

The Dictionary Index

Introductory Article

This Education Breakthrough May Never Reach the Public.

Improve vocabulary, literacy, and comprehension. **It will be proven in this Website that about the largest problem in education, the largest damager of education, is students not knowing what the words mean.** This information will point the way for you to have a more successful education and a more successful life.

What is the practical way to know what more words mean? Breakthrough U.S. Patent Number 4,813,710 gives an improved book dictionary that will be used more adequately because it is much easier to use. Find a word not with the usual 6 – 7 page turns, but with only 2 – 3 page turns. Here is an inexpensive priority program to help all subjects of study. **Directions for use are in two videos listed after this article on the home page.**



Illustration for U.S. Patent No. 4,813,710

If a student is reading words to understand a lesson, would it help the student to know what those words mean? Definitely, because understanding what the words mean is about the most basic necessity in education.

Hundreds of studies have demonstrated that college students' performance correlates closely with their vocabulary scores. What this means is that students with very good vocabularies often get A's and B's. Students with very poor vocabularies often get D's and F's. These hundreds of studies are **proof** how important it is to know the words.

What happens when one word in a sentence is not understood? The whole sentence can become confused, not understood, or misunderstood. When you look up a word in a dictionary and learn its meaning – and then go back to the sentence that had that word – do you find that the overall meaning of the sentence suddenly jumps into focus?

Apart from those outside hundreds of studies, a person can have a personal proof on the importance of knowing the words. This personal proof can be based solely on the fact that after looking up a not known word, when going back to its sentence, about **every** time the person goes "Oh, **now** I understand that sentence."

Even if someone dreamed up thousands of pages of mistaken theorizing claiming it is not important to know the words, you could ignore that theorizing – – if you recognize that looking up that one word made it possible to understand the whole sentence.

One misunderstood word gives an incorrect meaning to a sentence.

Choose any sentence and change any word, and you can notice how the sentence changes. If a student interpreted the wrong meaning for one word in a sentence, that student would misunderstand what that sentence was saying.

Later sentences are often based on and require an earlier sentence be understood. One not understood word confusing that first sentence is often the beginning of a cancer of confusion in many following sentences. Not knowing what the words mean all by itself can make an education fail – as also demonstrated by those hundreds of studies.

About the most important requirement in education is to know what the words mean. But this requirement is broadly ignored. Students are broadly not looking up the words. Not knowing what the words mean is about the largestcrippler of comprehension and learning.

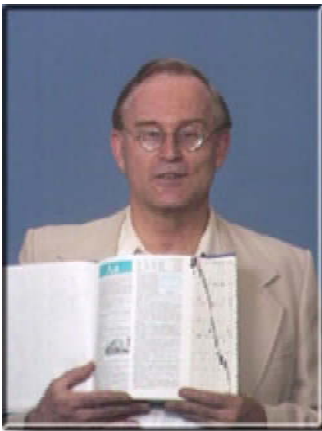
About the first thing that should be done to improve education is to get the words better known. This Website includes two other articles that more broadly prove the importance of knowing what the words mean, found on the home page soon after the two videos.

Students inadequately using dictionaries.

While reading, many students come across new words and make vague guesses. Many do not look up the words because they think that is too much effort. They do not want to make the 6 or 7 page turns in an ordinary book dictionary to find each word. They keep on reading, and they get confused.

Why not make book dictionaries easier to use so that students become more willing to look the words up?

An easier-to-use dictionary



Alexander Weilgart
holding up a working model
of his improved dictionary.

Alexander Weilgart has invented an improved book dictionary, where words are usually found with only 2 or 3 page turns. While yellow page phone books often have large printed black marks on page edges showing where to find the first letter of any word, why not also have smaller printed black marks on page edges to show where to find the second letter of each word? On March 21, 1989 United States Patent No. 4,813,710 on Dictionary Index was granted.

The best way to see how this improved dictionary works is to look at the fun 3-minute video listed next on this Website's home page.

Next, there is also a longer video with more examples, that also shows how this invention works on dictionaries with thumb indexing.

This later 16-minute video also shows how to put this Index on a dictionary of your own, if you do not want to wait to buy one. If you use this idea for free on your own dictionary, you must do the legal requirement of writing "U.S. Patent Number 4,813,710" on that, so that people will know this is patented.

After these two videos on the home page, you will find "Written Directions" where you can see how this works without a video. People usually find the written directions more complicated to understand than the videos. Seeing the fun 3-minute video, people often say "Wow, that is really simple. How come it took over a hundred years to invent this much easier-to-use dictionary?"

A breakthrough over all previous dictionary indexes.

This Dictionary Index has only **one** chart of letters and is a breakthrough over all previous dictionary indexes, all of which had basically **twenty-six** separate charts. There are about 30 such previous patents just in the United States, with many more patents in other countries.

Having only one chart and not 26 separate charts to search through, this Index is less complicated to deal with. This Index also locates words with fewer page turns. This Index also costs much less, mainly splashing a little extra ink on page edges for its long and short printed marks.

After over a hundred years of many inventors all over the world trying, objectively speaking, here finally is a practical dictionary index. If you want more details on this, elsewhere on this Website is the article titled "Proof: This is the Only Practical Easier-to-Use Dictionary."

This improved book dictionary is easier to use and more fun to use, with less fumbling around to find any word. **This improved dictionary would be used more willingly and more often.** This is a major advance in dictionaries, to help a major problem in education. This can be even faster than a computer, where a person has to wait to turn on and set that up for dictionary use, or walk over to where that computer may be.

Top priority program to help education.

Of all the different ways to help education, this inexpensive improvement largely becomes top priority. Here is a way to improve education in **all** subjects, for **all** students, in **every** city of the country, and at **low cost**.

Very seldom do substantial inventions come along that will help education. This is the largest advance in dictionaries in 100 years. This will help students accurately understand the lessons in the first place. This will improve literacy, help avoid wasted years where students comprehend little, and help avoid expensive tutorials and remedial programs if students later try to catch up.

Many people regard that they use a dictionary adequately. Many people would buy this improved dictionary if only for convenience, and then be surprised to find that they are using this dictionary even three or four times as often, and better understanding their lessons.

This invention could have been invented 100 years ago, in that no modern technology was needed to invent it. **FINALLY** we have the solution to an easier-to-use dictionary, which can help solve a major problem in education. It now behooves us to use this invention to help solve our education problem.

What other programs are there that will increase willingness to use a dictionary? This program is one-of-a-kind, nothing else out there like it. This is the only practical easier-to-use book dictionary. This will help education more per dollar spent than almost any other program.

A Survey.

Would you prefer to have one of these easier-to-use dictionaries?

In a survey, **87.5%** preferred this improved dictionary for convenience alone – not even yet considering how this would help education, what with this dictionary being used more often and more adequately. Where selling to only 1% of the public would make a book a best seller, this would likely be a gargantuan best seller.

Dictionary companies like to be known as caring about education. And dictionary companies as business people must care about income. We have a mystery here. With so many dictionary companies written to, why is no dictionary company bringing this to you?

Dictionary people told Weilgart no one was demanding a faster, more convenient dictionary. “Imagine what would happen if you offered the public an \$800 car,” Weilgart responds. “They aren’t demanding it because they don’t think it’s possible.” With this Website the “secret” of this invention is broken. With the public finally learning about this improved dictionary, the public will be able to demand it.

If this improved dictionary is not published before the patent expires in about four years, there would be less marketing advantage ever to publish this. This must be published soon, or it may never be published.

The inventor Alexander Weilgart is also executive director of the nonprofit corporation Comprehension Project, Inc., which has its main purpose to bring this improved dictionary to the public. When no dictionary company would publish this as a profit activity on its own, it fell to this nonprofit corporation to get enough donations to buy a complete edition of about 20,000 of these improved dictionaries. Comprehension Project, Inc.’s first plan was to pay a dictionary company to publish one of its own dictionaries, but with the change that this Index would be included.

Federal and California state governments approved this nonprofit corporation as not having conflict of interest, as being a way to help education with this improved dictionary even if dictionary companies would not publish this.

Twice Weilgart wrote to about 200 foundations that help education but received no donation. With foundations supporting so many other programs, some rather ineffective or theoretical in nature, somehow they missed supporting this down-to-earth practical program.

Dictionary Index

Alexander Weilgart sees one basic last chance to bring this aid to education. Alexander Weilgart invites people to request dictionary companies to publish this on their own. Please see the last Website article "Contacting Dictionary Companies" for names, addresses, E-mail, etc. of dictionary companies. With yours and other's requests, dictionary companies will recognize there **IS** a demand for this.

Also, a tax-deductible contribution would help cover expenses, of this nonprofit corporation doing its part to bring this improved dictionary to the public. Even small contributions of \$10 or \$20 can help. Donations can be mailed to Comprehension Project, Inc., 2337 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94612. Or on this Website under "Donations" you could use a credit card to make a donation.

An alternative plan to buy a complete edition of this improved dictionary is presented in the Website article "Advance Ordering Dictionaries." In this plan you, school systems, government agencies, and book stores can place advance orders for this improved dictionary.

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(Please see "Why a Successful Education and Life REQUIRES the Education Requirement Part 1" and "Education Requirement Part 2" and "Education Requirement Part 3" for more information and proof how you can improve your education and your life by more adequately knowing what the words mean. Please see comments at the end of that Part 1 for automatic permissions to copy any of this Website's materials.)