



Dictionary Review

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Norstedts engelsk-svenska ordbok – professionell English↔Swedish

Reviewed by:
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Publisher:
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Number of entries:
138,000

ISBN:
978-91-1-302951-1

Price:
\$68.00

Available from:
Bokus Bokhandel
www.bokus.com

Specialty/field:
General

Type of work:
Advanced level dictionary for university students,
translators, teachers, researchers, and business
people.

The Norstedts *engelsk-svenska
ordbok – professionell* is the reference
I use most in my translation business. I
have the electronic version of this dic-
tionary on my desktop and laptop and
use it daily. Now that I have the hard-
bound, larger-than-brick-sized paper
version in my hand, I do notice things I
have not seen in the electronic version.
In particular, I appreciate the compre-
hensive section located before the
actual dictionary, where there is a list of
abbreviations, dictionary signs, direc-
tions, a note on American English,
irregular verbs in English, pronuncia-
tion guidelines, an overview of the dic-
tionary, plus a list of all the world
countries (in English and Swedish).

The current dictionary is a further
development of the well-known
*Norstedts stora engelsk-svenska
ordbok*, which has for decades been
the go-to resource for all language
professionals translating from English
into Swedish. The core of the dic-
tionary is the general English vocabu-
lary, with the addition of many current
specialized words and expressions
from such areas as business, gas-
tronomy, medicine, music, sports,
information technology, and tech-
nology. This all adds up to an enor-
mous dictionary with 138,000 words
and phrases.

The focus is on everyday language,
but attention is also given to higher
stylistic language versions, older
words, and slang words. The goal of
the dictionary is to provide transla-
tions that are both grammatically and
idiomatically correct. The user is pro-
vided with thorough information on
grammar, style and usage, as well as
pronunciation advice for each word. I
have not found any reviews for the
new version online, but the reviews of
the previous edition have almost
always given five stars.

Components

Introduction: The older version of this
dictionary, *Norstedts stora engelsk-
svenska ordbok*, has become the stan-
dard—a necessary reference for
students, teachers, translators, business
people, and the general public. The
authors of this new edition have added
more than 3,000 words and included
new meanings for existing entries. The
introduction states that the dictionary is
the largest and most complete English
into Swedish dictionary on the market.
It incorporates definitions from a large
number of other dictionaries and ency-
clopedias, plus it includes authentic
examples from newspapers, books, tel-
evision, the Internet, and texts stored in
databases. With all of these examples,
abbreviations, and other information,
the *Norstedts engelsk-svenska ordbok –
professionell* is truly the one and only
resource for professionals working
with English and Swedish.

The dictionary begins with seven
pages containing hundreds of abbrevi-
ations, two pages with special dic-
tionary characters such as parenthesis
and brackets, and four pages of
instructions covering such topics as
order, spelling, compound words, arti-
cles, pronunciation, and conjugation.
The dictionary is based on British
English, but also covers most
American English variants. The
American English version of a word
is specifically indicated when it is dif-
ferent from the British word. The
introduction to the dictionary also
includes six pages listing most of the
irregular verbs in English, plus an
overview of word structures.

Overview: The dictionary uses the fol-
lowing structure for entries:

- Main entry
- Pronunciation (using the phonetic
alphabet)

- Translation
- Part of speech
- Phrase, examples with translation
- Untranslated examples
- Verb phrases
- Construction
- Conjugation
- Subject
- Swedish explanation
- Regional variants
- Style level
- Reference
- Pronunciation
- Additional Entries

Physical Characteristics: This dictionary has an excellent binding with a sturdy cover. The typeface is clear and very legible, with the main words indicated in bold. The paper quality is good, even if the pages are thin. In order to fit as many words on the page as possible, the typeface is small but still very legible, but this is to be expected of a dictionary of this size. Entries are arranged on facing pages, with the first word of the two pages listed in the left upper margin and the last word of the two pages in the right upper margin.

Contents: During my 10 years as a translator, I have relied on this dictionary to help me with many words and expressions. Only with highly specialized words within electronics, engineering, mechanics, law, medicine, and other specific areas does one have to refer to another, more specialized dictionary. Examples of less common words that I found include frowster, hypothyroidism, platitudarian, spar buoy, Walcyrie (proper noun), cybercrime, apodosis, and musette. I also found most abbreviations, such as SPLA, WAN, CWS, IATA, IBRD, and ISDN. I have not discovered any errata in the dictionary, indicating that it has been scrupulously edited. The dictionary seems to have all of the latest words (e.g., “Twitter”) and also some words not used much anymore, such as “henchman” and “twopenny-halfpenny.”

Overall Evaluation

The *Norstedts engelsk-svenska ordbok – professionell* is the best choice for professionals working with English into Swedish translations. However, it is not a book that one can easily take everywhere. As a comple-

ment to the printed edition, I recommend the electronic version that can be downloaded to your computer. If you do choose the print version, it is easy to search and to read. It does not contain any illustrations, which are always nice for explaining plants, animals, etc. However, it does contain the most words that can fit within a three-inch spine. If you do not find the word for which you are looking in this dictionary, it must be a word from a highly specialized field.

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engage with the general public when *Found in Translation: How Language Shapes Our Lives and Transforms the World* is released in October by Penguin. It is high time to claim some of the recognition that our profession so deserves, and I envision this book and the conversations it will inspire to be yet another reason to enjoy this Year of the Translator.

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Scam Alert Websites

<p>Federal Bureau of Investigation The Internet Crime Complaint Center www.ic3.gov</p>	<p>National White Collar Crime Center www.nw3c.org</p>
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