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Hans Wehr

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Hans Wehr : Arabic-English Dictionary: The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arabic-English Dictionary: The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. You speak English. You're learning Arabic. You'll appreciate this dictionary. By benJephunneh What is there left to say about this excellent dictionary? It's probably all been said, but here are some of its characteristics. 1. I learned Arabic in the military at DLI in Monterey. All of our professors were native speakers, some from universities in Cairo, Baghdad, etc., and this is the dictionary they prefer. 2. This is truly a dictionary, not just a lexicon. Written Arabic can be ambiguous without the diacritical markings, which are not written in this text, either, but the transliteration of the word is given and easily put to use. E.g. " - aba'a a (ab') ... to insert one's finger (into the hen, so as to ascertain whether she is going to lay an egg)" You finally know how to say that. 3. Once more, there are no diacritical markings in this text. I think this is preferable simply because the markings would add a lot of clutter. Keep in mind this version is the size of a handbook, so the font is necessarily small. 4. The book is easily portable, being precisely 5.14" x 8.46" x 1.38" (w x l x h). You like or no like, I don't know. I could go for a hardback or even a leather binding. There's certainly no way you would cut this and have it rebound. 5. I've used al-Mawrid, also, which is great for quick look-ups since words are ordered by their spelling, making irregular verbs easy to find, sometimes, and you can get it with the English-Arabic part. Hans Wehr, on the other hand, orders everything according to the root verb, real or implied. Sticking with the root system ensures all related words to a given root

appear together. I think this makes Hans Wehr better for _studying_ Arabic, not just getting through a BBC article.⁶ Hans Wehr reinforces your understanding of the measures. It does so because it usually doesn't write them out, forcing you to memorize them. This is the standard. I had to have it again after losing my first one in a move.⁷ 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The problem of dictionary remains open also with this one. By Yksel Doman This well known dictionary received much praising from many reviewers. And there is no doubt that it is a very valuable scholarly study indeed. But it is highly demanding from the user and one must be very careful not to fool himself that the ever-lasting problem of looking up an Arabic word shall be solved for once and all by this one. Far from it! It is even very hard to say that Hans-Weher dict is better and easier than other root-based ones in this respect. I believe that there are so many Arabic words that even a highly educated native speaker of Arabic would not be able to pin-point in this dictionary. I am rather inclined to say that ,with this dictionary, the infamous vicious-circle of root recognition is so much pronounced for so many entities, unless you are a master of the language and know already that difficult word very well. But ,then, why to look for it at all, if you are not an Arabic scholar with some special purpose?. I forward my strong warnings to those who are at some middle level of their Arabic adventure: Don't believe to the story that Arabic is a highly rule based language, so that it is trivial to recognize roots, plurals etc easily. Yes rules are there in Arabic and so many of them. But with as much exceptions as you would (not) like! Involved in Arabic since fairly a long time and able to recognize so many words from my own native language (Turkish) which have borrowed so heavily from this comprehensive one, I ,more often than not, am bewildered in deciding which one has the upper hand; exceptions or rules! Once more don't deceive yourself into believing that the regular three consonant-root pattern is ,by far, the dominant one as told by the grammar books. Even it might be so on sheer statistical basis, those with weak consonants and the more and more troublesome "hemzet" as well as the broken plurals are by far the most frequent ones in actual usage. Surely for any one seriously concerned with Arabic an alphabetically ordered dictionary such as Al Mawrid (if you know a better one please let me know) is inevitable. As for a root based one as Hans-Weher, I would rather recommend to those who know French, Larousse's bilingual dictionary, at least as a supplement.² 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. good but you need to get used to the arabic root system. By Jaanus Kiipli A good thing is that it is one-way only (arabic-english) dictionary, that makes it more comfortable to use. Also it seems to be quite comprehensive. If you are beginner you will find difficult to use it because the entries are arranged according to root letters and to effectively use it you must first learn the arabic verb system (forms I to X). For example you will not find the word 'tawaqqa' (en. expect) in it, instead you will have to know that it is form V verb of 'wqa'. I often find other dictionaries more comfortable to use, especially for words that fall outside the root system. A handy small dictionary is Arabic Practical Dictionary by Awde an Smith, but it is not comprehensive. Al-Mawrid is comprehensive but it is two-way (arabic-english and english arabic), therefore it is too thick and not comfortable to handle. I still would recommend the Hans Wehr even if you are beginner because you will grow and eventually it will prove useful.

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