

New Oxford dictionary to boost standards in student writing

"I decided to assess how much of my tutorial time I spend correcting undergraduate English. The answer is about 70 per cent. Most of the feedback students get from me on their written work focuses on their inability to communicate. My view is that if you cannot write good English, it is difficult to organise your ideas effectively.

Tim Birkhead, Professor of Behavioural Ecology, Sheffield University
The Times Higher Educational Supplement, June 9, 2006

Network Rail apparently rejects 50% of graduate applications because they are gobbledegook... The Royal Mail estimates that spelling mistakes and poor grammar cost UK businesses more than £700m a year; the Cabinet Office's strategy unit puts it higher, at £10bn.

The Guardian, March 25, 2006

Oxford University Press is committed to raising educational standards: we asked students and lecturers how they used dictionaries and what features would help support student writing and study skills. The ***Compact Oxford English Dictionary for Students*** is the result of that research...

A dictionary specifically designed to support today's students

With A-level results imminent and many school-leavers contemplating life in higher education, the ***Compact Oxford English Dictionary for Students*** meets the needs of today's undergraduate and college students.

The dictionary provides up-to-date and accessible information on the vocabulary of contemporary English, including a wide selection of terms from specialist areas such as computing.

- Comprehensive coverage of current English with over 150,000 words, phrases and definitions, based on the ongoing research of Oxford Dictionaries and the authority of the Oxford English Corpus
- Clear and accessible layout with attractive colour design in a compact, portable format
- Clear and straightforward guidance on grammar and usage based on analysis of actual mistakes, including notes on the differences between commonly confused words such as *pedal* and *peddle*, and *affect* and *effect*
- Thousands of real example phrases show how words are used in context

Targeted materials to develop writing skills

The central section ***Effective Writing for College and Career*** is specifically tailored to meet students' needs, both at college and when embarking on a career. It offers practical information on essay-writing, referencing, research and note-taking, CVs/résumés and job application letters, plus extra help with grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Full list of contents:

Section 1: Brush up your English

Introduction

1.1 Essentials of spelling, grammar, and punctuation

- Spelling
- Grammar
- Punctuation
- Common spelling errors
- Commonly confused words

1.2 Striking the right note: appropriate language

- Register, style and tone
- Email guidelines

Section 2: Writing for College and Career

Introduction

2.1 College

- Essays and dissertations
- Effective note-taking
- References and bibliographies
 - referencing websites and electronic sources
- Writing in exams
- Other types of writing:
 - reports
 - summaries
 - reviews
 - plagiarism

2.2 Career

- Writing CVs/résumés
- Job application letters and emails
 - for a specific job
 - speculative applications

Additional online support for students

To coincide with the publication of the print dictionary, Oxford University Press is also launching an Online Resource Centre at www.oup.com/uk/dictionaries/coedfs. The new site offers additional materials aimed at developing undergraduate writing and research skills, and includes a handy jargon-buster, revision guide, sample letters and emails, and top 10 grammar, spelling, and punctuation tips.

Test yourself...

How does **YOUR** spelling measure up? Are you confident about your grammar and punctuation? Test yourself online at www.oup.com/uk/dictionaries/coedfs

Compact Oxford English Dictionary for Students publishes 3 August 2006, price £12.99 paperback

For further information or to request a review copy, please contact Kate Farquhar-Thomson on 01865 353423 or email Kate.farquhar-thomson@oup.com, or visit our website at www.askoxford.com

<p>Oxford English Corpus Oxford dictionaries and thesauruses are compiled using the Oxford English Corpus – a massive text collection of over one</p>

billion words of real 21st-century English – to give us the fullest, most accurate picture of the English language today. By analysing the language with the Corpus we can see the behaviour of words in context and identify new words and senses that are emerging.