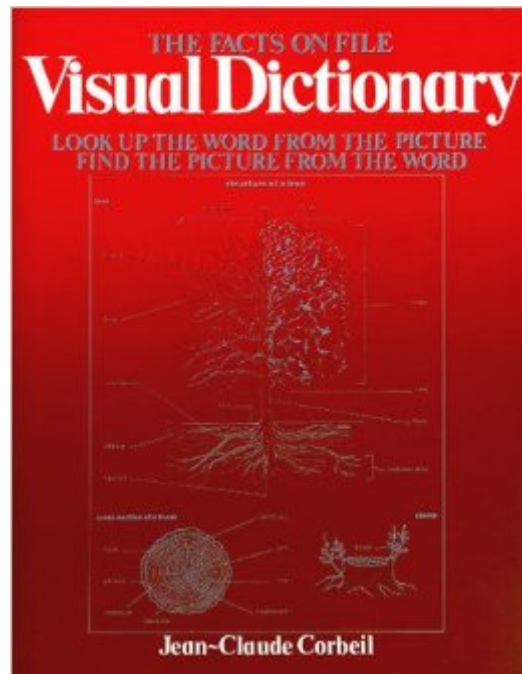


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# The Facts On File: Visual Dictionary



## Synopsis

This invaluable reference offers thousands of illustrations, allowing users to establish the precise name for more than 3,000 objects.

## Book Information

Series: Facts on File

Hardcover: 800 pages

Publisher: Facts on File (September 1986)

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,589,884 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in [Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > Synonyms & Antonyms](#) #1668 in [Books > Textbooks > Reference > Dictionaries](#) #2533 in [Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > Dictionaries](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is a wonderful book that, instead of using words to describe terms, uses pictures to allow you to see what the various parts of things are called. The book is very well organized, starting with Astronomy and ending with Symbols. Within each category (or subcategory) you can find a line drawing of what you need to know about, then look at the labels and understand the parts. One of the things I find truly amazing about this book is that it illustrates how precise a vocabulary each "thing" has. Flipping to a page at random, I end up on page 233, which is within the House Furniture category. There are three illustrations on this page: a steam iron, a can opener, and a kettle. The steam iron has no fewer than seventeen parts labeled. They are: steam button, thumb rest, slide selector, temperature dial, spray, fill opening, front tip, button notch, shell, soleplate, heel rest, sight-glass tube, fabric guide, cord, vertical cord life, handle, and spray button. Whew! For people who need to know the exact word for some part of a physical thing, this is a terrific book. And if you just like to browse and learn, this is a terrific book.

I've owned this book since I was a very young child, and I still find myself looking through the pages occasionally to find out the name of some "whatchamacalit." The book is 797 pages, including an

extensive index. The drawings are simple yet detailed. For instance, on page 288, there's a drawing of a man's felt hat, with lines indicating the name of each section of the hat, including the brim, the binding, the hatband, the bow and the crown. Depending on what industry you work in, this kind of information might be critical to doing your job successfully. There's a section on "Transportation by Sea," with dozens of full-page drawings of various kinds of watercraft, with lines indicating each section and the specific name for each item. A "passenger liner" drawing on page 419 has about 25 different lines indicating the name of different parts of the ship. I highly recommend this book for writers who want to know the name of that "thingamajig," as well as for parents of children with Asperger Syndrome or other detail-specific conditions, who are always wanting to know the specific names of different things.

I have had this title for more than 15 years and still find occasions to thank it for being there on my bookshelf. If you love line drawings, you will love this book. The sketches are neat and detailed. The feel of the book is that of a classic work. In some sections (such as household items, clothing) it is way superior to other works such as DK's "Ultimate Visual Dictionary". What it lacks is coverage of articles that have come into existence after 1985. That might sound a huge miss but it is not actually so. I believe you need to pair this book with a more recent visual dictionary. But there is nothing that can replace this book. The three indexes at the back (general, thematic and specialised) make looking up a word or drawing very easy. If you are someone who must know the exact word, then you must have this title on your bookshelf.

This book is great for those times when you need to describe something to someone and you just don't have the vocabulary to do it. In a matter of seconds, find the piece of equipment, etc. that you are looking for and then you know what all the parts are called. It's like having a whole new vocabulary and hundreds of diagrams.

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