Contents

Abbreviations and Conventions viii

Prologue: The Work in Advance ix

1. How the Language Is Made Up 1
2. What a Dictionary Needs to Do 17
4. Explaining Hard Words 40
5. Putting Everything In 55
6. Semantic Set: Big and Little, Large and Small 71
7. Spreading Wings 87
8. Semantic Organisation 103
9. Semantic Set: Fast, Quick, Rapid, Swift, Slow, and Speed 122
10. No Need to Keep Re-inventing the Wheel 135
11. The Nineteenth Century 146
12. Semantic Set: Want, Wish (For), and Desire 166
13. The Role of Grammar 177
14. Standing Still 194
15. The Way Forward 218

Sources and Notes 230

Chronological List of Dictionaries and Glossaries Mentioned 242
References to Printed Materials 245
Dictionaries and Glossaries 245
Other References 249
Index 254