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Larousse College Dictionary: Spanish-English / Ingles-Espanol (Spanish And English Edition)



Synopsis

Aimed at upper-intermediate and advanced users who need more than a pocket-size or concise dictionary can offer, the Larousse College Dictionary "available in both Spanish and French editions" provides in-depth coverage of common vocabulary and a broad range of business terminology to appeal not only to students but to those who use Spanish or French in their professional lives. With up-to-date vocabulary in all subject areas, the College Dictionary is full of useful features, such as 120,000 entries with more than 200,000 translations, thousands of illustrative examples and idiomatic expressions, 120 boxed entries on life and culture, notes on false friends and easily confused words, a 64-page communication guide covering topics such as writing letters and e-mails, applying for jobs, writing advertisements, and more, verb conjugation tables. The Spanish edition also features extensive notes on Latin American Spanish variants. The Larousse College Dictionary packs all of Larousse's language expertise into one convenient volume, an excellent balance of content and value.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

My Master's thesis was a review and rating of large Spanish-English dictionaries. I find this dictionary, like all the other Larousse dictionaries, to be a good choice. Here are a few of the factors which distinguish a good bilingual dictionary from a bad one. To begin with, ignore certain publishers' marketing ploys such as entry and translation counts. They say nothing about the value of the

words chosen. The first valid factor to consider is lexicographic technique. A bad dictionary simply lists translations. Take, for example, the entry in the Cassell's Spanish Dictionary under the English headword loop: "lazo, gaza, nudo; ojal, presilla, alamar; anillo; recodo, comba, curva, vuelta," etc. For the English reader writing in Spanish, this is hopelessly inadequate, as the dictionary provides no clue as to which translation to use in which situation. Compare the treatment of the same word in the far superior American Heritage Spanish Dictionary. "(length of line) lazo; (coil) vuelta; (bend) curva; (circular path) vuelta, circuito; (fastener) presilla" etc. Here, the user is given glosses in the native language to assist in identifying the right word for the context. Example sentences are also a tremendous help. Larousse is excellent in this respect, presenting good information to guide users through the semantic and syntactic complexities. Second, a good dictionary should maintain an up-to-date lexicon, including such cultural and technological additions to the language as "baby sitter," "hostile takeover," "software," "flash drive." Larousse does a good job in this respect; its frequent revisions are more than mere window dressing and do a creditable job of covering the most recent additions to the language.

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