This time-tested classic—first published more than sixty years ago—has helped millions achieve mastery of English. Word Power Made Easy is the most effective vocabulary builder in the English language. It provides a simple, step-by-step method for increasing knowledge and mastery of written and spoken English. Arranged in thematic sections on everything from how to flatter friends and insult enemies to how to talk precisely about science and medicine the book is written in a lively, accessible, and often humorous style, presenting ideas and a method of broadening your knowledge as an integral part of vocabulary-building. The author delves into etymology to arm the reader to decode unfamiliar words, provides phonetic pronunciations, gives tips on avoiding common spelling errors, and offers useful sections on which fussy, old-fashioned grammar rules are valid and which are outdated or misguided and can be safely ignored. Loaded with helpful reviews, progress checks, and quizzes to reinforce the material, this classic resource has helped millions learn to speak and write with greater sophistication.

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I’m skeptical of books like this. My view on expanding vocabulary is to simply read a lot and if you see a word you don’t understand, then look it up. Magically, you now know what that word means. But this book surprised me, though I didn’t initially realize it until much, much later, well after finishing the book and all the numerous exercises. It’s mainly because of the content of the book. Though the book centers around about a hundred words (all sectioned off by a specific category),
it’s through these words and their etymology that we are able to further expand our vocabulary. It teaches first how to recognize the prefix and the suffixes within these words, so that should we come across these same prefixes or suffixes later, we’ll know the roots and how to identify the meaning of these words without pulling out a dictionary. This is where it surprised me. It took maybe months, but eventually I realized the power of this book when I saw a word I had never seen before while reading and was able to identify it without even stopping. Another great part about this book is that it’s never overwhelming. Each section uses ten words, and from there multiplies into many more using etymology until starting once again with ten more new words, but only after thoroughly testing you and what you’ve already learned. When I first began reading this book, I read a chapter a week and studied the words, the prefixes, and the suffixes related to each word and did the tests until I was satisfied that I knew them and then moved on to the next section. In doing this, I was able to expand my vocab by at least the one-hundred base words outlined in this book (later, I realized, my vocabulary grew by thousands of words).
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