

THE BASIC OXFORD PICTURE DICTIONARY

Gramer, M.F. (2003). *The Basic Oxford Picture Dictionary, 2nd Ed.* Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. ix + 120. List price: \$14.50

Reviewed by
Catherine Clements

Thirteen years after the publication of the popular first edition, *The Basic Oxford Picture Dictionary* has been updated with color-coded topic guides, contemporary artwork and a revised Teacher's Guide. Designed for low-beginning, literate adult ESL/EFL students, the dictionary features more than 1,200 words presented in context of lifelike, realistic tableaux. Attractive, lightweight, and affordable (\$14.50), it functions both as a standalone dictionary and as a companion to other materials in *The Basic Oxford Dictionary Program*.

The book is thoughtfully laid out and easy to use. Its utilitarian cover accurately depicts what the interior delivers: useful vocabulary for an English learner's daily life. Inside, it is divided into 12 thematic areas addressing its target audience's most immediate language needs. The book is full color throughout, illustrations are clear and informative, and type is large and legible.

Each page features 8-16 vocabulary words, which are sometimes shown alongside a single picture, but more often are incorporated into a scene. For example, "The Intersection" (p. 72-73) shows a busy street corner illustrating nouns such as "newsstand" and "curb" and verbs such as "come out of the store" and "buy groceries." Questions using some vocabulary are located at the bottom of each page.

The characters in the pictures are of all ages, ethnicities and social classes, reflective of the learners who are the target audience for this book. Themes such as A Day-Care Center (p. 90) and phrases such as "grate cheese" (p. 46) employ vocabulary needed by the audience.

However, the book leaves something to be desired in terms of cultural sensitivity. For instance, the emotion "scared" (p. 18) is illustrated by an affluent, nervous-looking Anglo couple walking down an alley with graffiti painted on it. For many learners, a graffiti-filled wall does not instill fear, and the connection between the signifier and the signified may be unclear. Also, the section "Occupations" devotes more space to blue-collar than white-collar jobs. This may be chance or a well-intentioned effort to depict jobs likely to be held by readers, but it does not suit the needs of adults who have left office jobs in their home countries and need to talk about their former jobs with prospective employers.

This dictionary is part of a package which includes student resources like a workbook and picture cards, and instructor resources such as a teacher's book, a book with reproducible activities, and an audio program with a CD or cassette tapes. Teachers can

pair the dictionary with complementary materials to create multifaceted, engaging lessons. If instructors can choose only one supplementary piece, the teacher's book is the best choice; it includes numerous quick, creative ideas for additional student practice, games, and expanding in-class activities

Even without additional supplementary materials, this is an effective dictionary, with many basic, practical nouns plus limited adjectives and adverbs (which are difficult to portray in pictures) that can easily be integrated into an existing syllabus. It admirably fulfills its dual purposes of being clear enough for beginning learners and real enough for adults. Its usefulness and affordability make it a wise purchase for ABE instructors and students.

Reviewer

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The English/Vietnamese edition of "The New Oxford Picture Dictionary" presents over 2,400 words in both English and Vietnamese, clearly depicted on 102 pages of full-color, contextualized illustrations. Vocabulary is introduced within 82 topics, which range from such basics as food, clothing, and shelter to more Pictures convey meaning more clearly than words alone. Start your review of The New Oxford Picture Dictionary. Write a review. Oct 29, 2013 Tasneem Jamal rated it really liked it. very useful dictionary. flag 1 like Like see review. I would recommend this to any one who wants to build basic vocabulary of things/items/foods/organs/vegetables etc in our daily life. Very user friendly and easy. I have gone through different books, but this one is best. flag Like see review. The Basic Oxford Picture Dictionary. Oxford ESL Dictionary. Bilingua L. n Oxford iWriter an interactive tutor to help students plan, write, and review their written work. n Thesaurus, Cultural Guide, and Word origins integrated with the A-Z create a complete reference tool. n Example bank with 1,000s of extra example sentences. A new edition of the popular picture dictionary, available in 13 bilingual editions that meet the language needs of young adult and adult students around the world. n Clear, vibrant illustrations define over 4,000 words and phrases. n 13 bilingual editions with complete second language indexes now including new Farsi and Urdu editions. Definition of basic adjective from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. basic. adjective. There's a basic contradiction in the whole idea of paying for justice. They haven't even given us the most basic information we need. The basic idea is that we all meet up in London. of the simplest kind or at the simplest level. The campsite has only basic amenities. My knowledge of French is pretty basic. The design is very basic. I'm going to ask you a few basic questions. The recruits begin their basic training next week. [only before noun] necessary and important to all people. basic human rights. basic needs like food, shelter and security. the cost of basic foods. (especia