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Distinctive Features of the ABC E-C/C-E Dictionary

1. In this student-oriented dictionary, the two sections, English-Chinese (E-C) and Chinese-English (C-E), together comprise a self-contained volume in which every Chinese and English expression used in a definition or example of usage can be found as a headword or sub-headword.

2. All Chinese definitions, example phrases, and sentences appear in both Pinyin and characters.

3. In comparison with similar works, both sections contain more of everything—more entries (headwords and sub-headwords), more illustrative or explanatory material, and more special features (noted below). The E-C section contains 29,670 entries (18,016 main entries and 11,654 sub-entries). The C-E section contains 37,952 entries (4,644 monosyllabic and 33,308 polysyllabic entries). Counting numbered definitions as distinct entries, E-C/C-E contains 98,627 entries altogether.

4. In E-C Sections IV and V we present the novel format PY/HZ/ENG, i.e., Pinyin on top, Hanzi in the middle, and English on the bottom. (This format was prompted by the bopomofo/HZ format extensively used in Taiwan and the alternative formats PY/HZ and HZ/PY introduced in some PRC elementary school textbooks.)

5. As a special aid for student learners of Chinese and English, E-C/C-E features graded word lists prepared by PRC specialists in teaching the two languages. (See E-C Appendix VI and C-E Appendix VII.)

6. For all Pinyin transcriptions, changes in tone are indicated while preserving the original tone (e.g., suò yí, normally written suǒ yì and pronounced suǒ yì). In this way, E-C/C-E, uniquely among dictionaries, reduces the burden placed on students in coping with tonal changes. (Details are in C-E Section III, Explanatory Notes and Examples, Note 2, page 513.)

7. The E-C/C-E Dictionary carries forward the many special features of the ABC series of dictionaries (e.g., ABC Chinese-English Dictionary and ABC Chinese-English Comprehensive Dictionary), chief among them the strict alphabetic order of the Pinyin entries as by far the simplest and fastest way to look up a term whose pronunciation is known.

8. Two websites provide further information about E-C/C-E (including software versions) and other works which comprise the ABC Chinese Dictionary Series, and enable dictionary users to submit comments, questions, and suggestions for corrections and improvements: www.chinesestudies.hawaii.edu/abc and wenlin.com/abc. The dictionary project also has the email addresses abcdict@hawaii.edu and abc@wenlin.com.