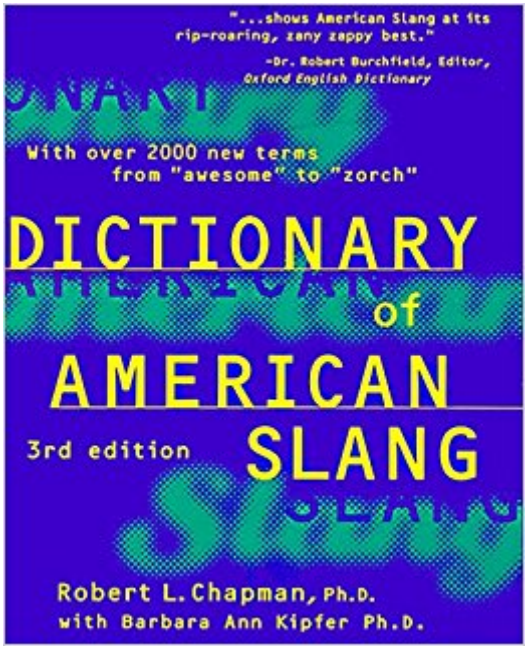
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The Dictionary Of American Slang



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Synopsis

Originally published in 1960, The Dictionary of American Slang is widely regarded as the standard in its field. Expanded and completely updated, this third edition contains more than 19,000 terms of representing the variety and vigor of American slang, from the most widely acceptable to the taboo, and covering all periods of American history -- from the gypsies, soldiers, railroad workers and cowboys of the 19th century to more modern spawning grounds such as the rock 'n' roll world, the corporate sector, African-Americans, gays and lesbians and many more.Intimately connected with the fringes of our culture and responding with vigilance to new developments in technology, slang is the fastest changing part of our language. This new edition considers the subcultures that have emerged in the wake of the past decade's technological and communication advances, including the advent of computer usage at home and in the workplace and the explosion of the Internet and the World Wide Web. With more than 2,000 new terms, the Lexicon of the '90s is recorded here in definitive detail.Like previous editions, this edition features pronunciation guides, word origins, examples of appropriate usage as well as a helpful highlighting system that lets you know which terms should be used with caution, and never in polite company. Both as important archive of the way America is really talking and a lot of fun to read, The Dictionary of American SlangÃ Â will prove to be an invaluable companion in keeping up with the dauntingly jargon-filled, quickly evolving language of today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dollars to doughnuts, your reference shelf lacks a good slang dictionary, and that’s a fine how-de-do. Whether you’re a stuffy writer looking to gussy up your prose, a poindexter who thinks studying dictionaries is the cat’s pajamas, or a muttonheaded fogey hoping to get a clue, Robert Chapman’s Dictionary of American Slang fills the bill. Containing more than 19,000 terms of American slang, this lexicon represents all periods of American history, from phrases out of the 1880s, such as carrot-top for "redhead," to current ’90s jargon such as carjacking. It covers the widely acceptable and the taboo, slang from cowboys and railroad workers and slang from rock & rollers, corporate America, and the gay community. It includes obsolete phrases such as canoeing for "making-out," and up-to-date terms relating to technology, such as listserv for "electronic mail list." Each item features pronunciation guides, word origins, and usage examples, and words that are derogatory or impolite are clearly labeled as such. A righteous reference and a lulu of a browser, the Dictionary of American Slangis an elegantly produced and scholarly rigorous linguistic knockout. --Stephanie Gold

Dr. Robert L. Chapman, the founding editor of the Dictionary of American Slang, was a professor of English at Drew University.

Wow, man, this is a really neat book. It is kinda heavy, like, it takes two dudes or chicks to lift it, but that’s, like, your karma, man, if you always get heavy s*** thrown at you. You’re like, a Scorpio with a moon in Cancer, right? Thought so.OK, the real review. I got this book to do research on 1960’s and ’70’s slang, because I am writing a memoir and for some reason the hippie lingo has left me. I was hoping the book would be organized by time periods: 1900-1910, 1910-1920, sort of like that. But instead, it’s organized alphabetically. I suppose that would make it easier for someone who had a word like "hooligan" that they wanted to know the meaning and etymology of. That does make sense, seeing as it’s a dictionary. But it didn’t really meet my needs. I don’t think that’s the book’s fault--it just isn’t exactly what I need.I would think that if someone were reading a 20th century book that had a lot of slang in it, and they were born any time from the ’80’s on, that a dictionary such as this one would be very helpful.But I find it extremely entertaining, since I love words and write a lot; so I manage to hold it up somehow, and read it at bedtime.

I am not qualified (academically) to rate this product, but from my perspective with English as my second or third language, it helps me understand some of the "gibberish" in movies, on TV and in

contemporary American prose. Amazing how it has grown in content since I last bought this dictionary!

This dictionary is good for defining various slang words and provides dates for when the term(s) was used. I was hoping for more history/background/origins of the words and phrases, which this does not provide in the detail I would have desired.

This dictionary is an absolute must-have for every writer, fiction or nonfiction. We haven't found a better slang dictionary yet. It has virtually all the slang words in there, words that you just won't find anywhere else. One of the very nice and helpful features is that it tells you in what year the word was used first and susequently, and in which publication (book or newspaper, etc.), and how the meaning changed over the course of the decades. The dictionary also has sentence examples on how the word was used, e.g. in which context, so you know exactly when and how to use it in your applications. It's just very interesting to find out the original meaning and usage of certain slang words and to enrich your own vocabulary. We highly recommend it!

It has many many slang words from the 4 letter words that children titter at to the acronyms that are the bane of the existence of us older folk. The etymology is not always exact, but worth far more than its price (essentially shipping cost for a used book). It is a welcome addition to my library.

Pretty complete and fairly up-to-date, I had a different one from about 1965, so you can see why this is a great improvement.Book was like new.Good bargain!

My "go to" book for all inclusive slang expressions since it hit the bookstore shelves in 1960...fighting library and school censorship due to its inclusion of "taboo" expressions. Not only meaningful, but interesting for its detailed explanations of slang origins.

Very good book my daughter's going to love it. Got it for her for Christmas. Came fast & was cheaper then the books sticker price. Would recommend both seller & book.

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