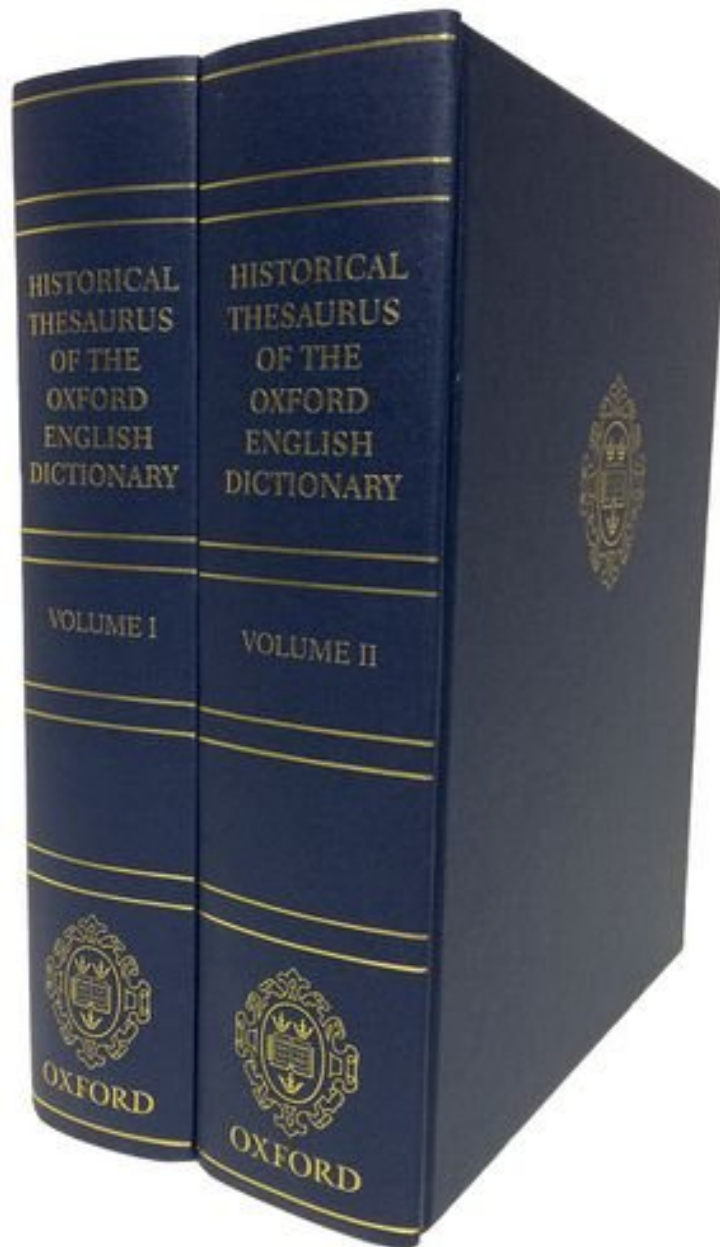


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purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary - 2 volume set:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I never knew how cool my OED was until I got this thesaurus. By Megarat Yes, the entries in this thesaurus are organized numerically by word concept, and not alphabetically by word. It's not uncommon for a serious tool to require some proper effort and training, and complaining about this reference work being "inconveniently" organized is like complaining about how riding a motorcycle is more complicated than riding a bicycle. Yes, this thesaurus does require a bit of extra work on the user's end, and if this thesaurus had been organized alphabetically, it would be at least twice as long and probably only one-tenth as fascinating. Because holy cow, this thesaurus is freaking incredible. As a reference work, it's not really for learning synonyms, but rather to see how the English language has evolved around concepts over time. Finding novel and interesting words in the OED2 all by itself isn't as easy as it could be, but with this baby by its side, going on a lexical journey is trivial and fascinating. Looking up any single word or concept will unearth words that you didn't know existed, each with their individual nuances or historical differences that can be cross-referenced in the OED2. I can spend (and have spent) many enjoyable hours with this thing, starting with one word or concept and branching out from there. In this format, related concepts precede and succeed each other, so going from one category to the next is as simple as moving on to an adjacent entry. As this thesaurus was specifically derived from the OED 2nd Edition, I regard this as an essential companion to the OED2. This is a grand statement, but an OED2 without this thesaurus is only half as capable as it could be. This thesaurus is what really opens it up and enables the true, incredible scope of the OED2's breadth and depth as a reference. (Because let's admit it, the OED2 isn't really a "dictionary" (as much as this isn't really a "thesaurus"), at least in that looking-up-the-meaning-of-a-weird-word-you-just-found kind of way. It's more of a philologist's tool, providing a historical lexical tour of the English language. This thesaurus is what really brings that capability to life, by indexing the words orthogonally by concept instead of by alphabet.) If you need a thesaurus because you are looking for a novel adverb in order to avoid using the same word twice in the same sentence, then look elsewhere. There are many other fine thesauruses that are best-suited for that purpose, including those that are organized alphabetically, such as Rodale's "The Synonym Finder". And standing on its own, without an OED2 to complement it, this thesaurus will have limited value, simply because many of the words included within can't be found anywhere else. But if you own an OED2, and if you think it's pretty keen, then your next imperative should be to save up the scratch to get a copy of this thesaurus forthwith. It has a steep price tag, but for even casual scholars of the English language, its value will be recognized immediately. 41 of 42 people found the following review helpful. A New Introduction to Your Mind By Fog Eater I was about to send this back because I had the same reservations expressed in other reviews. The relatively small print! The bizarre organization! I had a very negative initial reaction. I put the two heavy and unwieldy volumes back in their box, wrapped them up and had them ready to send back to . Then I decided not to be too hasty and to give the volumes a second look. On the second look -- both volumes open side by side -- I fell in love. The Oxford Historical Thesaurus is an inexhaustible intellectual gift to all English speakers. The lucidity of the categories gives you a new way to approach your language and a new way to approach the concepts in your own mind. Being able to watch words evolve from Old English to our modern time allows you to see the arrival and development of cherished concepts -- the slow blooming of a branch as bud after bud opens off the central stalk. In the end even the typeface is pretty easily readable, (despite its relatively small font size). These books are an enduring invitation to jubilation. Users of English owe an immense debt of gratitude to the researchers and compilers at the University of Glasgow and the University of London and all the teams of people who helped them over the long years of their labor. What they have built strikes me as far bigger even than their labors - a truly inexhaustible gift to English speakers. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. FINALLY ARRIVED FOR THE SUBSCRIBERS OF THE OED3 ONLINE... By Mark Karamian THOROUGH AND UNMATCHED IN WORLD LEXICOGRAPHY. "Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary" now is available for subscribers of the OED3 Online. The combination of the two is ASTONISHING! Each lexical unit of this thesaurus is accompanied ALPHABETICALLY with every possible word within the OED3 online.

.com Product Description A 40-year project in the making, the Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary is the first historical thesaurus to include almost the entire vocabulary of English, from Old English to the present day. Conceived and compiled by the Department of English Language of the University of Glasgow, the Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary is a groundbreaking analysis of the historical inventory of English, allowing users to find words connected in meaning throughout the history of the language. The Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary is a unique resource for word-lovers of all types--linguists and language specialists, historians, literary commentators, among others--as well as a fascinating resource for everyone with an interest in the English language and its historical development. It is a perfect complement to the OED itself, allowing the words in

the OED to be cross-referenced and viewed in wholly new ways.