Librería

Bonilla y Asociados

desde 1950





Título:

Autor: Precio: \$336.00

Editorial: Año: 2002

Tema: Edición: 1ª

Sinopsis ISBN: 9780618249510

This volume, a revised edition of The American Heritage English as a Secondary Language Dictionary (1998), provides an excellent resource for the intended audience of learners of English as a second language.

The dictionary is adapted from the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (4th ed., 2000) and defines more than 40,000 words, among them newer terms such as ATM, Internet, and on-line. Reasonably portable, it includes homonyms such as rote and wrote, which often confuse ESL speakers. Synonyms are also provided, with degrees of emphasis added. For example, synonyms for anger include rage and fury, with explanations as to their usage. Definitions for common idiomatic phrases such as here you go and look alive provide additional value, as do word-building lessons such as the ones on neo- and -oid, explaining how word parts are attached to existing words (e.g., neoclassicism, humanoid). Somebody and something are strangely abbreviated as sbdy and sthg, a space-saving measure that will only serve to further confuse ESL learners, who are already confused enough. New to the revised edition is a reference section containing basic grammar, forms of address, U.S. states and capitals, and a few other items.

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