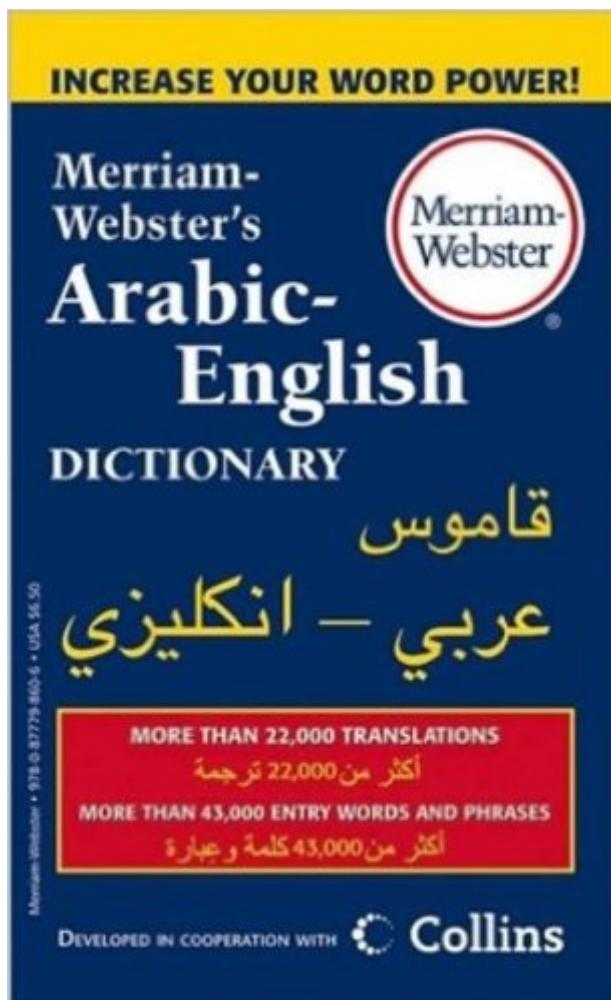


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# Merriam-Webster's Arabic-English Dictionary



## Synopsis

This mass market paperback bilingual, bidirectional dictionary uses current Arabic vocabulary (as it is spoken in the Arabic world) and up-to-date English words and phrases that reflect American English. It gives 43,000 entry words and more than 22,000 translations. IPA pronunciations and abundant usage examples are offered. Special sections include English Irregular Verbs, English pronunciation symbols, and the Arabic alphabet. It's a great dictionary for language learners, teachers, travelers, and translators.

## Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Merriam-Webster Mass Market; Bilingual edition (May 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0877798605

ISBN-13: 978-0877798606

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 1.1 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (47 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I have just about every Arabic Dictionary out there. So, why get this? Well, namely because I couldn't say I have every dictionary out there anymore if I didn't. Semantics aside, this isn't a bad dictionary, it just isn't really beefy. This is no Hans Wehr or Mawrid, but that is what I like: it's concise enough where it doesn't overload you with meanings that are either outdated, rarely used, or both. The English to Arabic side is not has comprehensive as the Oxford English to Arabic, but not as muddled and confusing either. This one is geared towards the English speaker. The Arabic to English side is not done by root but alphabetically. For those newcomers to the language, this will make it a lot easier to look up words faster, but if you already understand the root system, it might seem rather elementary. What would the perfect English to Arabic, Arabic to English Dictionary have?- Same size as a Langenscheidts or Collins has for Spanish, French, German etc.- More examples of usage, not just the meaning with no explanatory sentences.- Inclusion of key terms

used in Egyptian, Levantine, Gulf, Maghrabi, and Iraqi dialects (I know some people say those aren't written; tough to males, it needs to be). - Included grammar section- Anything else that common dictionaries have that Arabic, Persian etc.. don't.

This is a concise little dictionary: it's obviously no replacement for a larger dictionary, but it's a very good price, doesn't take up much space, and is more comprehensive than I'd expected. I should mention that, though it claims to use the IPA to indicate pronunciations, this is only half true. First, while the pronunciation of English words is given using mostly IPA symbols, the stress is marked in non-IPA style. Second, while individual Arabic words in the Arabic section are transliterated using the IPA, they are transliterated using a different system in the English section (as are example phrases in the Arabic section)! This is a very odd decision, which introduces unnecessary and irritating inconsistency. The dictionary also gives the Arabic vowels only in the transcription, rather than marking them on the headword. I'm in two minds about this, particularly as the Arabic words are listed in alphabetical order, rather than by roots. I have no problem with that in itself, given the kind of dictionary this is, but I think that once you're listing the words that way, you might as well mark the vowels on them. These are relatively minor annoyances, however. Overall, given the amount of information it contains relative to its price and size, this is a useful dictionary.

The dictionary seems accurate enough but the type-setting is too small to read. Also, I only wanted an Arabic-English dictionary but this has also an English-Arabic half to it - that would be fine except that it doubles the size of the book. I would rather have had larger fonts for the same amount of space.

Very nice dictionary. I know a lot of people like the Hans Weir Arabic Dictionary, but this one is so much simpler. It has English words first and then Arabic after. Very clear and easy to find words. Very happy with it!

Very good little pocket dictionary for beginners/intermediate. Would have liked irregular plurals for nouns and adjectives. Have used the other (French, German) Merriam Webster dictionaries that are really superb, and thought this might have more. Very good just the same and not overwhelming. Am developing vocabulary competency rapidly.

I have students from Iraq, and they tell me the dictionaries are great in a pinch. Of course, they

prefer dictionaries online, but these are good. They need to know and practice their alphabetical skills.

This dictionary seems to have a pretty good vocabulary, but I find the type style difficult to read, especially because it is set in a smallish point size. As a beginning Arabic student, I have trouble with more stylized Arabic fonts. Also, the definitions are poorly typeset in terms of indentation, making it difficult to tell where one definition group (with related words and phrases) ends and the next definition begins. This isn't a bad dictionary, but I definitely prefer the Hippocrene Arabic Practical Dictionary, also available from .

And this one is by far the best. The others don't have the shaded letters for indexing, which makes for very slow use for the non-native speaker (of either language). Also, this dictionary includes a lovely section involving days of the week, months of the year, numbers, etc., that is very helpful in addition to alphabet and pronunciation guides.

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