

Synopsis

This invaluable reference offers thousands of illustrations, allowing users to establish the precise name for more than 3,000 objects.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Containing more than 25,000 terms that match up with 3,000 black-and-white illustrations, The Facts on File Visual Dictionary is perfect for anyone who desires a wide range of detailed graphic knowledge from a variety of areas. The Facts on File Visual Dictionary not only provides a wealth of pictures, graphics, and illustrations--listed by theme in an easy-to-follow table of contents--but also lets readers start from just one word, providing a series of indexes broken into thematic and specialized sections to help them find what they're after. These sections cross-reference each other nicely, making it simple for the dedicated linguistics student to track down pictures of everything from an accordion pleat to an accordion bag by just flipping a few pages.

A society (and age) increasingly dependent on visual language is badly in need of a tool to guide in refining use of terminology and in relating terms to clearly illustrated visual objects. Corbeil, linguist and authority on terminology, is largely successful in his effort. In this work information is presented under 28 major subjects (themes) further divided into numerous categories and sub-categories, beginning with the natural world and progressing through human and social topics. Except for preface and introduction, there is no narrative; the book is composed of black-and-white drawings of

the object, activity, etc., labeled by precise term or terms. Three indexes and selected bibliography complete the volume. Reginald Bragonier's *What's What: a Visual Glossary of the Physical World* (LJ 2/1/82) invites comparison. The *Facts on File Visual Dictionary*'s scholarly preparation, linguistic basis, and emphasis on precision distinguish it. For most public and academic libraries. Harry E. Whitmore, Arrowhead Lib. System, Virginia, Minn. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I have had this title for more than 15 years and still find occasions to thank it for being there on my bookshelf. If you love line drawings, you will love this book. The sketches are neat and detailed. The feel of the book is that of a classic work. In some sections (such as household items, clothing) it is way superior to other works such as DK's "Ultimate Visual Dictionary". What it lacks is coverage of articles that have come into existence after 1985. That might sound a huge miss but it is not actually so. I believe you need to pair this book with a more recent visual dictionary. But there is nothing that can replace this book. The three indexes at the back (general, thematic and specialised) make looking up a word or drawing very easy. If you are someone who must know the exact word, then you must have this title on your bookshelf.

Great homeschool book. Kids learn so much curling up with this.

Excellent book. Great vocabulary tool.

I've owned this book since I was a very young child, and I still find myself looking through the pages occasionally to find out the name of some "whatchamacalit." The book is 797 pages, including an extensive index. The drawings are simple yet detailed. For instance, on page 288, there's a drawing of a man's felt hat, with lines indicating the name of each section of the hat, including the brim, the binding, the hatband, the bow and the crown. Depending on what industry you work in, this kind of information might be critical to doing your job successfully. There's a section on "Transportation by Sea," with dozens of full-page drawings of various kinds of watercraft, with lines indicating each section and the specific name for each item. A "passenger liner" drawing on page 419 has about 25 different lines indicating the name of different parts of the ship. I highly recommend this book for writers who want to know the name of that "thingamajig," as well as for parents of children with Asperger Syndrome or other detail-specific conditions, who are always wanting to know the specific names of different things.

This is a wonderful book that, instead of using words to describe terms, uses pictures to allow you to see what the various parts of things are called. The book is very well organized, starting with Astronomy and ending with Symbols. Within each category (or subcategory) you can find a line drawing of what you need to know about, then look at the labels and understand the parts. One of the things I find truly amazing about this book is that it illustrates how precise a vocabulary each "thing" has. Flipping to a page at random, I end up on page 233, which is within the House Furniture category. There are three illustrations on this page: a steam iron, a can opener, and a kettle. The steam iron has no fewer than seventeen parts labeled. They are: steam button, thumb rest, slide selector, temperature dial, spray, fill opening, front tip, button notch, shell, soleplate, heel rest, sight-glass tube, fabric guide, cord, vertical cord life, handle, and spray button. Whew! For people who need to know the exact word for some part of a physical thing, this is a terrific book. And if you just like to browse and learn, this is a terrific book.

This book is great for those times when you need to describe something to someone and you just don't have the vocabulary to do it. In a matter of seconds, find the piece of equipment, etc. that you are looking for and then you know what all the parts are called. It's like having a whole new vocabulary and hundreds of diagrams.

GREAT BOOK !!! I have had this book for many years and have had Many occasions to bring it out. Now my grandchildren are of an age that they like to see "exactly" what I am trying to describe, etc. This will help my daughter in another State to fill in for Grandma and her descriptions. Thanks for a great book. AWL

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