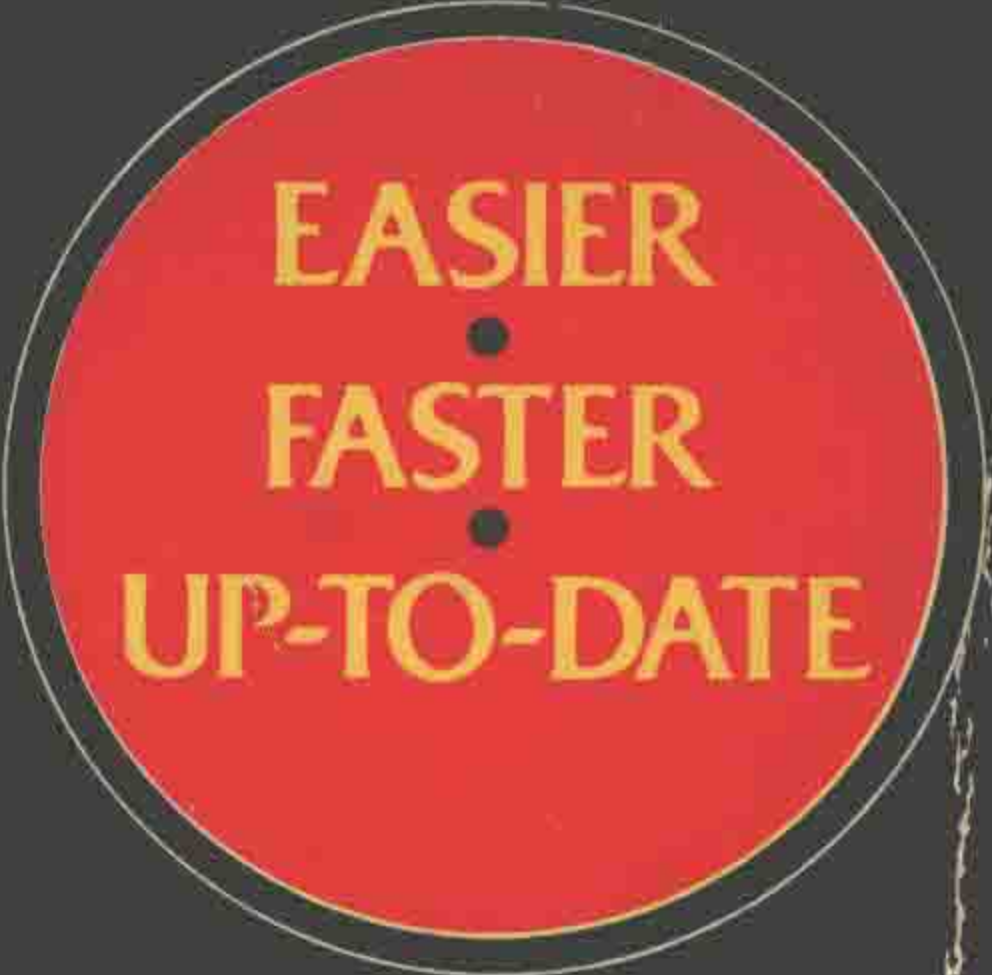




0-446-31203-7 \$2.95 (U.S.A.) 0-446-31204-5 \$3.75 (CAN.)

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD THESAURUS

BY CHARLTON LAIRD



EASIER
•
FASTER
•
UP-TO-DATE

The "last word" on the RIGHT word. For students, teachers, writers, speakers, business and professional people, and puzzle fans—the newest tool to give just the term wanted easily, quickly, surely.

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD THESAURUS

Charlton Laird



A Warner Communications Company

WARNER BOOKS EDITION

Copyright © 1974 by Charlton G. Laird
All rights reserved.

Published by arrangement with Simon & Schuster, Inc.
Distributed by Warner Books

This edition is based upon **WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD THE-
SAURUS**, Copyright © 1971 by Charlton G. Laird and published by
William Collins + World Publishing Co., Inc.

Warner Books, Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10103

 **A Warner Communications Company**

Printed in the United States of America

First Warner Books Printing: December, 1982

10 9 8 7 6

thesaurus—Latin for “treasure house”

Webster's New World Thesaurus is a treasure house of words designed to provide you as quickly as possible with the perfect word for the proper occasion. Renowned writing expert Charlton Laird has organized this word finder with listings of synonyms and antonyms under the most commonly used versions of particular words. This remarkable improvement on the traditional thesaurus will enable you to discover with speed the word you need without reading long lists or flipping from page to page.

Comprehensive word choice and attention to wide areas of meaning make this reference work indispensable to anyone who needs the right word—right away.

Look for these outstanding
reference books
at your local bookstore:

***Webster's New World Dictionary of
The American Language***

***A Dictionary of Synonyms and
Antonyms***

A New Guide to Better Writing

***Webster's Red Seal Crossword
Dictionary***

Webster's New World Thesaurus

Published by
WARNER BOOKS

ATTENTION: SCHOOLS AND CORPORATIONS

WARNER books are available at quantity discounts with bulk purchase for educational, business, or sales promotional use. For information, please write to: SPECIAL SALES DEPARTMENT, WARNER BOOKS, 666 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10103.

**ARE THERE WARNER BOOKS
YOU WANT BUT CANNOT FIND IN YOUR LOCAL STORES?**

You can get any WARNER BOOKS title in print. Simply send title and retail price, plus 50¢ per order and 50¢ per copy to cover mailing and handling costs for each book desired. New York State and California residents add applicable sales tax. Enclose check or money order only, no cash please, to: WARNER BOOKS, P.O. BOX 690, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

The book in your hands was intended to be the readiest word-suggester. It should be easy to use, for the book was planned and designed to make it easy, almost natural, to rely on. Still, some explanation may help. Many people have never learned to use a thesaurus at all, and those who have may find that this book differs from others they have tried. (Meanwhile, if you want capsule advice for using the book turn to page x).

Mainly, the book is an assortment of synonyms, but we mean something different by the word *synonym* than have some editors, and we have brought terms together differently. Partly we are recognizing that relationships among words are complex and subtle, and this subtlety becomes involved in word choice, as some foreign-born gentlemen learning English as a second language are said to have discovered. Having no professional teacher, they would read English books and meet together at one another's houses to talk English.

On this evening Mr. X was entertaining his friends. The conversation started like this:

"Good evening, Mr. X. I have the pleasure to ask after your health, and the health of your wife and children."

"Thank you, Mr. Y. I am well, and so is my wife, but it is my great sorrow that I have no children. My wife is unbearable."

"That is a great tragedy, Mr. X. You will forgive me what I say now, but you know we have the obligation to correct one another. I understand that the proper English word for Mrs. X's unfortunate condition is, she is impregnable."

At this point Mr. Z spoke up. "And you will forgive me, Mr. Y, but I must tell you that the proper English word for Mrs. X's most unfortunate condition is that she is inconceivable."

Of course these reflections on the infertility of the hostess were not intended as the insults they seem to be. A woman need not be unbearable because she cannot bear children; she is not necessarily impregnable because she cannot be impregnated, and she is not inconceivable because she cannot conceive a child. Families of words are like families of people in this, that the family has grown a long time, that each term has gone its own way, and no one of them is exactly like any other. A word may be able to take over the job of a word similar in sound or meaning, but it may not. How is one to know? The knowing is not easy, but good books on words can help, particularly if the person using the books knows what each of them can be expected to do.

What a Thesaurus Is Good For

So now we come to what a book like this one can do. It should be able to suggest a word you want but have not been able to think of. That is its business; telling you very much about such a word is not its business. That kind of help should be given, if you need it, by other books, but trying to crowd descriptions of words into this book—along with what properly belongs here—would be to make the book clumsy and confusing.

To use this book most effectively, you will need other information, wherever you get it. The best source may be you. For example, assume you have thought of using the word *define*, but you are aware that it will not do just what you want in the sentence you are planning. So you look up the word *define* in a thesaurus. As soon as you see the synonym *discriminate* you know it is the word you want. You are already acquainted with it; you have seen it or heard it dozens of times in such contexts that you sense at once that it can do what you want done. You need waste no more time; you can use it and get on with the job.

Now let us change the example a bit. Suppose you look up *define* and find *discriminate*, but you are not entirely happy with it. You know that it puts the emphasis on the difference between two things, implying what this difference is and how it occurs. But that is not quite what you want. You are dealing with only one thing, and you need a word that will reveal how far it extends and no farther. Then you see the word *demarcate*. Can this be it? You recognize the prefix *de-* and know about what it can do. You know that *-ate* can be used to identify a verb. What about the *-marc-* syllable? It suggests the word *mark*. Can the word mean that if you demarcate something you lay it out very much as though you were putting marks around it?

Using Various Word Books

Now is the time to get some help from books other than a thesaurus and from resources other than your own memory. The readiest book usually is a dictionary. The publishers of this thesaurus also publish the excellent WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY, *Popular Library Paperback Edition*. Or you may wish to use the more extensive WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY, *Second College Edition*, of which the *Paperback Edition* is an abridgment. People much interested in writing and speaking may want a dictionary of usage, one of etymology, a slang dictionary, specialized dictionaries, as of medicine, law, or engineering, or a historical dictionary, such as the *Dictionary of Americanisms*, or the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Which word books a writer or speaker needs, and how many of them, each user will have to answer for himself.

For the moment we need notice only this: anybody who uses a thesaurus should have at least one other word book, probably several. He needs a thesaurus to suggest words or phrases he cannot remem-

ber, or to suggest terms new to him that he may want to use. He needs at least one other sort of book to tell him more about each of these words, once he has a likely candidate.

Seeking Synonyms

Now we might try more examples to see how you can make a thesaurus work with other word books to help you say what you want to. Let us assume you are doing some explaining, and you find yourself repeating the word *explain* in a way that becomes awkward. If you are a skillful writer, you will be able to eliminate some of these repetitions by tightening your sentence structure, but no matter how clever you are, if you must discuss the subject much you will need some synonyms.

At this point you are likely to turn to a dictionary. Actually, since your problem is thinking of a word, not defining it, you might do better to turn to a thesaurus at once. But if you are like most Americans you will not have the thesaurus habit, and you will have learned, with good reason, to trust dictionaries. If you look up the word in my favorite dictionary you will find the following:

explain, . . . 1. to make clear, plain, or understandable 2.
to give the meaning or interpretation of; expound 3. to account
for; state reasons for

Here you have a good start, enough for many purposes. You may decide that you do not quite mean *expound*, nor do you mean *account for*. But in the first use you have three good phrases: *make clear*, *make plain*, *make understandable*. All these are rather general, and you may be aware that if you write a paragraph in which you keep repeating *make*, the whole will sound as childish as if you were to keep repeating *explain*.

So now, if not earlier, you will do well to turn to a thesaurus. If you were using the present book you would find the following under *explain*:

interpret, explicate, account for, elucidate, illustrate, clarify, illuminate, make clear, describe, expound, teach, reveal, point up or out, demonstrate, tell, read, translate, paraphrase, put in other words, define, justify, untangle, unravel, make plain, come to the point, put across, throw light upon, comment or remark upon or on, make or prepare or offer an explanation or an exposition (of), resolve, clear up, get right, set right, put (someone) on the right track, spell out, go into detail, get to the bottom of, figure out, cast light upon, get across or through, bring out, work out, solve, put in plain English.

Now you have dozens of possibilities with various shades of meaning and differences in usage.

You may decide at once that some terms like *unravel*, *untangle*, and *comment upon* give you the emphasis upon complexity that you want. You may prefer words like *illustrate* or *demonstrate* to introduce detail. Or you may want to avoid all big or rare words, and

welcome phrases made up of common words like *set right* and *get to the bottom of*. But you may also be puzzled by some of these words. What, after all, is the difference between *explicate* and *elucidate*? Here the dictionary can help you again. You can look these words up, and for some few words you will find that your dictionary has discriminated close synonyms, with examples. For these two synonyms my dictionary has the following:

... **explicate** implies a scholarly analysis or exposition that is developed in detail [the *explication* of a Biblical passage]; **elucidate** implies a shedding light upon by clear and specific explanation, illustration, etc. [to *elucidate* the country's foreign policy] ...

Dealing with Words for Things

Thus for rather general words like *explain*, *arrangement*, and *definition*, a thesaurus and a dictionary work very well together; the user can go back and forth from one to the other, and sooner or later he can be pretty sure to find what he wants. On the other hand, for concrete and specific words, like *boat*, *doctor*, and *language*, a dictionary by its nature cannot help much. Consider the first. For *boat* the dictionary I have been citing offers the following:

... 1. a small, open vessel or watercraft propelled by oars, sails, or engine. 2. a large vessel; ship: landsman's term 3. a boat-shaped dish [a gravy *boat*] ...

As dictionary definitions these leave little to be desired; they tell us, briefly and accurately, what the word *boat* can be used for. But inevitably they do not help us to many synonyms, except to suggest that *boat* can be a landsman's term for what is more properly called a ship. The fact is, of course, that there are no very good synonyms for *boat*, as *expound* is a good synonym for *explain* in one sense. There is no other common, single word for all "small, open watercraft."

Here we might remind ourselves of a principle not always observed by inexperienced writers, but well known to every teacher of composition. Much writing is weak because the writer uses terms that are more general than they need be. If he would use words that are as concrete and specific as possible, he could strengthen his sentences. *Jaguar convertible* is more specific than *car*, and in many sentences would tell us more.

Thus a thesaurus can help by providing words that are not very close synonyms but do provide the writer with a better way of saying what he wants to, especially by using concrete words, names for real things. Consider the entry for *boat* in this book; it is too long to quote here, but it begins:

Types of small boats include the following: ... rowboat, shell, scull, kayak, dugout, canoe, scow, raft, launch, motorboat. ... The list continues, including *skiff*, *outrigger*, and even *catamaran*. That is, the book recognizes that often when a writer looks for a synonym he may not want a synonym at all. He may not be looking

for another term as much as possible like the one he has rejected. What he is probably seeking is a more concrete, more exact, more picturesque, or more revealing term.

English has many such words for real things, of which the two others mentioned above, *doctor* and *language*, provide examples. The user who looks up *doctor* in this book will find a list of more specific terms for various sorts of doctors, *physician*, *surgeon*, *interne*, *chiropractor*, *general practitioner*, and the like, along with slang or colloquial terms like *doc* and *sawbones*. Then he will find a highly detailed list of specialists, such as *pediatrician*, *obstetrician*, *anesthetist*, and *gynecologist*. The entry for *language* gives terms that may be substituted for the word *language*, like *sound* and *utterance*; it provides words useful in the study of language, like *morphology* and *phonetics*; it includes words identifying the types of languages, like *synthetic* and *computer*, and it lists dozens of important languages all over the world. That is, a thesaurus, along with being a reference tool, can within limits become a textbook in composition, suggesting to the user ways in which he can make his writing clearer, sharper, more dramatic, more interesting.

A Thesaurus: A Treasure House

Earlier, the editor of this book said it differs from other books having similar titles. Some of these differences reveal why the book has been made as it was, and suggest how it should be used. Part of them go back to an engaging Englishman of Swiss ancestry, named Peter Mark Roget.

Roget, a young intellectual—he would probably have been a graduate student in our day—was much interested in philosophy. He was thrown into jail for political reasons. A gentle person, he had done nothing wrong, but he was kept there for more than a year. To while away the time, and to sharpen his perception of ideas, he tried to divide all thought into a thousand sorts, and to use these categories for what he called a “repertory” of words embodying ideas. Released from prison, he led a long and useful life as a professor, a doctor, and a city planner, but he continued to add words to his collection, and after he had retired, he turned once more to his repertory.

By now it had become to him a treasure house—*thesaurus* means treasure house in Latin—in which he stored the wonderful words he had assembled. He published it. It became immediately popular, not among the philosophers for whom Roget had originally intended his collection, but among writers who found that it helped them find synonyms. It became so famous for this purpose that Roget’s term, *thesaurus*, is now the general name for a word-finder, and the word *Roget* itself has become the name for a collection of synonyms, as *Johnson* in England and *Webster* in the United States have become names for a dictionary.

Some of the limitations of such books stem from Roget’s original

idea. He set out to classify words under headings, very much as a botanist may classify plants—a plant exists, and hence it must resemble certain plants and differ from others. Similarly, Roget realized, words can appropriately be put together with other like-words and kept separate from unlike-words; in fact, the word *synonym* is made up of two Greek terms meaning *together with* and *name*. Synonyms are names for the same or similar objects or ideas. None of them can be exactly alike, of course, since no two words can do exactly the same things for all users of the language and in all uses.

Books that classify things can be helpful, whether the objects classified are nouns or varieties of tomatoes, but the modern user of a thesaurus is not mainly interested in classifying philosophic terms, as was Roget. He wants to write or speak better. He wants to find a different way of saying something, and if possible a better way. Roget's book helped them, as do more recent books that have been reedited from Roget, but not so much as they might if they were planned for the people who now use them.

Roget, in effect, asked himself: "How should I classify this word for philosophers?" A modern compiler of a thesaurus needs to ask himself: "How can I make this book most useful to writers and speakers?" And to solve this problem, he has to ask himself other questions: "How would a writer or speaker want to use this book? When would he use it? What would he want to get out of it?"

Once the questions are asked, most of the answers are obvious. A writer or speaker turns to a thesaurus when he has thought of one way to say something, but, for whatever reason, does not want to say it that way. The editor's job is to try to figure out what he would want to say, and suggest it to him.

Brains and the Thesaurus

Thus a thesaurus should be made to fit into the way brains work, when brains are used with language. Not all brains work alike, and an editor can only guess how a particular user will want to use his book. The editor will make blunders, of course, but that should be his theory, and it is the theory back of this volume. It has implications for every part of the book.

Take the entry list, the words printed in boldface at the left of the column, the words the user "looks up." On the whole, these are the words he has thought of, but does not, on this occasion, wish to use. They are likely to include words like *thing*, *really*, and *order*. They are not likely to include *thermonuclear*, *Weltschmerz*, and *cotangent*, although those are useful words and may belong among the synonyms. That is, the entry list of a thesaurus—although not of a dictionary—should be made of the commonest words in the language, those that come most readily to the mind of an average person. A likely word may include even slang and colloquialisms such as *keep the ball rolling* and *get going*. Those are just the sorts of terms a writer may think of, but not want to use.

Similarly, within the synonymies, some words and phrases may not be synonyms, or even come very close to being "like-names." For some words there may be nothing even approaching a synonym, but there is always another way to say something. Almost all of the so-called *wh*-words, that is, terms like *who*, *when*, *where*, and *what*, have no synonyms although they are very common words. For example, under *why* the present volume has the following:

why . . . for what reason? how so? how? how is it that? on whose account? what is the cause that? to what end? for what purpose? on what foundation? how do you explain that? how come?

These are not synonyms in the sense that any of them can be substituted for *why* without change in construction, but they do suggest another way of saying what may be implied in *why*.

The natural way with words determines the order, also. Some kind of order we must have; something has to be first and something last. For the entry list, the alphabetical order is the most convenient; the alphabet helps you find a starting place. But within a list of synonyms, the alphabet is not useful. *Zero* is a handy synonym for *nothing* although it begins with *z*, whereas *annihilation*, although it begins with *a*, is seldom needed as a synonym. Instead, we have assumed that the user of the book would want to find his preferred synonym as soon as possible, and we have tried to put early those terms we thought he was most likely to want, and to put far on in the list those terms he was less likely to use. In making our judgments we guessed the user was most likely to want another common word; thus the first synonyms for *notify* in the sense of providing information are *declare*, *announce*, *inform*, *make known*. Terms like *promulgate* and *circularize* appear farther down. Or we thought the user might want a relatively exact like-word, even though it is rare, and hence *ascertained* and *descried* occur early among the synonyms of *discovered* because they are relatively exact, just what a discriminating writer might be looking for.

This is one of the ways in which we hope the book will be easy and quick to use. You need only look up the word you have thought of. It may well be a main entry, and you are likely to find the synonym you want without working through the whole list. First choose the use you want, since common words have several or even many uses. For *fair*, this book recognizes three, quite different: *just*, *moderately satisfactory*, and *not stormy*. For *to get* the editors recognized eleven groups of synonyms and dozens of phrases. Once you have chosen the use you have in mind, you are likely to find the synonym you want very quickly just by following the printed order.

Cross-references, A Necessary Nuisance

The need for convenience and low cost determined also the handling of cross-references. Cross-references are a nuisance; nobody likes them. They always require looking up at least one more entry. In fact, they are such a nuisance that the editor of one word-finder

decided he would have no cross-references at all. The result was that his book is big and clumsy and quite expensive, and even so it lacks thousands of familiar items. He had to repeat so many synonymies that very common words and phrases are omitted, even those any user might want. Accordingly, we decided we had to have cross-references, but we would do what we could to keep them from being much bother.

We relied mainly on two devices. One of these sorts is usually identified by the phrase "see also." For example, assume you have intended writing, "We had to consider the language of our proposed bill." For *language*, in this specialized sense, most of the likeliest synonyms appear elsewhere in the book, not under the entry *language*, and consequently after the first use for *language* you will find a cross-reference: "see also **dialect**, **jargon 2**, **writing 1**, **2**." This means that if you do not find the synonym you want under the entry *language*, try **dialect**, the second use of **jargon**, or both the first and second uses of **writing**. Thus the user of this book will find cross-references at the end of many main entries, which will lead him to different but related lists if he wants them.

Then we included what we thought of as mainly cross-references, although to the casual user of the book they may seem to be small entries. The entry for *first-class* will provide an example. This is only one of dozens of terms that mean *good*, *fine*, *excellent*. If we had provided full treatment for each of them, and for other sets of terms having much in common, the book would be many times as big as it is and much more expensive. Accordingly, for practical reasons, we had to treat *first-class*, *first-rate*, and dozens more as cross-references to *excellent*, which for a number of reasons we had chosen as a good word to be a main entry. The readiest way, then, would be to have an entry like the following:

first-rate, *a.* see **excellent**.

But you will find no such entry in this book. Instead, we guessed that if you look up *first-rate* you want one of a relatively few common but rather exact synonyms. If we could guess what this synonym is, we could in effect change the cross-reference to an entry, at least in use. Accordingly, the entry for this word is as follows:

first-rate, *a.* prime, very good, choice; see **excellent**.

Here you have, in effect, four synonyms—since the cross-reference will usually supply a synonym in itself, even the most common one—and if we have been moderately shrewd in our guess, in a high percentage of such entries you will have the synonym you want without ever looking up the cross-reference.

A few other matters may warrant attention. First, there are the clusters that are sometimes called verb sets. These are verbs made up of at least two words, which taken together mean something other than the words used separately. Notice the following: *Having inherited money, he started to live it up, and got a reputation he could not live down*. That is, *live up* and *live down* do not mean living in two

directions. Such verbs have been much neglected in thesauruses; we have tried to be more generous in our inclusion of such phrases than have most wordbooks.

Antonyms and What to Do About Them

Something should be said about antonyms. We considered leaving them out; many words have no antonyms. What is the antonym of *eye* or *who*? Besides, writers do not often need antonyms. To save space we considered doing without them, but occasionally having an antonym is handy. So we compromised; where we found good antonyms we included a few at the end, usually three, but to be sure the user of the book could find as many antonyms as he might need, we always made one of these antonyms a main entry and printed it in boldface, like the other cross-references. That is, if you want an antonym for *heavy* in the sense of weighty, you will find that the antonyms provided are *light*, *bouyant*, *feather-light*. If you do not want any of these, you have only to look up **light** where you will find dozens more. If, however, you want an antonym for *heavy* in the sense of burdensome, you will find no antonyms at the entry for that term—because we are treating this use mainly as a cross-reference—but you will have references to **difficult 1**, **disturbing**. These will all have antonyms with cross-references to dozens more. Thus, in the interest of economy, you may find that antonyms take a little more time than synonyms; you may need to use two cross-references instead of one.

What a Thesaurus Is Not Meant For

Some things this book is not meant for. It will not replace a dictionary. As we noted above, it is intended to suggest terms, not to describe them. It is not a grammar; it does have grammatical categories (abbreviations like *a.* for adjective or adverb appear immediately after the entry), but these are intended as classification, not as grammatical statements. On the whole, if you have a cross-reference from a noun you should look at the noun use of the word provided in the reference. Words are not defined, but we have tried to assort them for convenience into groups. *Tranquil* is divided into *For persons* and *For weather*, since this seemed to be the readiest way to distinguish words like *sane* and *thoughtful* from words like *windless* and *still*, although *tranquil* certainly does not mean *for persons*. Incidentally, these groups of words will often not be the same as the uses recognized in a dictionary. We have had to devise our own classifications, since a thesaurus is not a special kind of dictionary but a different sort of book, with its own principles.

Other information usual in dictionaries is omitted or treated lightly here. There are no pronunciations or etymologies. We have shown only one spelling of a word, although several may be acceptable. *Gaol* is an acceptable British spelling for a place of incarceration, but we have shown only the American spelling, *jail*. We

have done little with usage. That is a complex problem, partly because a term that is slang in one context may not be slang in another, and words change their currency and respectability. A few years ago, *teenager* was clearly slang, but now some of the most up-to-date dictionaries treat it as a standard Americanism. We have gone so far as to alert the user of the book to some questionable or local terms by placing an asterisk before them. These asterisks are meant to suggest that the word or phrase may have a slang or colloquial or dialectal flavor in the use we have in mind. The reader is cautioned to consider whether that term is appropriate to the context in which he wishes to use it.

How to Use this Book

For convenience, here is a summary of things you may want to have in mind while you use the book:

1. Look up any word you have thought of but do not want to use.
2. Unless you have thought of a rare word you should find: (a) a main entry, with many alternate terms, some antonyms, and possibly a "see also" cross-reference, or (b) a brief entry, with two to four synonyms and one or more cross-references.
3. If you have turned to a main entry, check to see whether more than one use is recognized, and if so, pick the one you want. The various uses will be numbered in boldface figures.
4. Work through the list, looking for a term that will suggest what you need, trying the cross-reference at the end if you need it.
5. If you find a word or phrase you may want, but do not know very well, look it up in at least one dictionary.
6. If you have looked up a brief entry, it is probably for the most part a cross-reference, but it will have a few common synonyms. If you do not want any of them, turn to the main entry or entries provided in the cross-reference. The entry to which you are referred may have more than one grammatical use—*fast* can be an adjective, adverb, noun, or verb. Prefer the grammatical category that corresponds to the use of the word from which you got the cross-reference.

In short, this book is intended to help you find the word or phrase you want. The editors wish you happy hunting!

Charlton Laird
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, Nevada

Key: *a.* = adjective or adverb (i.e., modifier)

n. = noun

v. = verb

* = nonformal (i.e., slang, colloquial, dialectal, etc.)

A

a, a. and prep. 1. [The indefinite article; before vowels, written *an*] some, one, any, each, some kind of, some particular, any (one) of, a certain.—*Ant.* the, this, that. 2. [An indication of frequency] per, every, at the rate of; see each 2.

abandon, v. 1. [To give up] leave or go off, quit, withdraw (from), discontinue, give over or up, throw over, break off, let go, cease, cast off or away or aside, discard, vacate, give away, part with, evacuate, surrender, yield, desist, concede, renounce, abdicate, lose hope of, go back on, secede (from), waive, forgo, back down from, lay down or aside, dispose of, have done with, *throw in the towel, break the pattern or habit. 2. [To leave someone or something in trouble] desert, forsake, ostracize, back out on, break (up) with, run away, defect, reject, disown, cast off, maroon, depart from, give over, throw overboard, jettison, leave behind, slip away from, *stand up, leave in the lurch, turn one's back upon, *run or skip out, *double-cross, let down, *drop.

abandoned, a. deserted, desolate, destitute, desperate, empty, given up, unused, vacated, left, neglected, relinquished, lonely, forsaken, solitary, hopeless, cast away or aside or off, forgotten, shunned, forlorn, avoided, outcast, rejected, helpless, unfortunate, alone, discarded, scorned, lost, doomed, friendless, *in the wastebasket, thrown overboard, *out on a limb, *waiting at the church, left in the lurch or in the cold or *holding the bag.—*Ant.* inhabited, used, in use.

abbreviate, v. shorten, cut, condense; see decrease 2.

abbreviation, n. contraction, abridgment, sketch, brief, abstract, synopsis, reduction, abstraction, condensation, digest, outline, summary, short form; see also summary.

abdicate, v. relinquish, give up, withdraw; see abandon 1.

abdomen, n. midsection, belly, bowels; see also stomach.

abduct, v. steal away, seize, carry off; see kidnap.

abide, v. 1. [To lodge] stay (at), room, reside; see dwell. 2. [To submit to] put up with, bear (with), withstand; see endure 2.

abide by, v. follow, observe, comply with; see follow 2.

ability, n. aptitude, intelligence, innate qualities, powers, potency, worth, talent, gift, genius, capability, competence, proficiency, adeptness, qualification(s), knowledge, self-sufficiency, tact, finish, technique, craft, skill, artistry, cunning, skillfulness, dexterity, facility, finesse, mastery, cleverness, deftness, experience, ingenuity, strength, understanding, faculty, comprehension, makings, sense, *what it takes, brains, knack, hang, *know-how.—*Ant.* ignorance, ineptitude, awkwardness.

able, a. apt, agile, adept, intelligent, ingenious, worthy, talented, gifted, fitted, capable, effective, efficient, qualified, masterful, adequate, competent, expert, experienced, skilled, learned, clever, suitable, smart, crafty, cunning, bright, knowing, dexterous, endowed, deft, alert, adaptable, smooth, ready, versatile, equal to, suited (to), well-rounded, mighty, powerful, strong, robust, sturdy, brawny, vigorous, courageous, fit for, sharp, cut out for, *having an ear for.—*Ant.* stupid, bungling, unadaptable.

able-bodied, a. fit, powerful, sturdy; see strong 1.

abnormal, a. strange, irregular, unnatural; see unusual 2.

abnormality, n. peculiarity, singularity, malformation; see irregularity.

aboard, a. on board, on ship, shipped, loaded, on board ship, freight on board (F.O.B.), being shipped, en route, consigned, in transit, being transported, embarked, afloat, at sea, on deck, traveling.

abolish, v. suppress, eradicate, terminate, exterminate, obliterate, annul, remove, revoke, end, finish, nullify, set aside, annihilate, repeal, subvert, reverse, rescind, prohibit, extinguish, cancel, erase, root out, pull up, uproot, demolish, invalidate, overturn, overthrow, make or declare null and void, do away with, stamp or crush out, undo, throw out, put an end to, inhibit, dispense with, cut out, raze, squelch, *not leave one stone upon another; see also destroy 1.

abort, v. miscarry, fall short, miss; see fail 1.

about, a. and prep. 1. [Approximately] roughly, closely, almost, around, very close, not quite, more or less, practically, just about, generally, comparatively, nearly, in general; see approxi-

mately. 2. [Concerning] regarding, respecting, touching, of, on, in relation to, relative or relating to, as regards, in or with regard to, on or in which, with or in respect to, in the matter of, in or with reference to, referring to, so far as (something) is concerned, in connection with, connected or concerned with, thereby, hereof, wherein, as to or for, concerning. 3. [Around] surrounding, round about, on all sides; see **around**.

***about to**, *a.* and *prep.* on the verge of, at the point of, just about; see **almost**.

above, *a.* and *prep.* 1. [High in position] over, high, higher, superior, beyond, on high, raised, above one's head, in a higher place, aloft, overhead, toward the sky; see **higher**, **over** 1. —*Ant.* low, below, beneath. 2. [Referring to something earlier] before, foregoing, earlier; see **preceding**.

above all, *a.* in the first place, chiefly, especially; see **principally**.

aboveboard, *a.* candidly, honestly, frankly; see **openly** 1.

abreast, *a.* level, equal, side by side; see **beside**.

abroad, *a.* away, at large, adrift, wandering, elsewhere, overseas, traveling, touring, outside, distant, far away, gone, out of the country, removed.

abrupt, *a.* 1. [Said of things, usually landscape] uneven, rough, rugged; see **steep**. 2. [Said of people or acts of people] terse, hasty, gruff; see **rude**.

absence, *n.* 1. [The state of being elsewhere] truancy, nonattendance, nonappearance, inexistence, loss, vacancy, *cut. 2. [The state of lacking something] deficiency, need, inadequacy; see **lack** 1.

absent, *a.* away, missing, elsewhere, vanished, gone (out), not at home, not present, out, wanting, lacking, abroad, lost, out of sight, nowhere to be found, on vacation, AWOL, playing hooky, *split.

absent-minded, *a.* preoccupied, abstracted, dreamy, listless, lost, absent, thoughtless, oblivious, inattentive, day-dreaming, unconscious, unaware, withdrawn, removed, faraway, distracted, remote, forgetful. —*Ant.* attentive, observant, alert.

absolute, *a.* 1. [Without limitation] total, complete, entire, infinite, fixed, settled, supreme, full, unrestricted, unlimited, unconditional, independent, wholehearted, sheer, pure, unmitigated, utter, unabridged, thorough, clean, outright, downright, ideal, simple, perfect, full, blanket, all out, out-and-out. —*Ant.* restricted, limited, qualified. 2. [Without limit in authority] authoritarian, domineering, supreme, arbitrary, official, autocratic, tyrannical, fascist, fascistic,

overbearing, czarist, nazi, totalitarian, communistic, oppressive, browbeating, antidemocratic, imperative, dogmatic, commanding, controlling, compelling, despotic, intimidating, fanatic, dictatorial, arrogant, with an iron hand. —*Ant.* lenient, tolerant, temperate. 3. [Certain] positive, unquestionable, undeniable; see **certain** 2.

absolutely, *a.* 1. [Completely] utterly, unconditionally, thoroughly; see **completely**. 2. [Positively] unquestionably, certainly, definitely; see **surely**.

absolve, *v.* pardon, set free, clear; see **excuse**.

absorb, *v.* digest, suck or take or drink in or up, ingest, appropriate, embody, use up, assimilate, osmose, blot, imbibe, swallow, consume, incorporate, sop or soak or sponge up. —*Ant.* flow, expel, discharge.

absorbed, *a.* assimilated, taken in, swallowed up, consumed, drunk, imbibed, dissolved, united, incorporated (into), digested. —*Ant.* removed, unassimilated, unconsumed.

absorbent, *a.* porous, spongy, permeable, dry, soft, pervious, penetrable, receptive, retentive, thirsty.

absorbing, *a.* engaging, exciting, enthralling; see **interesting**.

absorption, *n.* assimilation, digestion, osmosis, saturation, penetration, fusion, intake, union, consumption, ingestion, swallowing up, taking in, reception, retention, incorporation, appropriation, drinking in, suction, sopping or soaking or drying or blotting or sponging up, inhalation. —*Ant.* removal, ejection, discharge.

abstain, *v.* refrain (from), renounce, desist, withhold, avoid, stop, deny oneself, refuse, decline, hold back, shun, evade, dispense with, do without, fast, starve, have nothing to do with, let (well enough) alone, do nothing, keep from, keep one's hands off, swear off, *lay off, turn over a new leaf, have no hand in, take the pledge. —*Ant.* indulge, join, gorge.

abstinence, *n.* abstaining, temperance, denial, self-denial, self-control, self-restraint, continence, fasting, frugality, renunciation, avoidance, sobriety, austerity, refraining, nonindulgence, moderation, soberness, Puritanism. —*Ant.* indulgence, overindulgence, intemperance.

abstract, *a.* general, intellectual, ideal; see **obscure** 1.

absurd, *a.* preposterous, ridiculous, ludicrous; see **stupid** 1.

absurdity, *n.* improbability, foolishness, senselessness; see **nonsense** 1, 2.

abundance, *n.* bounty, more than enough, profusion; see **plenty**.