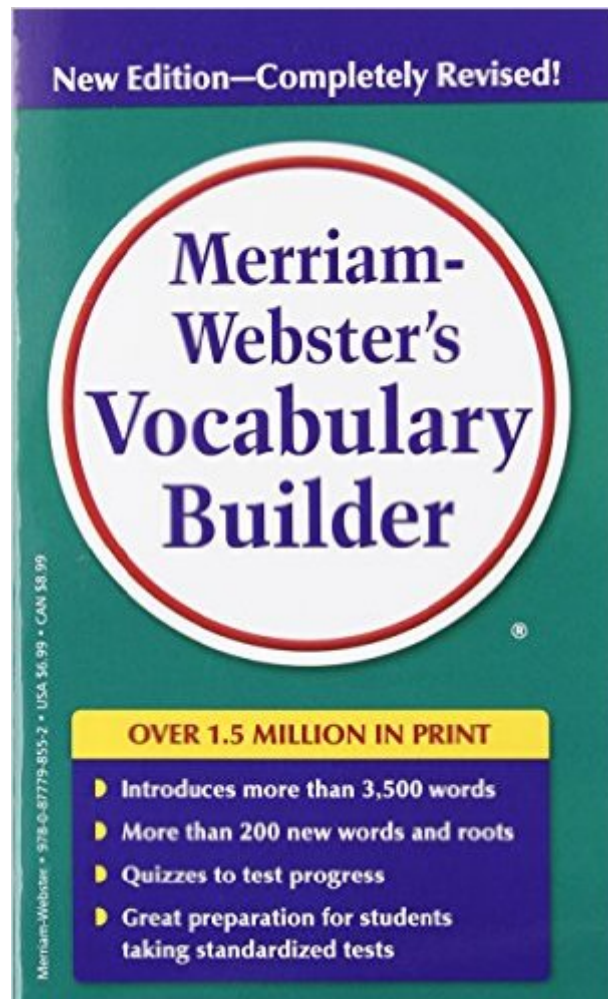


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# Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder



## Synopsis

Specially designed to improve use and learning of language. Thorough coverage of 1,200 words and 240 roots while introducing 2,300 more words. Organized by Greek and Latin roots for effective study with nearly 250 new words and roots. Includes quizzes after each root discussion to test progress. Great for students preparing to take standardized tests.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (174 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #16,403 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in [Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Vocabulary, Slang & Word Lists > Vocabulary](#) #43 in [Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Reference](#) #255 in [Books > Textbooks > Reference](#)

## Customer Reviews

I just bought this book and read 5 pages so far. And I love it! I can speak English, my second language, very well. But I want my vocabulary to be as good as a native speaker, so I was looking for a book that only includes high-level vocabulary and shows how to use them in phrases. This book is the answer and more! It groups words by their roots, and gives a little story of the roots at the right level. Under each root, there are usually 3 or 4 words, which I think is a good quantity. I found this effective in learning similar words quickly. Each word is followed by abundant yet short phrases to illustrate its meanings and connotations. The phrases are informative and fun to read. After several roots, you can take quizzes to see how much you have learnt or forgotten. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to build a powerful vocabulary in an effective way.

Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder , New Edition 2010 , written by Mary Wood Cornog, will be useful to undergraduates, journalists, editors and all who work in the communications field. I have personally completed the first Unit out of thirty units ; well, it is money well invested as I felt my brain got a good workout. Here are two terms I definitely enjoyed learning about : reprobate, nestor . Let's

see if you can make out their meaning from the following 2 sentences :1 His wife finally left him, claiming he was a reprobate .2 The guest of honor was a nestor among journalists .There is an Introduction to the second edition outlining the 2 goals :(1) to add a large number of words to your permanent working vocabulary(2) to teach the most useful of the classical word-building roots to help you continue expanding your vocabulary in the future .The author provides a knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, those that have produced the largest number of common English words, 250 of them roots.Pronunciation symbols are provided to help recognize them when you hear them.The 30 units discuss a total of 1 200 words in detail.Quizzes follow each 8-word group along with review quizzes at the end of each unit.Answers and a word index are provided at the end of the pocket book ; you cannot put the book in your pocket but it can be opened and held in one hand ,as it is no longer than an opened hand.Useful also for GRE and TOEFL students .

Despite advertising hype, no ONE book will double your vocabulary, but reading several vocabulary-building books can double your vocabulary. Different vocabulary-building books have different words and different explanations. If you don't learn a word from one book, you can learn it from another book.Any vocabulary-building book will have many words, a fourth to half the book, that you already understand. You can always skip or skim the easy-to-you words.Varied, incomplete word selection is another reason for using several books. Some books just take words used on past-standardized tests, neglecting other words. Other books, limit their words to words based on word roots, neglecting others. Often authors have thrown in personal favorite words, even if others rarely use the words. If you see a word in two or three books, it's generally a need-to-know word.The only weakness of Merriam Webster's Vocabulary Builder, and no book is perfect, is that the word selection is limited to words based on word roots. I have not seen the CD version noted by other reviewers and my review applies only the paperback. The price is great.Other Books: Cartoon/Mnemonic vocabulary books have their fans who like the mnemonic memory aids, which are useful before tests. But with only one word and one cartoon per page, these books may only have a few hundred words and are expensive per word. Audio vocabulary books such as Elite Word Power, let you hearing each word pronounced correctly, helpful for improving speaking vocabulary.

An Easy Vocabulary BuilderA Review of "Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder"by Mary Wood CornogISBN 0-87779-910-5Copyright 1998This book 558 pages and is organized into twenty-five study units.Each of the twenty five-study unit is composed of a series of classical roots. Each root has an explanation.Following each root/explanation is a list of words based on the classical root.

Each modern word has a pronunciation key, followed by a simplified definition and an example. The definitions are good and the examples are well thought-out. Frequent quizzes ensure comprehension. This book is a good vocabulary builder and is easy to read and use as a self-study guide. See also: Merriam-Webster's Everyday Language Reference Set: Vocabulary Builder/Thesaurus/Dictionary I recommend "Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder" because it is so easy to read. It is a first-class, uncomplicated self-study text.

I own the 1st edition of the Vocabulary Builder and like it a lot. Bought the second edition and it is even better. A lot of interesting words. The structure based on the word roots/suffixes/prefixes is very good. Sections presenting the words from history and mythology are exceptionally interesting to read.

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