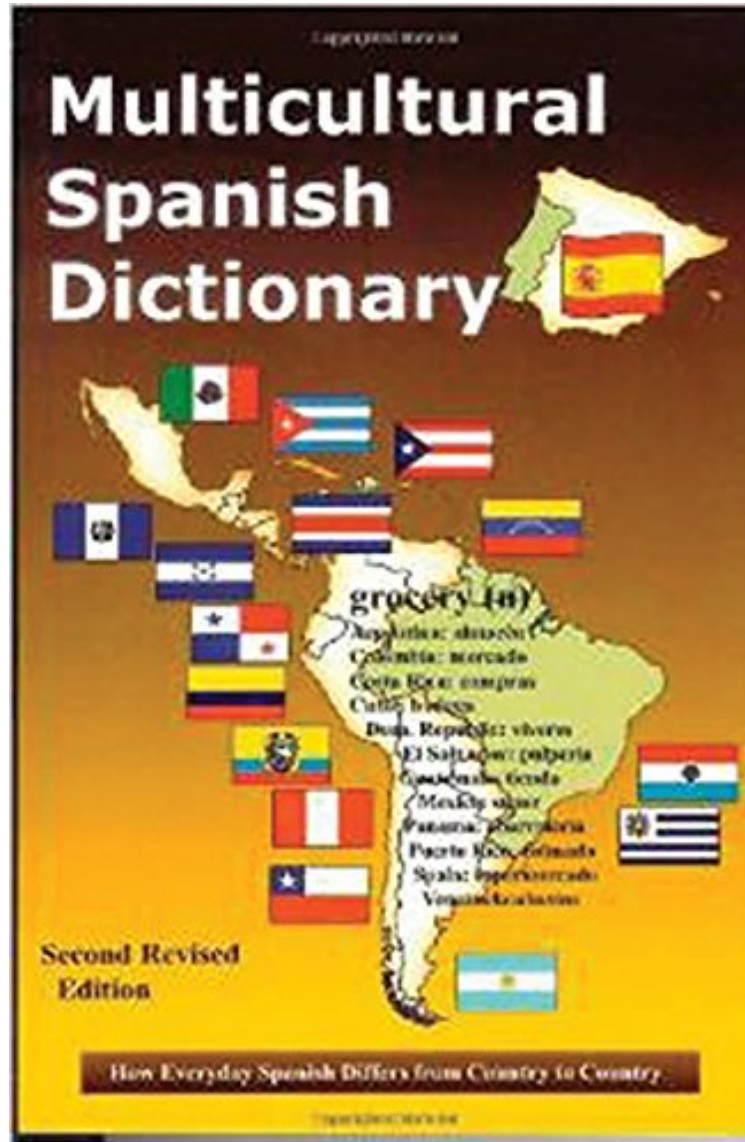


Multicultural Spanish Dictionary: How Everyday Spanish Differs from Country to Country

Morry Sofer, Augustin Martinez
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Morry Sofer, Augustin Martinez : Multicultural Spanish Dictionary: How Everyday Spanish Differs from Country to Country before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Multicultural Spanish Dictionary: How Everyday Spanish Differs from Country to Country:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Jeanine Valuable information 1 of 1 people found the

following review helpful. Not bad, within its scope, but the scope's usefulness is hard to imagine. By bukhtan This book, quite short for a dictionary (about 250 pages), is divided into three sections: 1) English - Spanish The structure here is: single US English word, yielding several Spanish words by country/countries, e.g. BOWL (n) plato hondo Chi : bol Col: recipiente hondo, tazón, vasija Mex: tazón Pan: vasija Spa: cuenco (Forgive my lack of diacritical marks.) Those with considerable contact with the various speech regions in the Spanish-speaking world will immediately see how there could be some argument about this sort of thing. Because of this difficulty, the U of Chi Spanish - English Dictionary gave up its substantial indication of regional usage some years ago. 2) Spanish - English This is arranged differently; a simple list of Spanish headwords, identified by those countries in which they are used. Again, there could be some room for argument, e.g. borrachín Col drunkard borracho / embriagado (adj) intoxicated borracho Pri (adj) drunk borracho Pri (n) drunkard borrachón DomR (n) drunkard The corresponding Eng-Spanish is: drunk (adj) borracho Col bebid drunkard (n) borracho Col beodo, borrachín DomR borrachón This is of some value, but again it's unlikely that any Spanish-language mavens would agree that it's useful to leave it at this. 3) Subject areas: animals, common adjectives, drug culture, food, hobbies recreation, nature, personal life, shelter daily living, transportation, and workplace. These are all in the same format as the general Eng-Span section. There is a list of contributors, from most of the world's Spanish-speaking countries (but not the United States). Their affiliations and capacities are not listed. According to the "Acknowledgements", the book arose from a need expressed during an American Translators Association conference. I suppose that this book works as well as any book could be expected to do, in this format and with this aim. However, it seems to me that the authors try to do something that too many American lexicographers vainly try to do: pander to Anglo-Americans narcissistic insistence on short simple books. This sort of thing really has to be done in the context of a large lexicon, I believe. Use a full size Spanish-Spanish Larousse or the full size Maria Moliner. At one time, the University of Chicago Sp-Eng dictionary did this about as well as can be imagined for a dictionary aimed at English speakers with, as yet, minimal general comprehension of Spanish, but that was, as I mentioned, a couple of editions ago. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Must-Have Spanish Word Source By S. Translations For anyone who takes Spanish seriously, there comes a time when a word is spoken or appears in print, and although it refers to a common, everyday item, its meaning is not clear, because it is only used in one part of the Spanish-speaking world. This is when this unusual dictionary becomes indispensable. While many may argue over the meaning of some of the entries in this book, since meanings seem to vary from one place to the next, the fact remains that no other dictionary provides this kind of information which is of particular value to users in the U.S., where people from all parts of the Spanish-speaking world come together and interact on a daily basis.

Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. What has been overlooked for a long time is the fact that there are thousands of everyday Spanish words that differ from one Spanish-speaking country to the next. A grapefruit in Guatemala is una toronja. In Argentina it is un pomelo. A waiter in Mexico is un mesero; in Uruguay, un mozo. In Spain, eyeglasses are gafas; in Cuba, espejuelos. This list goes on and on. With this multicultural dictionary, you will be able to see and learn the correct words and terms by country.

About the Author AUGUSTIN MARTINEZ is a Spanish translator.