a) similarity of meaning b) polarity of meaning	a) dictionaries of synonyms b) dictionaries of antonyms
Value of occurrence	Frequency dictionaries

2. Basic problems of dictionary-compiling

Some basic problems of dictionary-compiling

1. Selection of lexical units
2. Arrangement of entries
3. Selection and arrangement of meanings
4. Definition of meanings
5. Illustrative examples
6. Choice of adequate equivalents
7. Setting of the entry
8. Structure of the dictionary

1. Selection of Lexical Units

No dictionary of any size can register all lexical units.

The Choice of Lexical Units Depends upon:

- the type of the dictionary;
- the aim of the compiler;
- the user of the dictionary.

A Dictionary Compiler Chooses:

- the type of lexical units;
- the number of items;
- what to select and what to leave out in the dictionary.

2. Arrangement of Entries

Types of Arrangement:

- 1) **alphabetical**: the basic units are given as main entries that appear in alphabetical order while the derivatives are given as subentries or in the same entry (run-outs).

Run-outs – in the same entry

- *despicable, adj. Vile, contemptible*

Hence – LY adv.

Subentry – includes definitions

- *despicable adj. that is or should be despised; contemptible. despicably, adv. in a despicable manner.*

Advantage: easy finding of any word and establishing its meaning, frequency value, etc.

Types of Arrangement:

2) **cluster type**: words are arranged in nests, based on this or that principle

Advantage: it requires less space and presents a clear picture of the relations of this unit with other words.

3. Selection and Arrangement of Meanings

The number of meanings and their choice depend on:

- the aim of compilers;
- their decisions about archaic, dialectical words, etc.

Diachronic dictionaries list more meanings than synchronic dictionaries.

3 ways of meaning arrangement:

- in the sequence of historical development (historical order);
- frequency of use (empirical or actual order);
- logical connection (logical order).

4. Definition of Meanings

Types of definitions:

- 1. encyclopedic definition** – determine not only the word-meaning, but also the underlying concepts;
- 2. descriptive definitions or paraphrases** – determine only the word-meaning;

Types of definitions:

3. **synonymous words and expressions** – consist of words or word-groups with nearly equivalent meaning;
4. **by means of cross-references.**
 - *decrescendo = diminuendo*
 - *waggle = wiggle*

5. Illustrative Examples

- Diachronic dictionaries: quotations are drawn from literary sources.
- Synchronic: from classical or contemporary sources.

6. Choice of Adequate Equivalents

It is one of the major
problems in compiling
translation dictionaries.

The dictionary-maker is to give the most exact equivalent in the target language.

When there is no equivalent →
by means of a descriptive
explanation or transliteration.

7. Setting of the Entry

Explanatory Dictionaries of Synchronic Type Contain:

- accepted spelling and pronunciation;
- grammatical characteristics (a part of speech, irregular grammatical forms);
- definitions of meanings;

- modern currency
- illustrative examples
- derivatives
- phraseology
- etymology
- synonyms and antonyms

Explanatory Dictionaries of Diachronic Type Include:

- chronological arrangement of entries
- the etymology of the word
- the dates which indicate the time of the 1st registration of the word or its last registration

8. Structure of the Dictionary

Parts of a dictionary:

- 1. introduction or preface** (some separate sections designed to help the user in handling the dictionary);

2. **dictionary itself;**
3. **addendum** (usually contains a key to pronunciation, the list of abbreviations, geographical and personal names, etc.)

3. Learner's dictionaries and some problems of their compilation

Learner's Dictionaries:

- specially compiled dictionaries to meet the demands of the learners for whom English is not their mother tongue

7th edition

Oxford ADVANCED LEARNER'S Dictionary



NEW
Oxford 3000™
Vocabulary
Trainer

COLLINS
COBUILD

LEARNER'S DICTIONARY

Helping learners with real English



THE COBUILD SERIES *from* THE BANK OF ENGLISH

NEW

Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary

Third Edition



CAMBRIDGE

Features:

- a strictly limited word-list;
- a great attention to the functioning of lexical units in speech;
- a strong normative character of the lexical units included;
- their compilation is focused on the native linguistic background of the user.

Problems of The Compilation

1. the selection of entry words

- information of currently accepted usage;
- no archaic, dialectal words;
- only the most accepted pronunciation forms;
- words are chosen on the frequency principle.

2. the arrangement of meanings

- the actual order (the main meanings before minor ones),
- literal uses before special,
- easily understandable uses before difficult.

3. the definition of meanings

- descriptive definitions are mostly used;
- encyclopedic definitions and cross-references are rare;
- definitions are in simple terms.

4. setting of the entry

The attention is to the ways words are used in speech.

5. the supplementary

lists of irregular verbs, common abbreviations, geographical names, etc.



- common forenames,
- numerical expressions,
- the works of William Shakespeare, etc.

List of Literature:

1. Воробей, А. Н. Глоссарий лингвистических терминов / А. Н. Воробей, Е. Г. Карапетова. – Барановичи : УО "БарГУ", 2004. – 108 с.
2. Дубенец, Э. М. Современный английский язык. Лексикология : пособие для студ. гуманитар. вузов / Э. М. Дубенец. – М. / СПб. : ГЛОССА / КАРО, 2004. – С. 179–184.
3. Лексикология английского языка : учебник для ин-тов и фак-тов иностр. яз. / Р. З. Гинзбург [и др.] ; под общ. ред. Р. З. Гинзбург. – 2-е изд., испр. и доп. – М. : Высш. школа, 1979. – С. 210–233.
4. Лещева, Л. М. Слова в английском языке. Курс лексикологии современного английского языка : учебник для студ. фак-в и отдел. английского языка (на англ. яз.) / Л. М. Лещева. – Минск : Академия управления при Президенте Республики Беларусь, 2001. – С. 136–153.