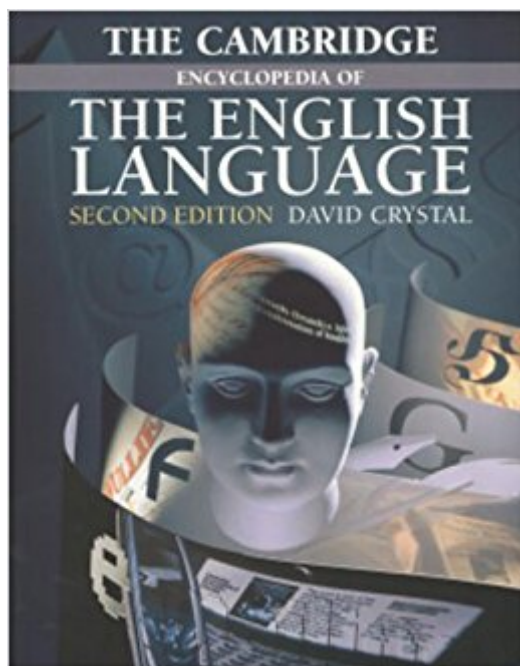


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The Cambridge Encyclopedia Of The English Language



Synopsis

Rarely has a book so packed with accurate and well researched factual information been so widely read and popularly acclaimed. This Second Edition of The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language has been fully revised for a new generation of language-lovers. The book is longer and includes extensive new material on world English and Internet English, in addition to completely updated statistics, further reading suggestions and other references. First Edition Hb (1995): 0-521-40179-8 First Edition Pb (1997): 0-521-59655-6 David Crystal is a leading authority on language, and author of many books, including most recently Shakespeare's Words (Penguin, 2002), Language and the Internet (Cambridge, 2001) and Language Death (Cambridge, 2000). An internationally renowned writer, journal editor, lecturer and broadcaster, he received an Order of the British Empire in 1995 for his services to the English language.

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created an attractive and readable work for the lay reader as well as the specialist." Library Journal"...contains a monstrous amount of information on a fascinating topic arranged in a clear, concise, and, above all, entertaining manner--a dangerous combination indeed, and one that can only lead to uncontrollable reading binges lasting hours or perhaps days." Quill & Quire

The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language is one of the publishing phenomena of recent times. Rarely has a book so packed with accurate and well researched factual information been so widely read and popularly acclaimed. This Second Edition now presents an overhaul of the subject for a new generation of language-lovers. The length of the book has increased by 16 pages and there are 44 new illustrations, extensive new material on world English and Internet English, and a complete updating of statistics, further reading suggestions and other references.

Good introduction to linguistics, overall, and the study of the English Language, in particular. Crystal covers the development of human language, starting with the sound producing organs and the range of sounds that humans can make, then goes into the development of the language(s) of Great Britain starting with the earliest known inhabitants, progressing through successive invasions, mass borrowings as England became the world's pre-eminent power, and then the continuing development of English as a universal language for science, business and general use as a "high status" language. He also devotes a good amount of space to exploring dialects, accents, pidgins and creole languages. As he notes, a linguist does not judge whether a particular usage is "correct." Rather, the linguist merely studies and reports on how a language is being used by its speakers.

Writers can't learn enough about global English. This is a good reference, too.

First thing I need to say is that this book is an overview of English Language and designed for average intelligent adults, not for serious academic settings. You'll notice plenty of photographs, charts, and such. It's quite fun to flip to any page and just start reading. It included a lot of contemporary figures, like pop singers, current politicians, and authors. It tried to make readers understand the older form of English culture by linking the current one to it. I must say this approach worked only so far as to get your feet wet. Again, it's an introductory sort of book, but still has many things we modern citizens don't know about English.

Many hours of enjoyable browsing await you. If you have a love of the English language and

curiosity about its peculiarities, you will find it fascinating, even if you too occasionally mangle the language!

This is a fascinating book describing the evolution of the English language. Its format is somewhat like an encyclopaedia; it is not structured like a history book. Well-illustrated. Recommended to me by the chairman of a graduate English department of a large US university. I've given a few copies to colleagues.

Decently easy to read, very informative, but slightly overbearing. As far as text books go, it's a decently quick read...If you can stand the dryness.

as expected

Good buy by a great writer.

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