ROGET'S II THE NEW THE SAURUS

By the editors of

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY





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PREFACE

Roget's II: The New Thesaurus is an entirely new work and represents a significant change from traditional thesaurus making. The lexicographic staff of Houghton Mifflin Company, publishers of The American Heritage Dictionary, has recognized the problems encountered by thesaurus users. Complex index referencing systems have burdened the user's search, and word groupings by vague meanings have confounded selection of suitable words. Consequently Roget's II has been carefully prepared to provide rapid access to synonyms, which are grouped by precise meanings, facilitating the choice of appropriate words to express thoughts.

For ease of use and clarity in word selection Roget's II is organized in an innovative format. In the left-hand column of each page all entries are arranged in alphabetical order and are classified by part of speech. Every word is accurately defined, as is each sense of a word for which more than one meaning has been included. Sentences and phrases using the entry words in context provide guidance in usage. In the right-hand column synonyms and idioms are listed alphabetically within groups and are presented

adjacent to each defined meaning of each discrete sense.

Secondary entries are included in the single alphabetical listing and are also precisely defined. They are directionally cross-referred to main entries with full synonym presentation. This efficient system eliminates the need for complicated indexes and redundant listings.

Since Roget's II defines all entry words and their corresponding synonyms, the work is self-contained. Therefore the user does not need to verify a meaning by consulting a

dictionary. Controversial synonyms are labeled, providing usage guidance.

It is intended that Roget's II be a source of appropriate words to express thoughts or ideas, guiding the user away from the common pitfall of selecting an unsuitable word. Consequently only synonyms and near-synonyms are exhaustively listed. Related words, opposites, and near-opposites are excluded for reasons of clarity and accuracy.

New computerized editing and typesetting technology have supplemented the traditional methods of lexicography in preparing *Roget's II*. The manuscript typesetting, alphabetizing, final cross-referencing, and accuracy-verification functions were accomplished by computer programs developed by LEHIGH/ROCAPPI. Our special thanks go to Joseph V. Gangemi, Robert L. Cagey, Richard J. Bossler, and Joseph F. O'Donnell for their invaluable guidance, assistance, and cooperation at all stages of this unprecedented effort in the field of reference-work publishing.

Research and investigation for this thesaurus began five years ago. On the basis of experience gained during the preparation of the American Heritage Dictionaries, it was believed that a new thesaurus could provide the user with the kind of clear guidance found in these dictionaries. The concept of grouping synonyms by precise dictionary-style definitions was conceived. The editors worked with consultant Robert Masters to explore new ideas for organization and presentation of synonyms. Houghton Mifflin's dictionary staff was aided by the work of independent lexicographers in the development of this work in accordance with the new, user-oriented thesaurus concept.

An abiding objective of our word-reference publishing is to provide authoritative information about our language and guidance in its effective use. We believe Roget's II.

The New Thesaurus will serve the user well in selecting the right words to express

thoughts precisely and to add color and variety to expression.

INTRODUCTION

Roget's II: The New Thesaurus is a book devoted entirely to meaning. In contrast to the old-fashioned thesaurus, which groups undifferentiated synonyms, near-synonyms, and related words together with an undefined entry word, this book provides an analysis—a definition—of the meaning or meanings of each entry word in the book. Synonyms are grouped according to meaning. What, then, is meaning?

Meaning

The meaning of even a single word is rather more complex than one might imagine. The most obvious aspect of meaning is *denotation*, that is, the thing meant, the concept or object referred to. The denotation of the word *chair*, for example, is that it is a piece of furniture, that it has a seat, legs, a back, and often arms, and that one person can sit on it. So long as it has these features, a person can identify a chair as a chair irrespective of the fact that it may be big or small, made of chrome or wood, upholstered or caned—in short, no matter what other features it may have. Furthermore, a chair is distinct from all other pieces of furniture upon which one can sit. It is different from a stool because a stool is backless and armless. It is different from a couch, on which one or more may recline, and different from a chaise longue, which has a seat long enough to support the outstretched legs of the sitter. Thus the denotation of a word includes those features that are criterial and so serve to define and distinguish.

In addition to its denotation, a word may have a connotation, that is, the configuration of suggestive or associative implications constituting the general sense of an expression beyond its literal sense. Differences of style, expressiveness, and other characteristics such that a given term conveys a given denotation more—or less—formally, colorfully, humorously, and the like, constitute the connotations of the word. For example, both mouth and trap denote the opening in the body through which food is ingested. Mouth, however, is what might be called a neutral term; it conveys information but has no connotations. Trap, on the other hand, is a slang word and is often considered to be somewhat vulgar. An alcoholic drinks habitually and to excess, and the word is

neutral; *lush*, however, is a slang term with pejorative overtones.

Words expressive of emotion frequently have connotations, but many that are not emotive also have them. Many sets of words of identical denotation participate in a spectrum of greater to lesser formality. For example, of the cluster transpire, happen, occur, befall, betide, hap, and bechance, all meaning "to take place, come to pass," transpire is the most formal, happen and occur are neutral—nonconnotative; befall and betide have a somewhat archaic flavor; hap is archaic; and bechance is rare. All of these facts beyond the bare denotation of the terms constitute the connotations of these words. In Roget's II labels, such as Informal, Regional, and Slang,

identify restrictions with respect to level or style of usage.

Two or more words may have the same denotation and connotation and yet differ in their range of applicability; that is, they cannot be used interchangeably in the same context. Cancel and vacate, both having the same denotation ("to annul or invalidate") and both being nonconnotative, can nevertheless not be used interchangeably, because vacate is a legal term. One might cancel a magazine subscription, but one would hardly vacate it. Extension and production both refer to the act of making something longer, but production is used only in geometry, whereas extension applies generally. Slowly and adagio have the same denotation, but adagio is a technical term in music. Terms of restricted range of applicability are identified in Roget's II by such labels as Architecture, Mythology, or Journalism.

Synonymy and Synonyms

Given the complexity of meaning, a person searching for an alternative word must be sure that the synonym chosen is accurate and precise. Because of its emphasis on the meaning or meanings of a word Roget's II is specifically designed to offer the user a choice of synonyms that lie within the

denotative range of the word or sense of the word with which they correspond.

A synonym is a word that differs in form from but has a meaning identical or very similar to that of another word. It is often said that there is no such thing as an absolute synonym for any word, that is, a form that is identical in every aspect of meaning so that the two can be applied interchangeably. According to this extreme view the only true synonyms are terms having precisely the same denotation, connotation, and range of applicability. As it turns out, these so-called true synonyms are frequently technical terms and almost always concrete words coming from linguistically disparate sources. Good examples of such pairs are celiac (from Greek)/abdominal (from Latin) and car (from Latin)/automobile (from French). These meet the criteria for true synonymy: they have precisely the same denotations, connotations, and range of applicability, and they are used in identical contexts.

This view of synonymy is far too restrictive, however. In Roget's II synonymous terms are those having nearly identical denotations. English, because of its linguistic history and its large wordstock, is rich in such words. Speakers very often have a choice from among a set of words of differing origin but the same denotation. A man may be bearded (from Old English), barbate (from Latin), bewhiskered (from Scandinavian), or whiskered (from Scandinavian). One may go to the shore (from Middle Low German), the coast (from Latin), or the littoral (from Latin). One can refer to the sense of hearing (from Old English) or to the acoustic (from Greek), auditory (from Latin), aural (from Latin), or auricular (from Latin) sense. One can make clothing from cloth (from Germanic), fabric (from Latin), material (from Latin), or textiles (from Latin). The reason for choosing one of these words over another is frequently stylistic: one may prefer a simpler or a more complex word; one may prefer a more formal or a less formal term. But the fact that they share a denotation makes them synonymous and available as substitutes for words one has in mind so that one can be more precise, express oneself more colorfully, or avoid repetition. All of the terms included in the synonymies in Roget's II share the same denotation.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The Entries

fall through verb

fall noun

Roget's II: The New Thesaurus contains five kinds of entries introduced by boldface head words: main entries having synonym lists, indented subentries in smaller type representing very close historical relatives and derivatives of the main entries, secondary entries referring you to the main-entry synonym lists, and directional cross-reference entries guiding you from secondary to primary variant spellings and from secondary entries to synonymized subentries.

ian verb	
1. To move downward in response to gravity: Apples	1. Syns: descend, drop.
fell from the tree.	**********
$\cdots \cdots $	
fall down perb	
Informal. To be unsuccessful.	FAIL.
fall off verb	
1. To slope downward.	1. DROP.

fallacy noun	
1. An erroneous or false idea: an educational	1. Syns: erroneousness, error,
philosophy grounded on fallacy.	fallaciousness, falsehood, falseness,
principling grownian on juniory.	falsity, untruth.
	,,
fall down verb	SEE fall.
falsity neun	
1. An erroneous or false idea.	1. FALLACY.
2. Betrayal, esp. of a moral obligation.	2. FAITHLESSNESS.
3. An untrue declaration.	3. LIE ² noun.
F. L. O. I.	PERSON L
Entry Order	
Main entries, secondary entries, and directional cross- instance, the first entry in this book is aback . It is follow don, abandoned, abandonment, abase, and abash . Subentry order is as follows: two-word verbs derived ally appear as indented subentries directly under the balso alphabetized:	wed in turn by the separate entries aban- I from single-word verb head words usu-
fall verb	
fall down verb	
idili didwii DelD	
fall off verb	
fall on (or upon) verb	

Each of the two-word verb subentries shown above is also entered in directional cross-reference form at its own alphabetical place elsewhere in the book (see "Directional Cross-References").

Components of Main Entries

These are the components of a typical main entry:

destroy verb

- 1. To cause the complete ruin or wreckage of: paintings destroyed by fire; drugs that destroyed her health; news that destroyed his hopes.
- Syns: demolish, destruct, dynamite, finish, ruin, ruinate (Regional), shatter, sink, smash, total, torpedo, undo, wrack, wreck. — Idiom put the kibosh on.

The head word (destroy) is followed on the same line by an italic part-of-speech label (verb). A boldface sense number (in this case 1.) appears in all multisense entries in the left-hand column beneath the head word, followed by a basic meaning element—a concise denotation of the sense shared by the head word and its synonyms. In this example the basic meaning element shared by destroy and its fourteen synonyms is "to cause the complete ruin or wreckage of." The basic meaning element is supplemented by at least one illustrative example showing a typical usage context for the head word and its synonyms. Definition 1 of the main entry destroy contains three italic examples: paintings destroyed by fire, drugs that destroyed her health, and news that destroyed his hopes. These examples show both concrete and figurative uses of destroy. The synonyms are all substitutable for the head word in the example.

In the right-hand column the appropriate sense number (1.) is followed by the italic boldface abbreviation **Syns**, which introduces the list of words synonymous with **destroy**: demolish, destruct, dynamite, finish, ruin, ruinate (*Regional*), shatter, sink, smash, total, torpedo, undo,

wrack, and wreck.

When appropriate, idioms equivalent to the synonyms are shown at the ends of synonym lists. These idioms are phrases with a meaning identical to the basic meaning element shared by all the synonyms. In the entry shown here, "put the kibosh on" is an idiom that is equivalent to **destroy** and its fourteen synonyms.

Components of the Secondary Entries

Secondary entries contain head words, parts of speech, a definition or definitions, and small-capital cross-references to main entries:

ghoul noun

A perversely bad, cruel, or wicked person.

FIEND.

reprove verb

- 1. To castigate for the purpose of improving.
- 2. To criticize for a fault or offense.

- 1. CORRECT verb.
- 2. CALL DOWN at call.

Secondary entries enable you to locate the main entries where full synonym lists are entered. If you have the word ghoul in mind, for instance, but seek a different, better, or more colorful word, you look up ghoul. You see that it is cross-referred to the main entry fiend. When you turn to fiend, you find seven synonyms and one idiom from which to choose:

fiend noun

- 1. A perversely bad, cruel, or wicked person: a fiend who tormented and killed his prisoners.
- Syns: archfiend, beast, ghoul, monster, ogre, tiger, vampire. —Idiom devil incarnate.

If, on the other hand, you start with the word reprove in the sense meaning "to criticize another for a fault or offense," you will find the appropriate cross-reference entry at definition 2 of reprove, directing you to the subentry call down at the main entry call. And at call down there are sixteen synonyms and four idioms from which to choose:

call perh

call down verb

Informal. To criticize for a fault or offense: got called down for failing to meet the deadline.

Syns: admonish, bawl out (Informal), castigate, chastise, chew out (Slang), chide, dress down, lambaste (Slang), rap¹ (Informal), rebuke, reprimand, reproach, reprove, scold, tax, upbraid. —Idioms bring (or call or take) to task, haul (or rake) over the coals, let someone have it, rap on (or over) the knuckles.

Every synonym is entered at its own alphabetical place with a cross-reference to the appropriate main entry.

Subentries

Only the closest historical relatives of head words are indented subentries. For instance, **abandon** noun is a subentry of the verb **abandon**, but **abandonment** is a separate entry. Two-word verbs derived from single-word verbs are shown as subentries of the single-word verbs (as in the case of **call down** at **call**) unless the two-word verbs have themselves generated noun or adjective derivatives. In this case the two-word verb is the head word, and the derivative is its subentry. For example, **fade out** verb is a main entry followed by the subentry **fade-out** noun.

Directional Cross-References

Directional cross-references help you locate subentries of main entries and variant spellings that differ markedly from the spellings of primary variants. For example, **call down**, as noted above, is a subentry at **call**; hence **call down** is also entered in directional cross-reference form at its own alphabetical place in the overall C sequence:

call down verb

SEE call.

By the same token the variant spelling \mathbf{aeon} is shown at its own alphabetical place in the A sequence as

aeon noun

SEE eon.

Variants

Equal and secondary variants are tagged as such in *Roget's II*. An equal variant is a spelling of a word that is just as acceptable as the primary spelling. Equal variants of synonyms and idioms in synonym lists are signaled by use of the italic connective *or*:

down-at-heel or down-at-the-heel

A secondary variant is a spelling that is less common than the primary form but nevertheless acceptable. Secondary variants are signaled in synonym lists by parentheses plus the italic connective *also*:

lese majesty (also lèse majesté) dialogue (also dialog)

Some words have more than one variant. These, too, are shown:

naive (also naïve, naif, naïf)

All such variants are given at main- and secondary-entry head words in synonym lists.

When a single idiom can be worded in a variety of ways, the variant wordings are given parenthetically. For instance, the idiom in the synonym list at definition 4 of **fall** verb is: take a fall (or header or plunge or spill or tumble).

Homographs

A homograph is a word that is spelled the same as another word but that differs in meaning and origin and may differ in pronunciation or syllabication. Homographs are signaled by superscript numerals following the words to which they refer. Homograph numbers are used in head words, cross-references, and synonym lists:

fell1 verb

1. To bring down, as with a saw or ax.

1. CUT verb.

fell² adjective

Showing or suggesting a disposition to be violently destructive without scruole or restraint.

FIERCE.

fell³ noun

The skin of an animal.

HIDE² noun.

In the synonym lists at **cut**, **fierce**, and **hide**² the synonyms are styled as fell¹, fell², and fell³, respectively. Notice also that the cross-reference to HIDE² contains the proper homograph number for that main entry.

Labels

You don't need to consult a dictionary when you use Roget's II because all words requiring labels have been clearly tagged in synonym lists and in main and secondary entries. The kinds of labels used in this book are temporal labels (Archaic, Obs.), usage labels (Informal, Slang, and Poetic), dialect labels (such as Regional and Chiefly Regional), language labels (such as French, Brit., and Chiefly Brit.), field labels (such as Law and Motion Pic. & T.V.), and status labels (such as Rare).

Archaic labels are used with words once common but now characteristic of a style no longer prevalent in spoken and written English. For example, affright, meaning "to fill with fear," is an archaic synonym of frighten and is labeled as such. Obs., for "obsolete," indicates that a term is used only in quotation or intentional archaism. For instance, the obsolete term affectionated, meaning "feeling and expressing affection," is labeled (Obs.). Roget's II contains very few archaic and obsolete terms.

Usage labels such as Informal, Slang, and Poetic indicate various levels of usage and styles of expression that may or may not be appropriate in all contexts or situations. Informal generally applies to those words that are commonly used in the spoken language and in ordinary writing but that might not be considered appropriate in very formal or official context or circumstances. The word chummy, for example, carries an Informal label in the synonym list at friendly, and dizzy, meaning "given to lighthearted silliness," carries the same label when it appears in the synonym list at sense 1 of giddy. Slang, on the other hand, is a style of language characteristic of very casual speech. Slang comprises words and special senses of words denoting things in an exceptionally vivid, humorous, irreverent, or sarcastic manner. For example, in the synonym list at die the following terms bear Slang labels: check out, croak, kick in, and kick off. The label Poetic applies to words most often used in verse. An example of a term labeled Poetic is aurora when it is used to mean "dawn."

Dialect labels such as Regional and Chiefly Regional indicate that a term is indigenous to a particular geographic area. For example, the word piece, a synonym of distance, is used by speakers only in a limited part of the United States. Hence it carries the label Regional. The word unluck, meaning "misfortune," is labeled Chiefly Regional because it is used chiefly but not exclusively in the southern part of this country.

Language labels such as *Brit*. distinguish between British English and American English. Examples of British Commonwealth labels include: bluebottle (*Brit*.), a synonym at **policeman**; bonny (*Scot*.), a synonym at **beautiful**; funk² (Chiefly Brit.), a synonym at **cowardice**; and bail³ (Austral.), a synonym at **rob**. In a few instances idioms are labeled if they are clearly British; at definition 1 of **escape** verb the idiom "do a bunk" carries a Brit. label. In some cases Slang and

Regional labels are combined with *Brit*. labels to show special usage levels and styles. For example, the adjective *chuffy*, meaning "glum," is labeled *Brit*. Regional because it occurs in certain provincial British dialects. And the verb dip, meaning "to pawn," is not only a Briticism; it is also considered a slang term in British English. Hence it is labeled *Brit*. Slang.

Some synonyms are labeled according to the fields of knowledge with which they are primarily associated. For instance, the word *dissolve* has a special meaning, "to make a film image disappear gradually." This sense is therefore labeled *Motion Pic. & T.V.* in the synonym list at sense 1 of **fade out** verb, a main entry also carrying this label. Another example is the sense of **competence** meaning "conferred power"—a sense carrying the label *Law*.

The status label Rare means that a term is seldom if ever used. The verb discuss, meaning "to

eat," is an example of a synonym so labeled.

The eight parts of speech are labeled in italics and appear in all boldface entries and subentries.

Abbreviations Used in This Book

An alphabetical list of the abbreviations used in Roget's II along with their expansions is given below.

Anat. Anatomy Archit. Architecture · Austral. Australian Biol. Biology Bot. Botany Brit. British Canadian Can. Chem. Chemistry Eccles. **Ecclesiastical Economics** Econ. Ed. Education Eng. English especially esp. Geol. Geology Geom. Geometry · Gk. Greek Hist. History Irish Ir. Journalism Jour. Linguistics Ling. Medicine Med. Mil. Military Motion Pic. & T.V. Motion Pictures & Television Music Mus. Myth. Mythology Nautical Naut. New Zeal. New Zealand Obs. Obsolete Path. Pathology Phon. **Phonetics** Physiology Physiol. Print. Printing Psychoanal. Psychoanalysis Psychol. Psychology Rhet. Rhetoric Rom. Roman Scot. Scottish usually 11811 Veterinary Medicine Vet. Med. Zool. Zoology



aback adverb

Without adequate preparation.

abandon verb

- To give up without intending to return or claim again: abandoned his wife and children.
- 2. To let (something) go.
- 3. To give up a possession, claim, or right.
- 4. To cease trying to accomplish or continue: abandoned her studies for lack of funds.
- To yield (oneself) unrestrainedly, as to a particular impulse.

abandon noun

- A complete surrender of inhibitions: playing the flute with abandon.
- 2. A careless, often reckless disregard for consequences: rides his motorcycle with abandon.

abandoned adjective

- Having been given up and left alone: an abandoned house.
- 2. Lacking in moral restraint: an abandoned brute.

abandonment noun

- 1. The act of forsaking: his abandonment of his family.
- 2. A giving up of a possession, claim, or right.
- 3. A complete surrender of inhibitions.

abase verb

To deprive of esteem, self-worth, or effectiveness. abash verb

To cause (a person) to be self-consciously distressed. abashed adjective

Distressed and ill at ease.

abashment noun

Self-conscious distress.

abate verb

- 1. To grow or cause to grow gradually less.
- 2. To become less active or intense.

abatement noun

- 1. The act or process of decreasing.
- 2. An amount deducted.
- The act or process of becoming less active or intense.

abbreviate verb

1. To make short or shorter.

UNAWARES.

- Syns: desert³, forsake, leave¹, quit, throw over, walk out on.
- 2. RELINQUISH.
- 3. ABDICATE.
- 4. Syns: desist, discontinue, forswear (also foreswear), give up, lay off (Slang), quit, renounce, stop, swear off (Informal). —Idioms call it a day, call it quits, hang up the fiddle, have done with, throw in the towel.
- 5. GIVE OVER at give.
- Syns: abandonment, incontinence, unrestraint, wantonness, wildness.
- 2. Syns: heedlessness, thoughtlessness.
- Syns: derelict, deserted, destitute (Obs.), forlorn, forsaken, lorn (Poetic).
- Syns: dissolute, incontinent, licentious, profligate, unbridled, unconstrained, uncontrolled, ungoverned, uninhibited, unrestrained, wanton, wild.
- 1. Syn: desertion.
- 2. ABDICATION.
- 3. ABANDON noun.

HUMBLE verb.

EMBARRASS.

EMBARRASSED.

EMBARRASSMENT.

- 1. DECREASE verb.
- 2. SUBSIDE.
- 1. DECREASE noun.
- 2. DEDUCTION.
 - 3. WANE noun.
 - 1. SHORTEN.

2. To make short or shorter by or as if by cutting. abdicate verb

To give up a possession, claim, or right: The queen abdicated the throne in 1948.

abdication noun

A giving up of a possession, claim, or right: her abdication of her responsibilities.

abduct verb

To seize and detain (a person) unlawfully.

abecedarian also abecedary noun

One lacking professional skill and ease in a particular pursuit.

abecedary noun

aberrance or aberrancy noun

The condition of being abnormal.

aberrancy noun aberrant adjective

1. Departing from the normal.

2. Departing from the normal.

2. Straying from a proper course or standard.

aberration noun

1. The condition of being abnormal.

 Serious mental illness or disorder impairing a person's capacity to function normally and safely.
 abet verb

To give support or assistance.

abeyance also abeyancy noun

The condition of being temporarily inactive: hold a decision in abeyance; cancer kept in abeyance with chemotherapy.

abeyancy noun abeyant adjective

Existing in a temporarily inactive and hidden form.

To regard with utter contempt and disdain.

abhorrence noun

1. Extreme hostility and dislike.

2. A feeling of fear and repugnance.

abhorrent adjective

So objectionable as to elicit despisal.

abide verb

1. To put up with.

To remain in existence or in a certain state for an indefinitely long time.

3. To stop temporarily and remain, as if reluctant to

 To have as one's domicile, usu. for an extended period.

5. To continue to be in a place.

abide by verb

To act in conformity with.

abide by verb

abiding adjective

Existing or remaining in the same state for an indefinitely long time.

ability noun

- Physical, mental, financial, or legal power to perform: had the ability to learn physics.
- 2. Natural or acquired facility in a specific activity: has fine technical ability.

2. TRUNCATE.

Syns: abandon, cede, demit, hand over, quitclaim, relinquish, render (up), renounce, resign, surrender, waive, yield.

Syns: abandonment, demission, quitclaim, renunciation, resignation, surrender, waiver.

KIDNAP.

AMATEUR.

SEE abecedarian.

ABNORMALITY.
SEE abberance.

- 1. ABNORMAL.
- 2. ERRANT.
- 1. ABNORMALITY.
- 2. INSANITY.

HELP verb.

Syns: dormancy, intermission, latency, quiescence (*also* quiescency), remission, suspension.

SEE abeyance.

LATENT

DESPISE.

- 1. HATE noun.
- 2. HORROR.

FILTHY.

- 1. ENDURE.
- 2. ENDURE.
- 3. PAUSE verb.
- 4. LIVE1.
- 5. REMAIN.

FOLLOW. SEE abide.

CONTINUING.

- Syns: ableness, capability, capacity, competence (also competency), faculty, might.
- Syns: adeptness, command, craft, expertise, expertism, expertness, knack,