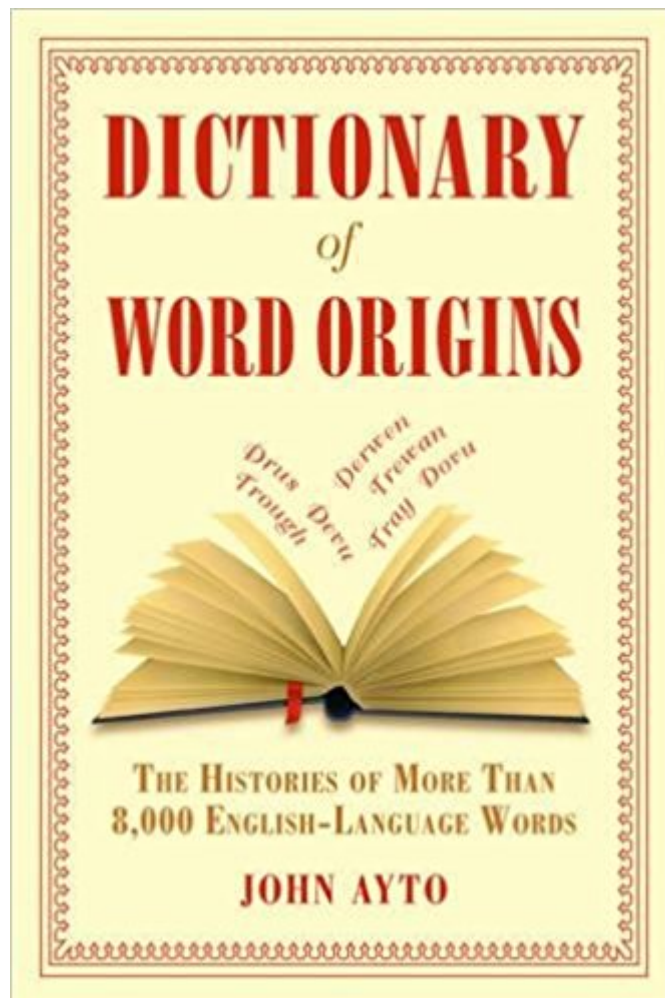




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Dictionary Of Word Origins: The Histories Of More Than 8,000 English-Language Words



Synopsis

What is the link between map and apron, acrobat and oxygen, zeal and jealousy, flour and pollen, secret and crime? Did you know that crimson originally comes from the name of tiny scale insects, the kermes, from whose dried bodies a red dyestuff is made? That Yankee began as a nickname for Dutchmen? That omelette evolved from amulette, 'a thin sheet of metal,' and is a not-too-distant cousin of the word laminate? That jeans find their antecedent in jean fustian, meaning 'a cotton fabric from Genoa'? The Dictionary of Word Origins uncovers the hidden and often surprising connection between words. Written in a clear and informative style, the more than 8,000 articles reveal the origins of and links between some of the most common English-language words. They also contain an extensive selection of words whose life histories are intrinsically fascinating or instructive. This dictionary shows how modern English has developed from its Indo-European roots and how the various influences on the language—from migration and invasion to exploration, trade, technology, and scholarship—have intermingled. It is an invaluable addition to any English or linguistics library.

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Customer Reviews

John Atyo is a writer and lexicographer. He is the author (with Ian Crofton) of Brewer's Britain and Ireland. His authorial credits include The Oxford Dictionary of Slang, The Bloomsbury Dictionary of Word Origins, Twentieth Century Words, and Dictionary of Word Origins. He was a contributor to the Oxford Companion to Food. Atyo lives in London, England.

Good research tool

Great product

Great information - much more in depth than traditional etymologies and easy to understand. I recommend it completely if you want to truly understand words.

Very intriguing! I wish there were more compound words accompanied by the history of the creation of the word, but still interesting nonetheless.

Amazingly descriptive, with multiple entries, and many historical viewpoints.

Books like this are fun to quote, but not always fact considering that many word origins are difficult to trace. Still, it's interesting to read facts and history involving the use of many words and phrases.

Very interesting for many word origins!

Very interesting and useful reference book, fun for casual enjoyment as well, but only if you are a giant nerd like me.

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