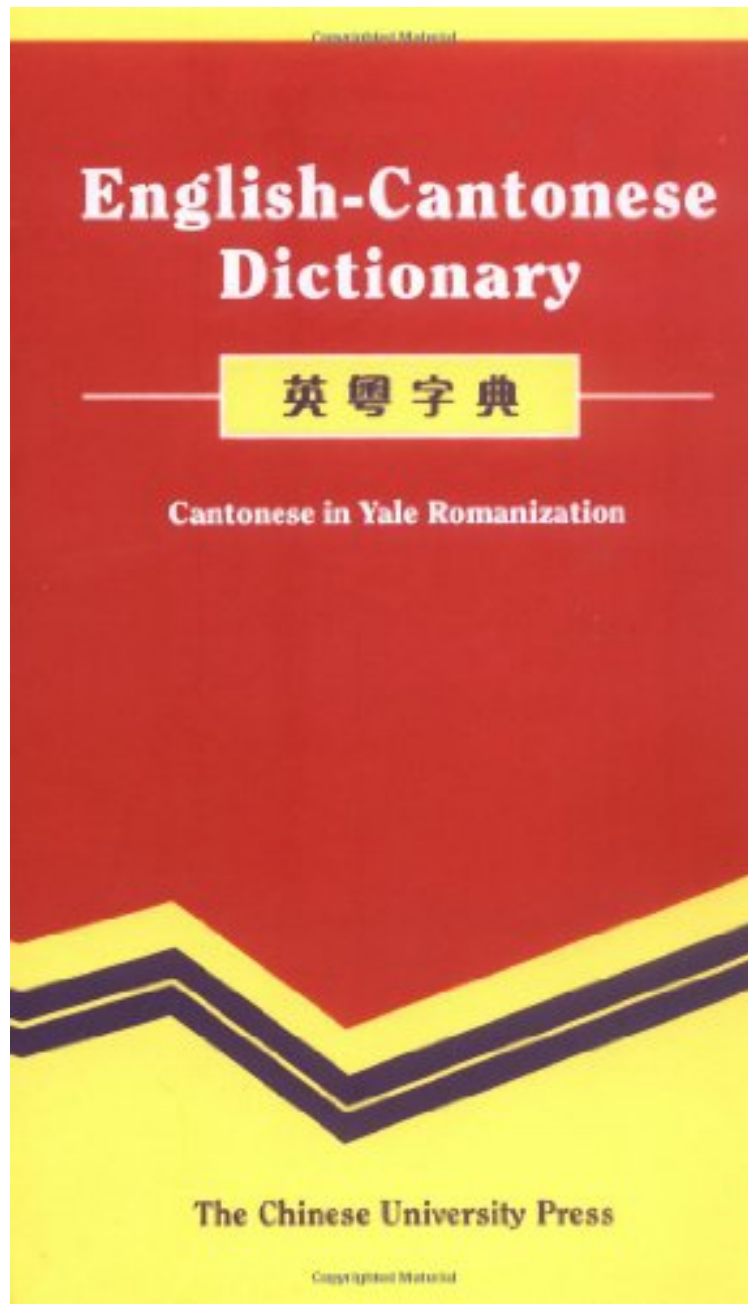


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English-Cantonese Dictionary: Cantonese in Yale Romanization

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3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. good dictionaryBy chamelean75This dictionary isn't perfect but it's very decent. The dictionary uses Yale pronunciation. It does not have Chinese characters. It does however have most of the words you would use in daily life. Another thing I like about the dictionary is that it gives you the measure word for the nouns. I can't even begin to tell you how essential that is. I recommend all Cantonese learners to buy this book. It's one of the best Cantonese dictionaries out there.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A handy guideBy Pierce C. WestThis book's one short coming is that it does not include the Chinese characters to go with the Yale Romanized Cantonese words so that if you need to translate something you need another book. So it is a very good book for looking up the pronunciation of the Cantonese word you need, but of no help at all in translation of written characters. If I could afford only one book, it would be the Chinese-English version, but if I could have two books, this is a good addition.

44 of 45 people found the following review helpful. If you're waiting for THE dictionary, buy, but keep waitingBy S. GlickThis dictionary just came out as a companion to the Yale-in-China Chinese to English dictionary. It has a lot of the charm of the earlier volume: waterproof cover, handy size, useful appendices on grammar and pronunciation, and broad vocabulary. The English is not excessively British, and there are a lot of idioms which are nicely translated into equivalent Cantonese phrases. That being said, there are several real problems:

1. There are printing errors in the pronunciation section where the IPA symbol for Cantonese phoneme "s" is the IPA letter pronounced "sh"--a BAD error, especially for beginners, especially as Cantonese uses no "sh" sound.
2. There are many English spelling errors, not such a big deal most times.
3. Worse, there are errors in the Cantonese transliteration, putting in entirely wrong words by leaving out letters. This was a minor problem in the earlier Chinese-to-English book in only a few words. But when you're using the book to learn the pronunciation, such errors are especially annoying.
4. English synonyms often have different Cantonese translations, for instance check out "maybe" and "perhaps"--this is a minor problem.
5. There are no Chinese characters in this book. While it makes the printing a lot simpler, it hinders the mastery of phrases, not knowing the precise meaning of particles which are homonyms with identical English spelling and tone, but different connotations in Cantonese. If you want to write a translation, you're on your own! I'm not sure this was a great editorial decision.
6. As always happens in a first edition, many idioms are lacking, but I can't complain too much about this.
7. The books are somewhat flimsy--my copy of the earlier text is about 3 months old, and a section has already fallen out. For a reference book, this is not good.

Overall, not a bad reference for pronunciation of Cantonese, with some useful grammar, but with significant flaws.

Over 15,000 of the most commonly used words and phrases; a brief introduction to Cantonese pronunciation in accordance with the Yale System of Romanization; a comparative chart of four systems of Romanization; and grammatical notes for beginners.

About the AuthorThe New Asia Yale-in-China Chinese Language Center is one of the largest institutions of its kind worldwide. Founded in 1963 under the auspices of New Asia College and the Yale-in-China Association, it became part of The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1974. Three to four hundred students from over fifty different countries or regions attend the Center each semester, including summer, to study Cantonese or Putonghua from beginning through advanced levels.