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- Explore eclectic themes such as "Positive Intellectual Characteristics," "Parts of an Engine," and "Wholeness and Completeness."



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Editorial Review

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This companion to the *Microsoft Encarta College Dictionary* [RBB N 15 01] has 40,000 alphabetically arranged entries with 350,000 synonyms and antonyms. *Microsoft Encarta* combines both an A-Z and a thematic approach; most other thesauruses use one or the other.

In addition to single words the alphabetic section contains phrases like *full of beans* and *walk a tightrope*. Interspersed between the entries are "Compare and Contrast" boxes that explain nuances in meaning. There are also boxes for lists of types or parts--types of sports, parts of an engine. Advertised as up-to-date with terms for technology, science, and business, the thesaurus even includes words that are not in the *College Dictionary*, such as *cybermarketing*. Other current words with synonyms are *extreme sport*, *MBO* (*management buyout*), and *superstore*.

The alphabetic section serves as an index to the thematic section, and the editor has done a good job of linking the two. The thematic section groups more than 50,000 related words under 1,279 topics. Many of the numbered entries begin with a quotation. (Garry Trudeau on lifestyle: "I've been trying for some time now to develop a lifestyle that doesn't require my presence.") The lack of a guide to the abbreviations (for example: n, adj. v., UK) that are used throughout the volume is a slight drawback. Another is that since the vocabulary is derived from the British Bloomsbury Database of World English, some British words and meanings like *signboard* (billboard) and *tailback* (traffic jam) are included.

Since the *Microsoft College Encarta Thesaurus* is based on the Synonym Finder in Microsoft Office 2000 and has the familiar ("well-known, recognizable, common") words *Microsoft* and *Encarta* in the title, it will be a popular resource for high-school and college students. It is an excellent choice for libraries or individuals that need a current thesaurus that reflects today's culture. *RBB*
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About the Author

Susan Jellis, General Editor of the *Microsoft Encarta College Thesaurus*, received an M.A. in General Linguistics from Manchester University, England. She is an editor of the *Cambridge International Dictionary of English*, Special Subjects Editor of the *Encarta World English Dictionary*, and the Editor of the Microsoft Office 200 Synonym Finder.

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Marlene Turner:

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