

English-Carrier Pocket Dictionary

This pocket dictionary differs from previous dictionaries in two main ways. One is its size, which makes it possible to carry around all the time. The other is that it is designed specifically for language learners going from English into Carrier. Other dictionaries have an English to Carrier section, but they do not provide all of the information that someone needs to use the words. The pocket dictionary includes special features for the language learner:

1. When an English word has more than one meaning (e.g. *bank*, which can be a financial institution or the side of a river or lake) it makes clear which English meaning goes with which Carrier word.
2. When a Carrier word corresponds to more than one English word and misunderstanding might result, a warning is given. For example, the entry for “brother-in-law” warns that Carrier uses the same word for “brother-in-law” and “sister-in-law”.
3. Scientific names are given for most living things so as to be precise as to their meaning and convenient for biologists, foresters, and the like. There is often more than one common English name for the same plant or animal, and the same name may be used for more than one.
4. Most Carrier nouns have no plural form. For example, *yoh* can mean “house” or “houses”. If a noun has a plural form, it is given (e.g. *lhi* “dog”, *lhike* “dogs”). If no plural is given, it is safe to assume that there is none.
5. If the possessed stem of a noun is different from the free form (e.g. *lhi* “dog” but *sluk* “my dog”), both are given.
6. Many Carrier words take on different forms depending on what kind of thing they refer to. The dictionary lists the various forms. For example, there are entries for “give a two-dimensional flexible object (such as a shirt)”, “give a body (such as a fish)”, “give a long rigid object (such as a canoe)”, and so forth. In the entry for “to be red” we find not only *dulk'un* “it (generic) is red” but *dunulk'un* “it (round) is red” and *whudulk'un* “it (areal, such as the wall of a house) is red”.
7. Information necessary to use a word in a sentence is given. For example, the entry for “also” (*cha*) explains that it follows the phrase that it goes with. The entry for “to growl” explains that in Carrier a dog growls “with” you, not “at” you (*lhi sulh dulgho*, not *lhi sghu dulgho*).
8. When the same word can be used in different ways, this is explained. For example, the entry for “to wait” explains how to say “to wait for (someone)” and “to wait for (something to happen)”.
9. Sets of verb forms are listed rather than an abstract representation or representative form. Since this is a pocket dictionary, for each verb what it is hoped are the most useful forms have been selected.

Although small in physical size, the dictionary contains 3,050 entries, including 1,944 nouns. There are 851 entries for verbs containing over 11,000 verb forms. Important areas of vocabulary are covered in detail. For example, there are 220 entries for animals, plants, and other living things and 135 entries for parts of the body. The dictionary contains 246 pages, including an alphabet chart and an 18 page explanation of how to use the dictionary. The dictionary is 4in x 5.5in (10cm x 13.75cm), spiral bound so that it will lie flat, with laminated covers for durability.