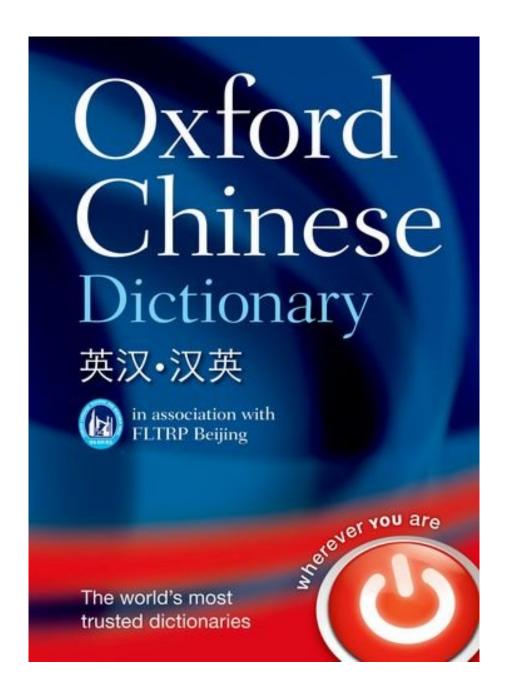


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Review

"an impressive work ... the accuracy of translation/definition is of the highest quality ... a superb reference work, one that should wind up on the desk of every English-Chinese and Chinese-English translator"

--Professor Howard Goldblatt, Chinese language specialist, teacher, and translator

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All the Chinese headwords are shown with Pinyin and tones, so that the learner of Chinese can pronounce each one correctly. Chinese headwords are given in simplified Chinese characters but traditional Chinese character versions are also given in brackets when they differ from the simplified form. All other characters in the dictionary, such as compounds and examples, are shown in simplified characters. The Chinese-English section of the dictionary is organized alphabetically by Pinyin and there is also a radical index which allows you to look up a character without knowing its Pinyin form.

Authoritative and comprehensive, and packed with helpful features, this ground-breaking dictionary is an indispensable reference for any serious student of Mandarin Chinese or English as well as professionals and translators.

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Sales Rank: #257436 in BooksPublished on: 2010-09-01Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 7.50" h x 3.00" w x 10.20" l, 6.06 pounds

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-- Professor Howard Goldblatt, Chinese language specialist, teacher, and translator

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Two Stars

By yao du

The dictionary is good but the carrier mess it up.

24 of 25 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent for study of Chinese, or translators

By Colin McLarty

Every work has its limitations. Here, the English to Chinese section translates English only into characters, with no pinyin. Basically this section is written for Chinese speakers or else English speakers who already read Chinese very well. That is not me! I will often use the English to Chinese section of a dictionary to find a difficult character by guessing from context what it might mean, or to check if I have correctly understood a translation from the Chinese to English side. I cannot do that with this dictionary.

I can only review the Chinese to English section. If you read Chinese beyond a textbook learners level, or if you are a translator then you should have this.

The page layouts are beautiful, and the fonts are larger than other comprehensive Chinese-English dictionaries. As John Dowdell says in his review, it covers far more compound words and phrases than any other Chinese-English dictionary, and these compounds repay the time it takes to read them.

Students do not have to go far in Chinese before meeting phrases that make no sense on a word-by-word basis. Seeing the same or a nearby phrase here will overcome the problem. And even with smaller dictionaries often the easiest way to look up a difficult character is to look up the head character of the phrase it occurs in. That strategy will work much more often with this dictionary than with others.

Translators are likely to benefit too. I am far from translating Chinese but I have published translations from French and German into English. Sometimes you know very well what a sentence means but for a published translation you really can use some help in seeing how best to express it in English. This dictionary will give a great deal of that help.

The one to compare with this is The Contemporary Chinese Dictionary (Chinese-English Edition). It is only Chinese to English, and when you adjust for the different layouts it is very nearly the same length as the Chinese to English section of this. It has many fewer compound words and phrases, and many fewer study aids of the kind that Dowdell describes well in his review of this book. It has correspondingly more distinct characters. By comparing a couple of randomly chosen ranges it seems that The Contemporary Chinese Dictionary (Chinese-English Edition) contains about 30% more distinct single characters than this Oxford dictionary (specifically I compared from cou4 to cun2, and again from qie1 to qin4, which both gave the same result). I cannot attempt any more subtle comparison of how the two dictionaries handle definitions.

The dictionary comes with a free one year subscription to Oxford Language Dictionaries Online: Chinese. When you get past the bugs you find resources far less useful than are available free on line. There is, for example, a list of "useful phrases" such as "hello" and "what is your name?" If your Mandarin is at that level then there are infinitely many websites with more helpful phrases available free -- and you do not want this dictionary yet. There are pages of grammatical advice far less valuable than you can access free at Chinesepod. The Chinese look-up system is far less useful than the free dictionary (which even has

handwritten character recognition) at Yellowbridge. If you are reading Chinese then you should get this dictionary. But Oxford Language Dictionaries Online is an utter waste of time as far as I can see.

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

Not for chinese learners

By Vicente Hurtado

Although the dictionary is impressive by the size and ammount of words available it has a big problem the English to Chinese section translates English only into characters, with no pinyin nor MPS, so basically the dictionary was published for Chinese speakers or English speakers who already read Chinese very well.

Unfortunately this dictionary is not intended for the chinese learner.

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