



of words. why not x, why not why..... i could add 1000 more i like. but david crystal has chosen a wonderful reading list of 100 and has made sense of it and that is what matters. those who critic have not written! every book of david is better than the last one. this one, pardon me, takes the cake! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perfect gift for a linguophile  
By Customer  
My mom loved this book! She was an English teacher and also taught Spanish, so I saw this book and thought she'd enjoy it. She called me the day after Christmas just to tell me how much she enjoys reading this book! I've asked her to send it to me when she's done because some of the words sound so interesting (like "fopdoodle" which means a simpleton).

In this entertaining history world's most ubiquitous language, linguistics expert David Crystal draws on one hundred words that best illustrate the huge variety of sources, influences and events that have helped to shape our vernacular since the word "roe" was written down on the bone ankle of a roe deer in the fifth century. Featuring ancient words (loaf), cutting-edge terms that reflect our world (twittersphere), indispensable words that shape our tongue ("and", "what"), and more fanciful words ("fopdoodle"), David Crystal takes readers on a tour of the winding byways of our language via the rude, the obscure, and the downright surprising.

"The best word book to come down the pike in many a moon. There are "Eureka!" moments in every chapter. An ingenious idea, and only David Crystal could have pulled it off. He's a marvel (but then we knew that already)."  
-- Patricia T. O'Conner and Stewart Kellerman, authors of "Origins of the Specious: Myths and Misconceptions of the English Language", and bloggers at Grammarphobia.com  
About the Author  
David Crystal is Honorary Professor of Linguistics at the University of Wales, Bangor. In 1995, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire for services to the English language. He lives in the United Kingdom.