

Brewers Dictionary Of Modern Phrase Fable

"Dictionary, n: A malevolent literary device for cramping the growth of a language and making it hard and inelastic. This dictionary, however, is a most useful work." Bierce's groundbreaking Devil's Dictionary had a complex publication history. Started in the mid-1800s as an irregular column in Californian newspapers under various titles, he gradually refined the new-at-the-time idea of an irreverent set of glossary-like definitions. The final name, as we see it titled in this work, did not appear until an 1881 column published in the periodical The San Francisco Illustrated Wasp. There were no publications of the complete glossary in the 1800s. Not until 1906 did a portion of Bierce's collection get published by Doubleday, under the name The Cynic's Word Book—the publisher not wanting to use the word "Devil" in the title, to the great disappointment of the author. The 1906 word book only went from A to L, however, and the remainder was never released under the compromised title. In 1911 the Devil's Dictionary as we know it was published in complete form as part of Bierce's collected works (volume 7 of 12), including the remainder of the definitions from M to Z. It has been republished a number of times, including more recent efforts where older definitions from his columns that never made it into the original book were included. Due to the complex nature of copyright, some of those found definitions have unclear public domain status and were not included. This edition of the book includes, however, a set of definitions attributed to his one-and-only "Demon's Dictionary" column, including Bierce's classic definition of A: "the first letter in every properly constructed alphabet." Bierce enjoyed "quoting" his pseudonyms in his work. Most of the poetry, dramatic scenes and stories in this book attributed to others were self-authored and do not exist outside of this work. This includes the prolific Father Gassalasca Jape, whom he thanks in the preface—"jape" of course having the definition: "a practical joke." This book is a product of its time and must be approached as such. Many of the definitions hold up well today, but some might be considered less palatable by modern readers. Regardless, the book's humorous style is a valuable snapshot of American culture from past centuries. This book is part of the Standard Ebooks project, which produces free public domain ebooks.

People often complain that in history lessons at school they were taught just a few topics--the Romans, the Tudors, the Nazis--and how they have no idea at all about what happened in between. To remedy this, World History: 50 Things You Really Need to Know offers brief and stimulating outlines of key developments in the history of the world, from the beginning of agriculture 10,000 years ago to the attack on the Twin Towers on 9/11. Each essay is accompanied by a detailed timeline of dates and events, and the flavor of the period concerned is brought to life by selected contemporary quotations from figures as diverse as Aristotle, Ashoka, Saladin, Christopher Columbus, Martin Luther, Suleiman the Magnificent, Galileo, Voltaire, Thomas Jefferson, Mary Wollstonecraft, Napoleon, Lincoln, Lenin and Winston Churchill. In addition, box features throw light on a range of related topics, from the Nazca Lines to Renaissance man, from Confucianism and the state to Alexander the Great's horse, from Islamic science and the Barbary corsairs to the Enigma code and the atomic bomb.

This title uncovers the origins and describes the meanings of thousands of names from Belgravia to Hallowe'en, and from Manchester United to Panasonic. teams, languages, civilizations, tribes and political parties are all explored and explained in full. introduction provides an account of the history of name studies, plus a guide to languages, accents and alphabets.

The Devil's Dictionary

A Curious History of Food and Drink

The Oxford English Dictionary

101 questions about the English language

The Historic Note-book

Vol. 1-

Though "pejoration" is an important notion for linguistic analysis and theory, there is still a lack of theoretical understanding and sound descriptive analysis. In this timely collection, the phenomenon of pejoration is studied from a number of angles. It contains studies from phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics, and deals with diverse languages and their variants. The collection will appeal to all those linguists with a genuine interest in locating pejoration at the grammar-pragmatics interface.

Ian Crofton, former editor-in-chief of The Guinness Encyclopedia, has written a wide range of other general reference books, including Philosophy (Teach Yourself Instant Reference) and

Science Without the Boring Bits. With Big Ideas in Brief, Crofton provides an accessible tour of 200 key concepts that really matter. The ideas covered come from a wide range of subjects--Philosophy, Religion, Politics, Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, the Arts, and Science. A series of short, lively articles, accompanied by 100 illustrations, introduces a host of diverse topics, from Existentialism to Expressionism, from Consciousness to Constitutionalism, from Feminism to Free Trade, from Class to Cognitive Theory, from Reincarnation to Relativity--all explained simply and clearly. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Ever wondered where noodles came from? How Worcester Sauce was invented? Or even who the "Cucumber King of Burma" was? Beginning with the hippo soup eaten in Africa in 6000 BC, through to the dangerous blowfish enjoyed in contemporary Japan, A Curious History of Food and Drink reveals the bizarre origins of the food and drink consumed throughout history. From the pheasant brains and flamingo tongues scoffed by the Roman emperor Vitellius, to the unusual uses of licorice (once a treatment for sore feet), Ian Crofton makes use of original sources--including journals, cookbooks and manuals--to reveal the bizarre, entertaining and informative stories behind the delicacies enjoyed by our ancestors.

Brewer's Concise Dictionary of Phrase and Fable

A Collection of Familiar Quotations

Brewer's Dictionary of Modern Phrase & Fable

A Dictionary of Scottish Phrase and Fable

How to Talk Like a Local

More Than 10,000 Idioms and Collocations

Examines the hidden history through which the Oxford English Dictionary came into being in a study that traces the personal battles involved in chronicling an ever-changing language.

A concise version of the dictionary of phrase and fable originally put together in 1870 by Dr Ebenezer Cobham Brewer. The majority of entries provide the history of phrases or outline the significance of historic terms in religion, magic, philosophy, literature, geography, mathematics and the sciences. The dictionary also includes a miscellany of knowledge: the traditional cries of animal; lists of dwarfs and giants in myth and history, of patron saints, and of wedding anniversaries; a glossary of terms in heraldry; and an account of how to play nine men's morris.

From "American Express" to "American Psycho", the "Zapata moustache" to the "Zinoviev letter", take an up-to-date look at the diverse and entertaining linguistic landscape of our culture. Here, deftly defined and intriguingly displayed, are thousands of words, phrases, slogans, names, events, and titles of songs, books, films, and TV programs that resonate with English-speaking people everywhere. "Peerless...Brewer's has kept ahead of the game by compiling this marvelous compendium....It has captured the flavor of the past 100 years."--The Times

Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable 19th Edition

Dictionary of Phrase and Fable

Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang

Big Ideas in Brief

The Dictionary of Modern Proverbs

Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase & Fable

The Blackout Crew have a song with the title 'Put a donk on it' - but what is a 'donk'? Which ending came first: '-ise' or '-ize'? Where does the idea of a 'white elephant' come from? Who decides on the collective noun for something? And what is it that made the crocodile cry? Sparkling with insight and linguistic curiosity, this delightful compendium answers 101 of the most intriguing questions about the English language, from word origins and spelling to grammar and usage. Irresistible to anyone with an interest in the words around them. Supported by Oxford's celebrated dictionary research programme, Susie Dent tackles these and many other fascinating questions in this wonderfully accessible and endlessly entertaining exploration of the English language.

In this book: Much loved for its wit and wisdom since 1870, Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable takes you on a captivating adventure through its trademark blend of language, culture, myth and legend. Edited by Susie Dent, this new edition contains an intriguing supplement of Brewer's Gems--facts, fables and curiosities from Brewer collections of the past. Its pages brim with esoteric and entertaining entries - everything from curious customs to the world of newspapers and political alliances of yesteryear - all seen through the distinctive Brewer lens. This nineteenth edition of Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable encapsulates all the charm and wit that characterise its predecessors and maintains the standards of scholarship and eclecticism that have long been its hallmark. This unique edition has been thoroughly updated with over 100 new and revised entries -think crowdsourcing, cyberpunk, iPad and mash-up - guaranteed to delight, entertain and inspire in the best Brewer's tradition. Also

included are twenty special entries that encapsulate the enticing spirit of the dictionary. Discover Brewer's take on angels, heraldry, pub signs and recluses and delve into the lexicographical world of the eggcorn. Whether you're a committed Brewerphile or a newcomer to its pages of fascinating entries, this edition will draw you in and keep you glued to its rich mix of eccentric nuggets. As Susie Dent explains in the foreword, Brewer's 'is not a straightforward dictionary, nor is it an encyclopaedia. It is, in fact, unlike any other reference book that exists, anywhere.'

Discover words to surprise, delight, and enamor. Learn terms for the sunlight that filters through the leaves of trees, for dancing awkwardly but with relish, and for the look shared by two people who each wish the other would speak first. Other-Wordly is an irresistible ebook for lovers of words and those lost for words alike.

Stone the Crows

Other-Wordly

A Dictionary of Medieval Terms and Phrases

A Dictionary of Miracles

With an Appendix of Battles

A dictionary of modern slang draws on the resources of the "Oxford English Dictionary" to cover over five thousand slang words and phrases from throughout the English-speaking world.

'Susie Dent is a national treasure' RICHARD OSMAN 'Susie Dent is a one-off. She breathes life and fun into words and language' PAM AYRES

Would you be bewildered if someone described you as radgy? Do you know how to recognise a tittamatorter? And would you understand if someone called you a culchie? How to Talk Like a Local gathers together hundreds of words from all over the country and digs down to uncover their origins. From dardledumdue, which means daydreamer in East Anglia, through forkin robbins, the Yorkshire term for earwigs, to clemt, a Lancashire word that means hungry, it investigates an astonishingly rich variety of regional expressions, and provides a fascinating insight into the history of the English language. If you're intrigued by colourful words and phrases, if you're interested in how English is really spoken, or if you simply want to find out a bit more about the development of our language, How to Talk Like a Local is irresistible - and enlightening - reading.

'Nobody on earth knows more about the English language than Susie Dent and nobody writes about it more entertainingly' GYLES BRANDRETH 'It's an interesting and, at times, hilarious read. One for word-lovers' THE SUN

This authoritative, entertaining and eminently browsable reference book, arranged in easily accessible A-Z format, is an absorbing and imaginative feast of Scottish lore, language, history and culture, from the mythical origins of the Scots in Scythia to the contemporary Scotland of the Holyrood parliament and Trainspotting.

A Dictionary of Confusable Phrases

Brewer's Rogues, Villains and Eccentrics

A National Phrasebook from the author of Word Perfect words both strange and lovely from around the world

World History: 50 Key Milestones You Really Need to Know

The Little Book of Big History

Brewers Dictionary of Modern Phrase and Fable Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase & Fable Brewer's

Previous ed.: Oxford dictionary of Allusions, 2nd ed., 2005.

As all lovers of language know, words are the source of our very understanding of ourselves and the world around us. Often, however, our use of language is so automatic that we neglect to consider where those words came from and what they assume. What are the implications, beyond the simple dictionary definitions, of using words such as privilege, hysteria, seminal, and gyp? Browsing through the pages of The Barnhart Concise Dictionary of Etymology is like exploring the historical, political, and rhetorical wonderland of our linguistic heritage. We see the evolution of ideas, as rootword connections that now seem arbitrary are traced to schools of thought from the past. We also find an opportunity to examine how the sometimes backwards, sometimes hilarious, and sometimes illuminating ideologies built into our language affect our modern thinking. Written in a fresh, accessible style, this book provides the derivations of over 21,000 English-language words without resorting to the use of abbreviations, symbols, or technical terminology. Drawing on the most current American scholarship, and focusing on the core words in contemporary English, The Barnhart Concise Dictionary of Etymology is both a diverting browse and a thinking person's Bible.

Giving the Derivation, Source, Or Origin of Common Phrases, Allusions, and Words that Have a Tale to Tell

The Story of Life, the Universe and Everything

200 World-Changing Concepts Explained In An Instant

Lost for Words

An A-Z of Roguish Britons Through the Ages

A Chronology of Words that Shaped Our Age

The first dictionary of medieval terms intended for the non-specialist with an interest in the medieval world.

What is it to 'cock a snook', where is the land of Nod, and who was first to go the extra mile? Find the answers to these questions (and many more!) in the new edition of the Oxford Dictionary of Idioms. This dictionary uncovers the meanings of myriad phrases and sayings that are used daily in the English language, encompassing more than 10,000 figurative expressions, similes, sayings, and proverbs. More than 400 idioms have been added to this new edition, and comprise recently coined and common sayings alike. New additions include 'back of the net', 'drag and drop', 'go it alone', 'how come?', 'if you ask me', 'make your skin crawl', and 'woe betide'. Illustrative quotations sourced from the Oxford corpora give contextual examples of the idioms and their standard usage, and many entries include background information on the origins of the idiom in question. An updated thematic index makes for easy navigation, and anyone who is interested in the origins and diversity of English vernacular will have hours of fun browsing this fascinating dictionary.

Gives a selection of the key words added to the English language in the twentieth century and the early years of the twenty-first. This work features an introductory essay that identifies the main historical, cultural, and scientific currents, and shows how they contributed new vocabulary to the language.

Brewer's Dictionary of Names

The Hidden History of the Oxford English Dictionary

Oxford Dictionary of Idioms

Dictionary of Astronomical Names

'I Counted Them All Out and I Counted Them All Back'

What Made The Crocodile Cry?

The eerie roll-call of those who have disappeared mysteriously and apparently without trace sounds a troubling but strangely compulsive descant alongside the main themes and stories of human history. From the crew of the Mary Celeste to Lord Lucan, and from Ambrose Bierce to Jimmy Hoffa, history is littered with cases of perplexing disappearance. Beyond the wilder excesses of paranormal speculation and theories of alien abduction, their stories offer the inquisitive reader both the thrill of uncertainty and the excitement of informed guesswork as to the truth behind what appear to be utterly impenetrable mysteries.

Covering over 10,000 idioms and collocations characterized by similarity in their wording or metaphorical idea which do not show corresponding similarity in their meanings, this dictionary presents a unique cross-section of the English language. Though it is designed specifically to assist readers in avoiding the use of inappropriate or erroneous phrases, the book can also be used as a regular phraseological dictionary providing definitions to individual idioms, clichés, and set expressions. Most phrases included in the dictionary are in active current use, making information about their meanings and usage essential to language learners at all levels of proficiency.

"You can't unring a bell." "It takes a village to raise a child." "Life is just a bowl of cherries." We sometimes think of proverbs as expressions of ancient wisdom, but in fact new proverbs are constantly arising. This unique volume is devoted exclusively to English language proverbs that originated in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The most complete and accurate such collection ever compiled, The Yale Book of Modern Proverbs presents more than 1,400 individual proverbs gathered and researched with the help of electronic full-text databases not previously used for such a project. Entries are organized alphabetically by key words, with information about the earliest datable appearance, origin, history, and meaning of each proverb. Mundane or sublime, serious or jocular, these memorable sayings represent virtually every aspect of the modern experience. Readers will find the book almost impossible to put down once opened; every page offers further proof of the immense vitality of proverbs and their colorful contributions to the oral traditions of today.

Oxford Dictionary of Reference and Allusion

The Battle for the Falklands

Cambridge International Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs

With Complete Indices of Authors and Subjects

Movers and Shakers

The Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang

Much loved for its wit and wisdom since 1870, Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable takes you on a captivating adventure through its trademark blend of language, culture, myth, and legend.

From the Big Bang to the future of our planet, The Little Book of Big History divides history into manageable but comprehensive time frames, encompassing the cosmos, the stars, life and everything in between. Big History is the attempt to understand and condense the entire story of the cosmos, from the Big Bang to the current day. Combining methods from history, astronomy, physics and biology to draw together the big story arcs of how the universe was created, why planets formed and how life developed, this creates a unique perspective from which to understand the place of mankind in the universe. Excited by the alternative 'framework for all knowledge' that is offered by this approach, Bill Gates is funding the Big History Project, which aims to bring the subject to a wider audience around the world. The Little Book of Big History breaks down the main themes of Big History into highly informative and accessible parts for all readers to enjoy. By giving a truly complete timeline of world events, this book shines a whole different light on history as we learned it and makes us think of our history - and our future - in a very different way.

A browsable and addictive collection of pen-portraits of 1500 extraordinary characters from British and Irish history

Barnhart Concise Dictionary of Etymology

The Disappeared

Imitative, Realistic, and Dogmatic : with Illustrations

Phrase and fable

Character Sketches of Romance, Fiction and the Drama

Pejoration

An invaluable new reference book for learners who need to master this notoriously difficult aspect of the English language. Based on evidence from the Cambridge International Corpus, this book provides clear and simple explanations of over 4,500 phrasal verbs current in British, American and Australian English today. It uses a carefully controlled defining vocabulary, making all explanations easy to understand. It contains thousands of example sentences, showing phrasal verbs in context and gives clear information on grammar and collocation without using complicated codes. In addition, it gives students guidance on the most useful phrasal verbs to learn and includes exercises enabling students to practise phrasal verbs. It also contains theme panels presenting phrasal verbs in topic groups [e.g. relationships: chat up, ask out, settle down, split up].

Completely updated for the twenty-first century, this reference presents definitions and origins of thousands of words, idioms, catchphrases, slogans, nicknames, and events from TV, literature, music, comic strips, and computer games.

Drawing on the unique resources of the Oxford English Dictionary and offering coverage of over 6,000 slang words and expressions from the Cockney 'abaht' to the American term 'zowie', Stone the Crows is the most lively and authoritative dictionary of slang from the 20th and 21st centuries.

Brewers Dictionary of Modern Phrase and Fable

The Slang Dictionary: Etymological, Historical, and Anecdotal