Dictionaries

- The word 'dictionary' is derived from the medieval Latin word 'dictionarium'- a collection of words. It originates from the term 'diction' meaning 'a mode of expression'. It deals with the collection of general words either of a language or special terms of a particular subject. It usually defines terms and gives their alternate or variant spellings, pronunciations, syllabication, part of speech, etc. In a nutshell it deals with words.

Alternate works which deal with words:

- Glossary

- Lexicon

- Thesaurus

- Vocabulary

Combination of Dictionary with other Reference Sources:

- Dictionary-cum-Thesaurus

- Encyclopaedic Dictionary

Categories of Dictionaries

- ❑ General Language Dictionary
- ❑ Special Dictionary
- ❑ Subject Dictionary
- ❑ Translating Dictionary
- General Language Dictionary can be further categorised as-

1. According to purpose:

Prescriptive dictionaries- to set authoritative standards for spelling, pronunciation, meaning and usage.

Descriptive Dictionaries- to record the words of a language with all their spellings, pronunciation, meaning and usage.

2. According to size

    Unabridged, Semi-abridged, Abridged,

3. According to volumes

    Single Volume, Multi Volume

4. According to User's age

- Special Dictionaries- compiled to deal with special purpose or aspects of a language.

  1. Dictionaries covering specific linguistic aspects of the work.

  2. Dictionaries covering a special type or class of words.

  3. Dictionaries dealing with literary aspects and catering to special group of prersons.

- Translating Dictionary

  Bilingual

  Multilingual (polyglot)

- Subject Dictionaries

  Unabridged or abridged

  Single volume or Multivolume

  Bilingual or Multilingual

- Uses

  A quick reference tool

  A language standardiser

  A language recorder

  A vocabulary builder

Questions answered by Dictionaries

- Definitions
- Orthography
- Pronunciation
- Grammar
- Etymology
- Synonyms
- Regionalisms

Oxford English Dictionary (OED)

- The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) is widely regarded as the accepted authority on the English language. It is an unsurpassed guide to the meaning, history, and pronunciation of 600,000 words— past and present—from across the English-speaking world.

- As a historical dictionary, the OED is very different from dictionaries of current English, in which the focus is on present-day meanings. One can find present-day meanings in the OED, but also find the history of individual words, and of the language—traced through 3 million quotations, from classic literature and specialist periodicals to film scripts and cookery books.

- The OED started life more than 150 years ago.

  The twenty volume OED took forty four years to complete. With over500,000 entries that have multiple corollary word forms, extensive etymo9logy, date of first recorded use of a word, and a 'sense perspective' that includes the usage and status of the word, the OED is accepted authority of international English.

- **Electronic versions**

- Once the text of the dictionary was digitized and online, it was also available to be published on CD-ROM. The text of the first edition was made available in 1987. Afterward, three versions of the second edition were issued. Version 1 (1992) was identical in content to the printed second edition, and the CD itself was not copy-protected. Version 2 (1999) included the Oxford English Dictionary Additions of 1993 and 1997.

- Version 3.0 was released in 2002 with additional words from the OED3 and software improvements. Version 3.1.1 (2007) added support for hard disk installation, so that the user does not have to insert the CD to use the dictionary. Version 4.0 of the CD has been available since June 2009 and works with Windows 7 and Mac OS X (10.4 or later). This version uses the CD drive for installation, running only from the hard drive.

- On 14 March 2000, the Oxford English Dictionary Online (OED Online) became available to subscribers. The online database contains the entire OED2 and is updated quarterly with revisions.. The online edition is the most up-to-date version of the dictionary available. The OED web site is not optimized for mobile devices, but the developers have stated that there are plans to provide an API that would enable developers to develop different interfaces for querying the OED.

- The price for an individual to use this edition is £195 or US$295 every year, even after a reduction in 2004; consequently, most subscribers are large organizations such as universities. Some public libraries and companies have subscribed, as well, including public libraries in the United Kingdom, and public libraries in New Zealand. Individuals who belong to a library which subscribes to the service are able to use the service from their own home without charge.

- The OED is updated on a quarterly basis. The material added to the dictionary includes revised versions of existing entries (which replace the older versions), and new words and senses both within the alphabetical sequence of revised entries and also across the whole A to Z range. Latest update April 2020.

- www. oed.com -Subscription

- Any new and widespread phenomenon always brings with it the development of new language to describe it. This particular crisis has brought a mixture of new coinages and the adaptation of terms that already existed to talk about the pandemic and the impact on the world. OED has included some of the more widely-used terms in this update.

Webster's Third New International Dictionary

- Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged. 2002. Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc.

Subscription

- http://corporate.britannica.com/library/online/index.html

- Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged is the direct descendant of Noah Webster's 1828 opus, An American Dictionary of the English Language.

- First published in 1961. It was edited by Philip Babcock Gove and a team of lexicographers Since the 1961 publication, Merriam Webster has reprinted the main text of the dictionary with only minor corrections. To add new words, they created an 'Addenda Section' in 1966, included in the front matter, which was expanded in 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1993, and 2002. However, the rate of additions has been much slower than it had been throughout the previous hundred years.

- Following the purchase of Merriam-Webster by Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. in 1964, a three-volume version was issued for many years as a supplement to the encyclopaedia. At the end of volume three, this edition included the Britannica World Language Dictionary, 474 pages of translations between English and French, German, Italian, Spanish, Swedish, and Yiddish.

- A CD-ROM version of the complete text, with thousands of additional new words and definitions from the "addenda", was published by Merriam-Webster in 2000, and is often packaged with the print edition.

- Webster's Third New International Dictionary is a completely new work, redesigned, restyled, and reset. Every line of it is new. G & C. Merriam Company now offers Webster's Third New International Dictionary to the English-speaking world as a prime linguistic aid to interpreting the culture and civilization of today, as the first edition served the America of 1828.

- This edition has been prepared with a constant regard for the needs of the high school and college student, the technician, and the periodical reader, as well as of the scholar and professional. It undertakes to provide for the changes in public interest in all classes of words as manifested by what people want to read, discuss, and study.

- The dictionary more than ever is the indispensable instrument of understanding and progress. This new Merriam-Webster unabridged dictionary is the record of the English language as it is written and spoken. It is offered with confidence that it will supply in full measure that information on the general language which is required for accurate, clear, and comprehensive understanding of the vocabulary of today's society. - Preface.

- Thumbed index. Contains over 460,000 entries defining the English language as it is written and spoken today

The End