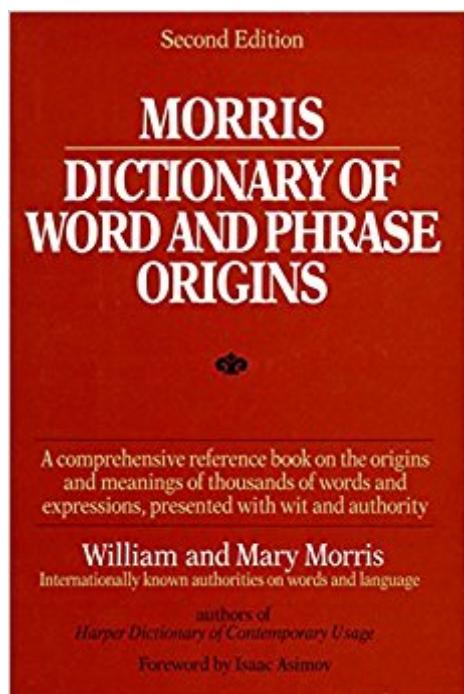


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Morris Dictionary Of Word And Phrase Origins



Synopsis

The first Edition of the Morris Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins detailed the fascinating and little known stories behind thousands of words and phrases that we use every day. In this new edition, William and Mary Morris update and expand their classic work to keep pace with our ever changing language. New entries include:New trends--crack, glitch, greenmail, Harrier attack airplanesForeign terms--falafel, geisha, jihad, paparazziPeople--batman, dead end kid, Dutch uncle, hatchet man, Young TurksGiven names--Chester, Edith, Jennifer and othersFood--Adam and Eve on a raft, alligator pear, grapefruit, Harriet LaneSports--box score, cheese champions, full court pressand many moreThroughout the Morris's present the histories of intriguing expressions in an eminently entertaining and readable fashion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anyone interested in the English language will be fascinated by -- and then obsessed with -- this dictionary that reads like an erudite gossip column for the city of words.

The William Morrises bring an extensive knowledge of literature and linguistics and a perceptive sense of humor to their task. They reveal their expertise in informal, often witty, always piquant definitions of words that have crept into general usage via circuitous routes. In addition to being an indispensable reference volume, this book could well be picked up at random and read with interest and delight. -- Publisher's Weekly

I would have enjoyed the book more if it hadn't tiptoed around some modern sayings.

I purchased this book as a gift for my younger brother, who is always asking me, "where did that phrase come from?" and now he has his answers at his fingertips 24/7. He says he keeps the book next to his recliner in the living room for quick reference and for answers when I call him. I looked through several similar books before deciding to purchase this one. The others were not as detailed and this one has 688 pages, very nice. In my opinion it will make a terrific Christmas gift for anyone!!! Thanks so much. Debbie

Have you ever wondered where a word or phrase originated but just couldn't find the source? THIS is the book for you! It's one of those books that once you start, you have trouble putting it down. One word's research leads to one other related word...doesn't have a plot, but it's gripping. Sometimes I spend three times the time I thought to look something up because of what I find by poking around. It's well organized and I'm really glad I got this. Picked it out based on other reviews!

Written so one can easily find what one is looking for.

Item was as described, great condition!

This one volume dictionary/etymological source is a good value for the money. It covers many common and not so common entries which have interesting histories. Some of the entries could have been more fully researched but overall this would be a good addition to anyone's library who has an interest in this area.

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