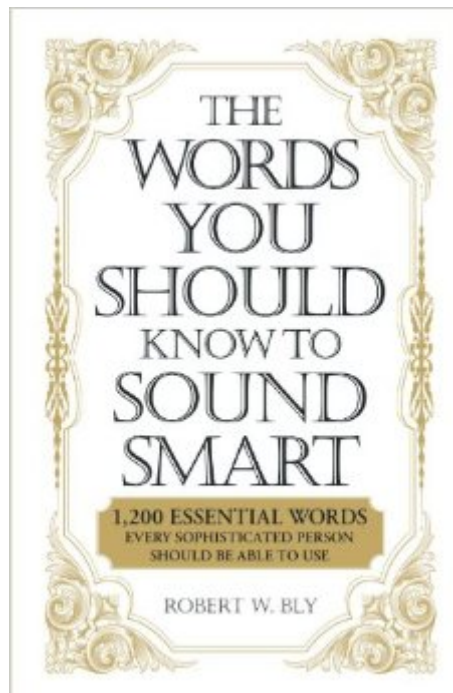


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# The Words You Should Know To Sound Smart: 1200 Essential Words Every Sophisticated Person Should Be Able To Use



## Synopsis

This book is a tongue-in-cheek guide to words that any well-educated, witty person should be able to drop into cocktail conversation. The reader is encouraged to toss off words such as “words that will make the user sound learned, intellectual, and wise. For those who want to improve the quality and sophistication of their speech and writing, this is the book to keep on the nightstand.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book initially just to improve my vocabulary. Eventually, I realized I might have to take the GRE soon. Upon picking up the Princeton Review GRE Wordsmart book (a small dictionary of a bunch of frequent GRE vocabulary) I realized I already knew almost all of it. So this book does have value to potential graduate students and seems to provide less of a dictionary definition than a definition grounded in how the word is actually used in literature and conversation. This detail can be both a bane and a help: the GRE tests dictionary definitions and multiple uses of the words potentially. This book provides one or two definitions at most and sometimes it's not the definition you'd expect in a small handful of instances. So I'd also recommend the Wordsmart book as a fail-safe companion to this book just to increase your overall knowledge of each word a bit more. (sorry for emphasizing GRE utility so much) The examples for the most part are fine though the poetry examples, which are few, didn't do much for me. There were a few words I just knew I would never use and a small handful I knew I would never WANT to use. You'll find some examples for

yourself; some terms that just seem too anachronistic for modern use though they're probably included for the literary folks so that's good and some are interesting to take note of. Basically, if you go through this book with whatever memorization methods you like to use then you'll be pretty well prepared to take a GRE qualitative test section or read lots of literature.

Now, for Mr. Bly to put out a tome reflecting how to actually improve or at least sound like you had improved your educational achievements vis a vis your audibly visible vocabulary is a short effort, given his regular prodigy at all this "schtuff". That he's extended opinion to 1200 of his favorite culprits is additionally laudatory, since over-cranked tech educations will often not even provide the necessary fast perusal of all things written, and is therefore Most Appreciated. Finally a godsend to parents -- at least of boys -- that create a perfect, written down "wage against the machine" guideline from which to bet, cajole, plead, embarrass, objectivize and one's male offspring. If you can't make a good daily or weekly wager from this material, they oughta make sure you never get to land in Vegas again. Just think, at a \$1 or more per word, your children may get out of a public school education with minimal cost... they [and you, too, let's be sure...] will slide through english and all sorts of the other reasonably language-oriented courses for years -- the novelty of being an intellectual stud will carry them onto "real" pedagogic wonders... all for \$20. Don't miss it....! :)

I collect books in this genre in the off-chance somebody will come up with something worthwhile I find to be new or challenging. This book is the best of its kind I've found. Some vocabulary books begin with the assumption that you are 13 years-old and you may have some gaps in your vocabulary. Some claim 3,000 words and add in myrmidon, terpsichorean, sciamachy, and susirrus none of which you'll ever hear or have occasion to use. This book includes over 1,100 worthwhile words every adult should know and put to good use.

This book is just as described and fun for light reading to build your vocabulary. I especially like to way they added not only the definition but also use each word in a sentence to further your understanding and proper usage. Great little book.

I am definitely one of "those people" who enjoy reading dictionaries. Well, maybe not dictionaries per se, but books that help me expand my vocabulary. I have older brothers and loved to trick me with wordplay back in the day. Two still try to do it, but they have to do something to try and make themselves feel superior...which usually means working hard at making others feel inferior. So it

was a matter of self-preservation growing up. Now it is nice to be able to turn a phrase in an unusual way...not to make anyone feel uneducated, but rather to keep my mind fresh. This is a nice quick resource to choose from. While dictionary.com and thesaurus.com is undoubtedly more in depth, when working away from the web, having a resource like this is useful.

I like the format of the book. Every word has an example sentence for clarity. However, a lot of the words are those one would never use, but there are plenty one could incorporate into their daily vocabulary in their effort to rise above being mistaken for Peter Griffin. Going through it when you would otherwise be idle, such as at an airport waiting gate, is the preferred setting, I think.

You may never use any of the words in this book... but if you want to sound smart, you'll find the words you need here. You'll also get some good ideas for playing Scrabble and other word games. And if you simply love language, this book will be just plain fun to read.

Do you think that "limpid" has something to do with hobbling around on an injured leg? Bob Bly who may well deserve the sobriquet of America's most successful advertising writer has elucubrated a glossary of must-know words if you have any hope at all of not being tagged as a hopelessly inept social klutz. This is a fun book. It may not make you the life of the party, but heads will turn when you open your mouth and knowledgeably utter a string of these words that aren't generally lingua franca among the hoi polloi. I'm not sure whether Bly authored this tome with tongue in cheek, but I do know that most of us could stand to put a little more substance into our vocabularies. Even if you cause others to stretch a little bit. So go ahead, add a dash of eloquence, increase your sense of mystery, enhance your charisma and stop sounding exactly like every other dumb clunk. Just don't overdo it. A good vocabulary is like adding spice to a dish, just a dash will do you. The best speech is still just lucid, to the point and entertaining. It's what I've tried to do with my book Postcards. Little Letters From Life Check it out and see what I mean.

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Roget's Thesaurus of Words for Intellectuals: Synonyms, Antonyms, and Related Terms  
Every Smart Person Should Know How to Use  
500 Foreign Words & Phrases You Should Know to Sound Smart: Terms to Demonstrate Your Savoir Faire, Chutzpah, and Bravado  
Jokes Every Man Should Know (Stuff You Should Know) Dirty

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