“A brilliant piece of research and a superb learning and teaching tool.”

Michael Hoey, Baines Professor of English Language, University of Liverpool, UK
The second edition of the Macmillan English Dictionary contains a wealth of new material, while building on the innovative features that won it two awards.

The first edition of the Macmillan English Dictionary received the two most prestigious awards in the ELT world – the Duke of Edinburgh English-Speaking Union English Language Book Award in 2002, and the British Council Innovation Award in 2004.

“A really impressive piece of work.”
British Council Innovation Award judges
The most important feature of all is the clear distinction that the Macmillan English Dictionary makes between high-frequency core vocabulary and the less common words needed mainly for reference. The Macmillan English Dictionary is the only advanced learner’s dictionary to highlight effectively the most important 7,500 words an advanced learner needs to be able to use.

Extensive research from a 200 million-word corpus, and advice from experts has shown us that 7,500 words is an appropriate vocabulary for advanced learners to aspire to, so that they can become as fluent in English as a native speaker.

By identifying these essential 7,500 words in red, the Macmillan English Dictionary helps give students the confidence and ability to write and speak accurate English.

The red words are in turn graded with stars to show at a glance how important the word is.

We call this core vocabulary ‘productive’ – which many users will need to ‘encode’ as well as ‘decode’ – and contrast it with the tens of thousands of more specialised, less frequent words (‘receptive vocabulary’) which few users will ever need to use actively. We print these words in black.

We have also varied the treatment we give to these red and black words: The explanations of the red words are broken up into easy-to-read paragraphs. For this vocabulary, advanced learners need a wide range of information so that they can use it accurately: not only information about meaning, but also about how words combine (collocations), what registers they usually appear in, and what they tell us about the speaker’s attitude. On the other hand, for infrequent, or ‘receptive’ words, users need just a simple explanation of meaning. Consequently most of the definitions of the black words are short. This approach has great benefits for the users: productive vocabulary is described in depth, while the brevity of the receptive entries enables us to include much more vocabulary overall.

We have therefore taken special account of the differences between the receptive and productive needs of advanced learners, and this is one of the major innovations of the Macmillan English Dictionary.

Like its predecessor, the new MED focuses on three main aspects of language learning:

receptive tasks: understand the meaning of words you read and hear

productive tasks: write and speak natural English, accurately and with confidence

language awareness: become a better learner by understanding how English works

World English Corpus: a unique modern database of over 200 million words created from British, American and Australian texts, including material from learners of English, and from ELT coursebooks.

Did you know?

While there are up to one million words in the English language, native speakers only use a very small vocabulary when they write or speak English – they actually use about 7,500 words 90% of the time.
A unique selection of innovative features...

for receptive tasks:

Menus - the clearest way to navigate
Entries with five or more senses have a special ‘meaning menu’ at the top for rapid access to the correct meaning.

Memorable illustrations – not just a pretty picture
Clear and attractive illustrations not only explain the meaning of words, but provide an excellent way of showing the differences between close synonyms.

“The ‘menus’ at the top of multi-meaning words are an excellent idea and very helpful.”
Hans G. Hoffmann, writer of textbooks and grammars

Specialist vocabulary – do you know your adspend from your zaikai?
The MED contains about 6,000 items of clearly labelled subject-specific vocabulary, with a focus on five key subject areas: business and economics, science, information technology, medicine, and the arts.

eclipse /ˈeklɪps/ noun 1 [C] ASTRONOMY a short period when all or part of the sun or moon becomes dark, because of the positions of the sun, moon, and earth in relation to each other. A total eclipse is when the sun or moon is completely covered. An eclipse of the sun is called a solar eclipse, and an eclipse of the moon is called a lunar eclipse. 2 (singular) a time when
The MED has a special focus on writing skills, and includes a complete package of unique, carefully researched materials designed to help learners to become more confident writers in academic and professional situations.

This material, based on a detailed analysis of learners’ own writing, has been created following a two-year collaboration with the Centre for English Corpus Linguistics, led by Professor Sylviane Granger, at the Université catholique de Louvain in Belgium.

Get it right

Get it right boxes at individual headwords help users to anticipate mistakes that they might make and show them how to correct them. These boxes often also highlight common collocations, present alternatives to over-used words and point out the differences between words that are easy to confuse.

Improve your writing skills

The Improve your writing skills section in the centre of the dictionary gives advice on writing in 18 areas that often cause difficulties. These pages deal with vocabulary and grammar problems, present graphs comparing the use of a particular word or phrase by native speakers and learners, and develop the skills learners need to write effectively in different professional and academic contexts.

“It’s good to see material of this type and quality in a learners’ dictionary. It is just what my students need, both now at university and in the future in their professional lives.”
Kate Marriage, University Lecturer, Madrid
Is there a better word?
The Expand your vocabulary section in the centre of the dictionary – on the themes of movement, communication and emotions – helps the learner to choose the right word at the right time and to use it correctly and idiomatically.

Collocation boxes – words have friends too!
The combination of corpus data and state-of-the-art software has given us the basis for an unrivalled description of the way words behave and combine with one another. Essential collocates are shown in the body of the dictionary entry, but the MED also lists thousands of strong collocates in its 450 special collocation boxes.

Metaphor – throw some light on the words we use
The Macmillan English Dictionary offers unique treatment of metaphor, showing how many ordinary familiar words and phrases have metaphorical meanings, although we do not usually realise this when we use them. There are over 60 special boxes throughout the dictionary, as well as a 4-page in-depth article for a deeper understanding.

English is easier if you know why it works like it does
The Language Awareness section, written by well-known experts, includes articles on:
- Understanding idioms (Frank Boers)
- Metaphor (Rosamund Moon)
- Discourse (Scott Thornbury)
- Pragmatics (Joanna Channell)
- Lexical priming (Michael Hoey)
- Word formation (Jonathan Marks)
- Frequency and the dictionary (Adam Kilgarriff)
- New technology (Pete Sharma)
- Cultural values (Simon Greenall)
- Differences between American and British English (Susan Stempleski)

“Two of the main strengths of the MED are...its clear layout and ...a plethora of corpus-based examples which provide particularly useful information on collocations and grammar patterns. The dictionary covers everything learners will ever need or want to know about...English...and is an excellent reference tool. [It] is, in my opinion, one of the best advanced learners’ dictionaries on the market today.”
Professor Diana Phillips, Faculty of Applied Economics, Department of Languages and Communication, University of Antwerp, Belgium

“The metaphor help notes are novel and very useful for vocabulary building.”
Prof. Michael Hoey, University of Liverpool, UK

“The Language Awareness pages in the new edition of the Macmillan English Dictionary are both useful and interesting. For example, idioms can be a nightmare for both teachers and students. Now Professor Frank Boers’s article comes to our rescue, showing us how idioms can often be learned in systematic ways. Brilliant, Prof. Boers, keep it up (from the game of badminton, meaning to keep the shuttlecock in the air)!”
Philip Prowse, ELT author and trainer, UK

H. A. Swan, ELT Professional
The Macmillan English Dictionary CD-ROM

Discover the CD-ROM with the whole of the dictionary, a thesaurus and much more...

Use the Super Search to look for groups of words that are of particular interest to you. You can also search for extra examples of words for additional practice.

Quick View gives you instant dictionary definitions of words and phrases in documents, email or web pages. Just hover your mouse over the word you want to see.

Create your own wordlists to revise, improve and extend your vocabulary.

Explore the Language Study pages to develop your vocabulary in particular areas of English, and discover the world with 200 interactive maps in the atlas.

Connect instantly through weblinks to carefully selected websites offering cultural and encyclopaedic information.

Click on the thesaurus button next to every word to access a list of synonyms.

Understand difficult words with over 1300 illustrations, animations and photographs, and more than 300 sound effects.

Record, play back and improve your pronunciation, and search for other words that are pronounced in the same way with the Sound Search function.

You can save time and money by buying and installing one copy of the network CD-ROM. Once you have purchased the basic network CD-ROM you can apply for a licence upgrade, so that more students can access the MED.

Create your own wordlists to revise, improve and extend your vocabulary.

Hear the pronunciation of any word in British and American English at the click of a button.

Display only as much information about each word as you want, and add your own notes or translations to every entry in the dictionary.

Quick View gives you instant dictionary definitions of words and phrases in documents, email or web pages. Just hover your mouse over the word you want to see.

Network edition Everything that's on the individual MED CD-ROM is packaged in a convenient network edition, suitable for institutions.

Online edition The full content of the dictionary, along with pronunciations of every word in both British and American English is available online and is free to users who have bought any edition of the Macmillan English Dictionary.
Visit www.macmillandictionaries.com for a wide range of ideas and teaching materials, as well as fascinating articles about words and language.

**Word of the Week**

**Tips for developing dictionary skills**

**Interactive games**

**Dictation exercises**

**Glossaries of terms used in dictionaries, ELT, the Internet and texting**

**News of dictionary events near you**

**Competitions**

**Free e-mail service**

A free e-mail service is available from the Macmillan Dictionaries website. This will provide you with:

- Dictionary e-lessons
- Worksheets complete with teacher’s notes and tips, with access to an archive of e-lessons.

**MED Magazine**

A free monthly webzine covering a wide range of topics on the English language and the teaching of English as a foreign language. MED Magazine offers you:

- Articles by leading authors in the dictionary field and TEFL
- Useful hints and tips by teachers and teacher trainers
- Activities focusing on special features of the CD-ROM
- The opportunity to explore the latest additions to the English language

“**This website has become my NUMBER ONE resource to prepare my lessons. I have found the Word of the Week section fascinating. Congratulations, once more, for this great idea, and thank you very much for the precious information.**”

Laura, Argentina

**“I teach English for business people ... and there is a constant need for live and interesting class materials with lots of conversation and vocabulary work. When I run out of ideas I run to your supplements and my life is saved - over and over again. I would like to thank you on behalf of all teachers the world over for making our lives so much easier.”**

Elivan Souza, English teacher, BICS-Business & International Communication school, Brazil

**Install this sample CD-ROM for a 30-day free trial.**

For more information about any part of the Macmillan English Dictionary suite of products, please contact your local distributor or write to:

Macmillan English Dictionary, Marketing Department, Macmillan Education, Between Towns Road, Oxford OX4 3PP, UK

E-mail: dictionary@macmillan.com