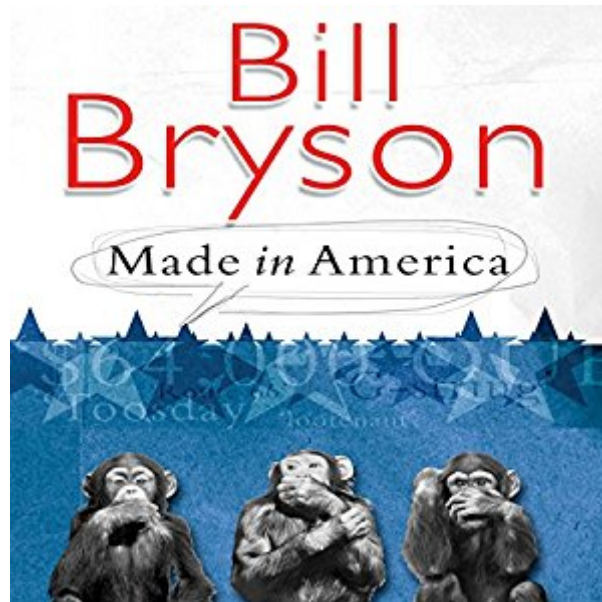




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Made In America



Synopsis

Looking at the language of America and explaining the history behind it, this book covers: the origins of phrases such as "The Real McCoy" and the G-string, why two humble bicycle repairmen from Ohio succeeded in mastering manned flight when the world's greatest engineers couldn't get a model aircraft off the ground, why the assassination of President Garfield led to the invention of air conditioning, and how a lonesome hamburger stand at the end of Route 66 provided the inspiration for McDonald's. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Linguistics

Customer Reviews

Very interesting book! It does a great job of telling this history of American English by going through the history of the United States and drawing out how words came into being used. As always, Bryson writes in a way that is informative and entertaining.

This is the second time that I have read Bill Bryson's masterful essay, documenting the major influences in American history and how these events have shaped the language and created new words. I enjoyed it as much the second time as the first, 20 years previously. As might be expected, words are added continuously to the American melting pot, especially word derived from several languages spoken by immigrants. Equally significant has been the influence of major changes to society, such as the advent of railways, movies and computers. Bill Bryson is a man who is completely comfortable with and an authority on the topic of 'language'. What is unexpected is just how entertaining, readable and relevant is his account of the topic. This is a book that is different,

one that I recommend strongly to all with an interest in words, their derivation and meaning.

Humorous and LOADED with fun facts and interesting information. Buy it! This led me to other Bill Bryson books, all of which I loved as well. I got this in a Yankee Swap....lucky me!

This is a book about the development of American English. It is written for the casual reader, not scholars. To give context, he includes cultural and technological history. Bill Bryson writes with an easy to read and humorous style. His books are always fun to read and reread. I am always sad when I read the last page.

Bryson is amazing. Of course, he writes well. Of course, he chooses interesting topics. What is not "of course" is how much he packs into so few words. Every sentence is worth reading, and when I am through with an article or section, I know that it is worth rereading. Since I find this quality in about 1 out every 20 books I read, he is one of the few authors I intend to collect fully and read repeatedly.

Any book by Bryson is welcome in our home. He makes traveling fun and makes fun, without offending, the locals.

"The American was good natured, generous, hospitable and sociable, and he reversed the whole of language to make the term 'stranger' one of welcome."--Henry Steele Commager
Whenever I am reading Bill Bryson, I am compelled to talk about it incessantly. So, I'm sure it was a long few weeks for my friends and family. Bryson doesn't disappoint in this follow-up to the brilliant, amazing (and one my favorite books ever) *The Mother Tongue*. *Made in America* basically tells the history of the United States, using its unique take on the English language as the medium by which to tell a fascinating historical, sociological, psychological, and cultural story, from America's beginnings with the blending of English and native languages that created a poetry of nomenclature, to the immigrant contribution to vocabulary, to the inventive spirit of business and machines that influence linguistics. Americans use English differently, different clichés, different vocabulary, different prose and style, and have contributed greatly to language. Bryson tells a fascinating story, and a brilliant linguistic one. I loved this book. So full of fascinating goodies. Thanks again for another great read, Bill! Grade: A

This book is well-researched, though some reviewers have noted possible errors. I enjoyed Bryson's use of his own words, which are often a cut above the every-day vocabulary. His own voice makes word history speculations more entertaining as he covers a wide variety of topics from early history to sports to the space age. He would boggle us if he wrote an appendix about the computer age. Bryson can't resist political rants and a dig at Creation Scientists.

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