

## DK Visual Dictionary

*DK Visual Dictionary*

Editor: Jo Evans

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Includes index, p.624-669.

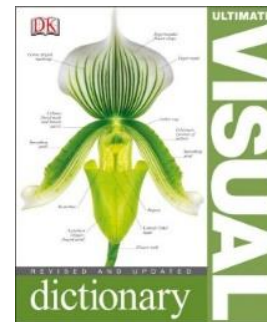
ISBN: 9780756686833

Format: Hardback, \$42.00, 672 p. 25 cm.

Also available in ebook format for \$25.99

And in bilingual versions (Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, etc.)

Middle grades through high school



First American edition published in 1994 with the title *Ultimate Visual Dictionary*. The earlier editions offered the most current information in a separate section at the front of the volume. Some revisions included a cdrom. The dictionary has been revised in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2006, and in 2011 (this edition reviewed).

## Considering the five elements of evaluation (Lanning, S. &amp; Bryner, J., 2010):

<i>Relevance:</i>	Students find pictures for words or words for pictures. Graphics invite browsing. Valuable for the reticent reader or the English language learner.
<i>Purpose (type, scope, style):</i>	Secondary source encourages readers to seek out other informational books or non-book media with content keywords. Scope covers topics in the sciences, useful arts and inventions, fine arts and sports, and physical geographical information. Page number references lead to other information in the text to extend learning. Biographical, mythological, historical and human or environmental geographical information are not found in this resource. Does not include parts of speech, etymology, pronunciation or synonym information.
<i>Validity (timeliness, accuracy, authority):</i>	Although revised regularly, the print format cannot hold the latest data (i.e. <i>DK Visual encyclopedia</i> (2011) counts 63 Jovian moons but latest information names 67 moons and provisional moons of Jupiter ( <a href="http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/jupiter/moons">http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/jupiter/moons</a> ). DK Writers and photographers are acknowledged in 3 full pages at the end of the book; writers treating individual topics have consulted with and acknowledged experts. Reviews recommend the resource: “helpful in schools supporting large ESL populations ( <i>School Library Journal</i> , 1995); “one of the best reference works of the year” (McGraw, M. <i>Library Journal</i> , 1999); “appropriate for middle and high school libraries ...” (Hysell, S.G. <i>American Reference Books Annual</i> , 2005).
<i>Format:</i>	Designed to be read or shared at a table or dictionary stand, the book opens to any page and will stay open there. White space among graphics invites the reader to slow down and enjoy nuggets of information. Semi-gloss finished illustrations fine details within pictures. Labels use a small font; best for intermediate or upper grade students.
<i>Arrangement:</i>	Illustrations in two page spreads. The body of the dictionary is arranged from oldest/largest to newest/very specific. Words at the top left guide the reader along the broad topic area; words at the top right describe the topic detailed in each two-page spread. Informational paragraph is followed by visuals with ample labels. Missing are guide words over the 45-page index. A scale indicator is wanting especially where multiple images of difference sizes are shown on the same page.
<i>Further Description:</i>	The human body section contains informational graphics from model images. Any photos are very specific (a hand, foot or microscopic blood cells). More than 6,000 images, and 33,000 terms.
<i>Diversity in the publication:</i>	The visual dictionary enables successful comprehension for the ESL student or reluctant reader. The Visual arts section provides an introduction to classic arts with 2 spreads on Asian and middle Eastern art. Cultural and native arts missing. Human images are small, usually white and male. There are no individuals in wheel chairs.

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References

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Lanning, S. & Bryner, J. (2010). *Essential reference services for today's school media specialists*. (Second edition). Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited.

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