

Nothing Stands Still for Long

Dealing with Changing English

Rob Dean February / March 2023



**Language Change –
past and present**

Examples galore

**Implications for
teaching**

**Language Change –
what of the future?**





Language Change Past and Present

Incorrect English?



ALL gifts are free...



10 items or **FEWER**

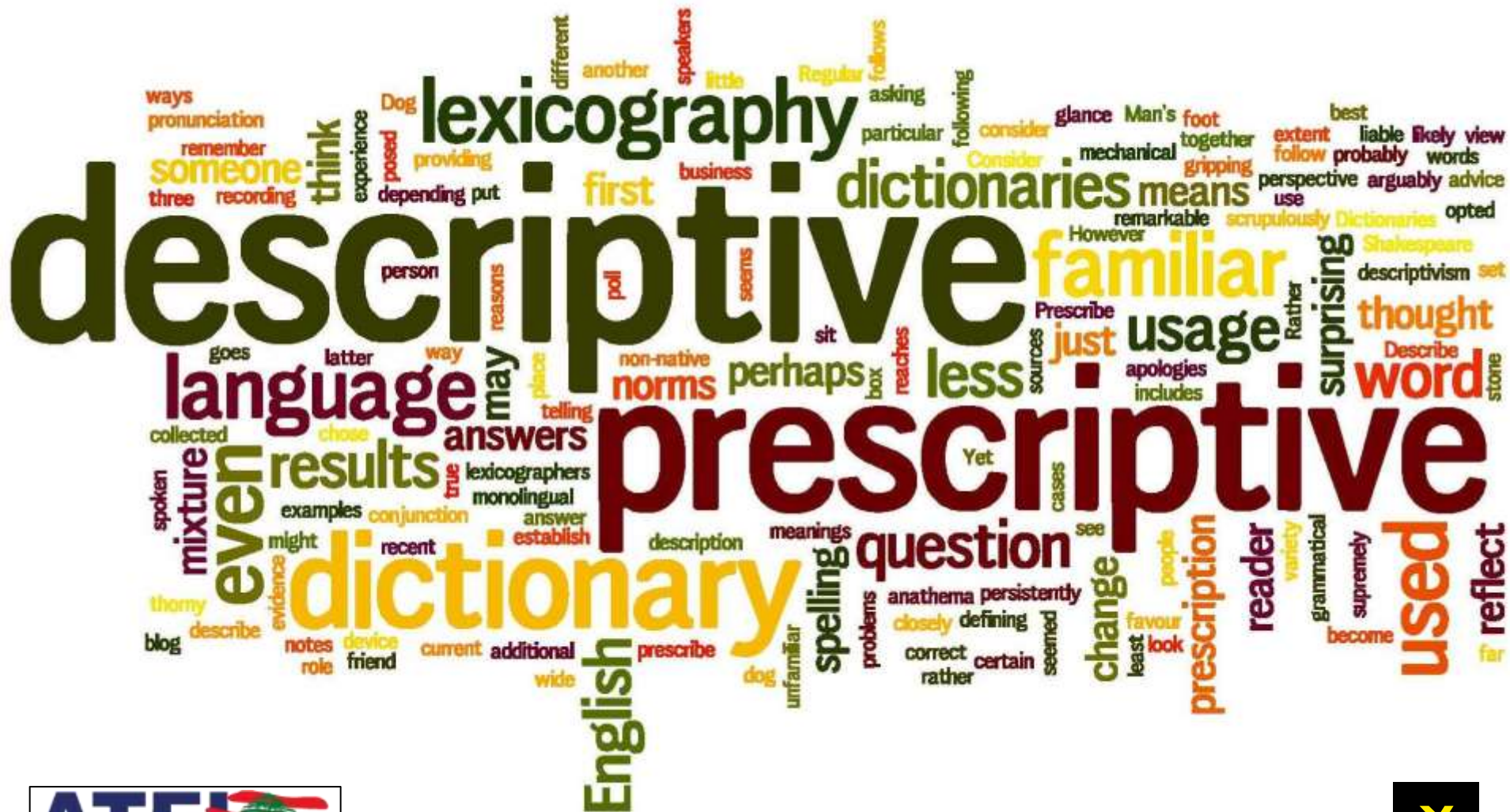


In the **EVENT** of fire...



...**OWING** to bad weather

Description or prescription?



L'Académie Française

- 1. Le parking**
- 2. Le pressing**
- 3. Le marketing**
- 4. Le weekend**
- 5. Le footing**

Fighting the Change...



**Change is nothing
new...**



Words from Different Sources

Anglo Saxon

cow

sheep

ghost

shirt

harbour

Old French

beef

mutton

phantom

blouse

port

What's changing?

- Vocabulary / lexis
- Grammar
- Functional Language
- Pronunciation



The nature of language change

Economy

computer

Analogy

corpuses (vs. corpora)

Language Contact

siesta, cappuccino

**Medium of
Communication**

CU L8TR, Cc, Bcc

Types of change

**Extension /
Generalisation**

salary

**Narrowing /
Specialisation**

meat

**Amelioration
(Negative > Positive)**

terribly

**Pejoration
(Positive > Negative)**

silly

Figurative use

bottleneck

shady

cupboard

sick

mouse

hound

What's causing the changes?

Technology & Lifestyle changes

Social and Political changes

Media – Television, internet, films, journalism

'Foreign' words entering the language

“New” Borrowed Words

- Which language?

ski **Norwegian**

Greek **oligarch**

ukulele **Hawaiian**

Dutch **booze**

ginger **Tamil**

Spanish **aficionado**

polka **Czech**

Italian **barista**

**Imported words for imported
products**

**Easier / Shorter names for
existing things**



The influence of the Media



F.R.I.E.N.D.S

Frequently repeated idiotic entertainment
nobody deserves to suffer



I **very** like cheese.



I like cheese **very much**.



I **really** like cheese.

“I am really not gonna do that”

“I am **so not gonna do that”**



“I am **SO** gonna buy that top!”

The Influence of the Media:

The ‘Little Britain’ Phenomenon

“be like”



“**Vicky’s like standing** at the bus stop and **I’m like**, “What are you doing here?”

“**Vicky was standing** at the bus stop and **I said to her** “What are you doing here?”

Usage: Informal version of past continuous

Usage: Informal; to introduce direct speech or feelings, often of a surprising or interesting nature.

Reporting

She said / asked...

She's like...

She goes...

She gives it...

**'What are you
doing here?'**

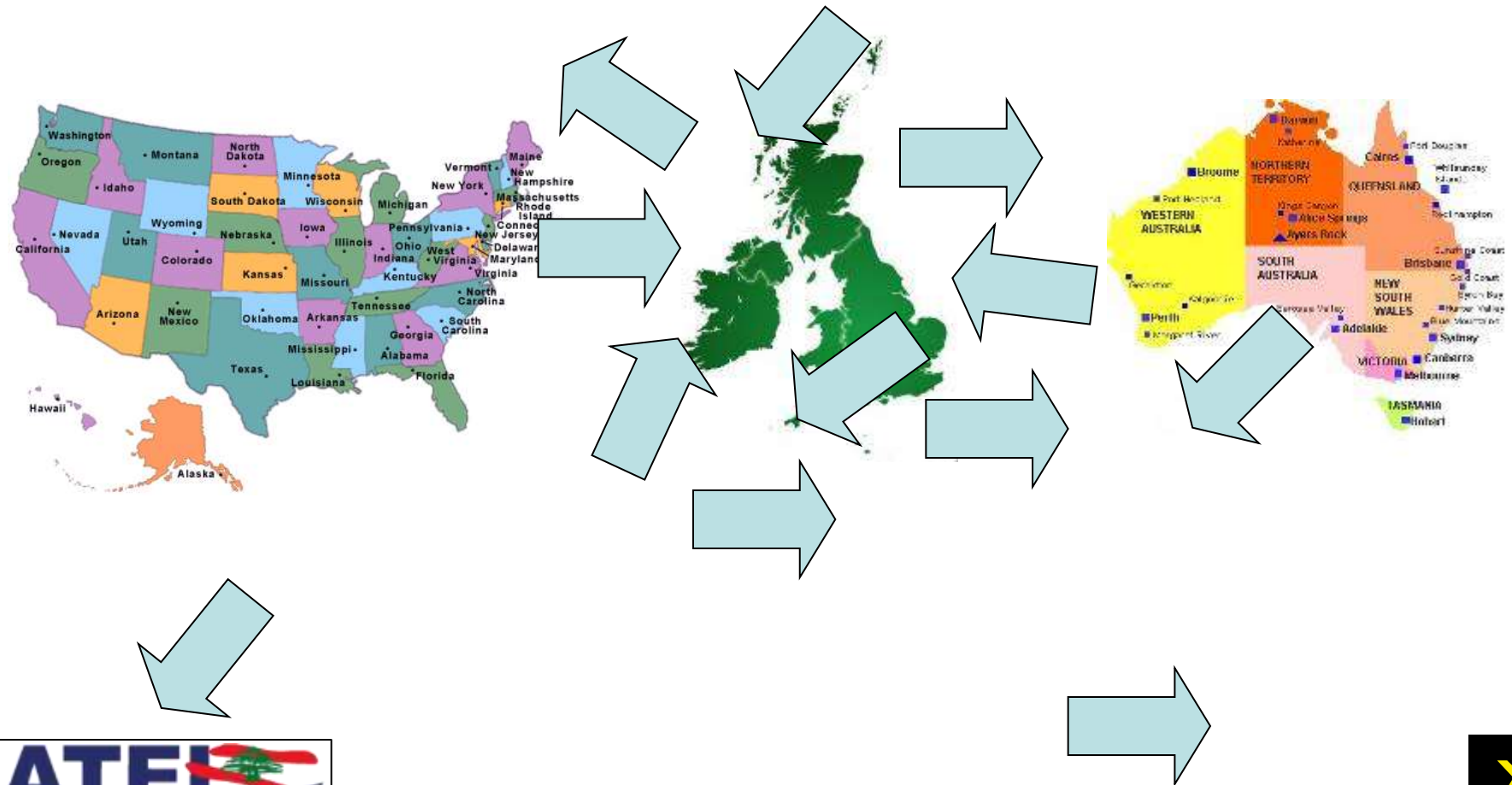


Changing Pronunciation

Queen's English?



Pronunciation... on the move



The Oz / NZ Effect



Kylie Minogue



Nicole Kidman



Paul Hogan



Russell Crowe

The Antipodean Effect

It's great to be here.



I enjoy my work.



I've been here before.



Antipodean Intonation (Rising Terminus)

American Shortening

going to /gɒnəl/

want to /wɒnəl/

sort of /sɔ:təl/



**Words and expressions
for the 2020s...**

ego-surfing (n)

to fub (v)

to unfriend (v)

mouse potato (n)

**zero hours
contract (n)**

to chillax (v)



COVID-19 (n)

doomscrolling (n)

coronacut (n)

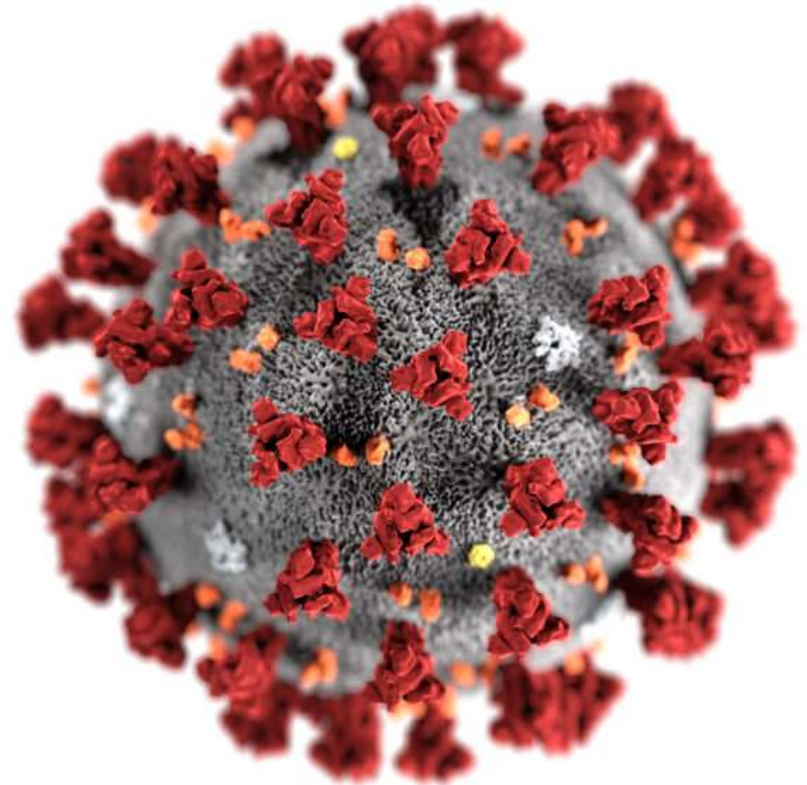
furlough (n)

false positive (n)

covidiot (n)

quarantini (n)

www.dictionary.com/e/s/new-words-we-created-because-of-coronavirus



Blends

jeans + leggings = **jeggings**

web + seminar = **webinar**

Britain + exit = **Brexit**

glamorous + camping = **glamping**



Jennifer + Lopez = **J-Lo**



Boris + Johnson = **Bo-Jo**

Acronyms

Scuba

Self **c**ontained **u**nderwater
breathing **a**pparatus

Laser

Light **a**mplification by
stimulated **e**mission of
radiation

ALITALIA

Arrived **l**ate **i**n **T**urin; **a**ll
luggage **i**n **A**thens

Ford

Found **o**n **r**oad **d**ead

FIAT

Fix **i**t **a**gain **t**omorrow

The impact of new technology

1) Words to describe it

1



2



3



4

5



Alphabet taught to kids nowadays



A: APPLE



B: BLUETOOTH



C: CHAT



D: DOWNLOAD



E: E MAIL



F: FACEBOOK



G: GOOGLE



H: HEWLETT
PACKARD



I: Iphone



J: JAVA



K: KINGSTON



L: LAPTOP



M: MESSENGER



N: NERO



O: ORKUT



P: PICASSA



Q: QUICK HEAL



R: RAM



S: SERVER



T: TWITTER



U: USB



V: VISTA



W: WIFI



X: Xp



Y: YOU TUBE



Z: ZORPIA

What's Missing?

digital	age native
e-	book business cash commerce
cyber	crime fraud kidnapper

e-words

business

e-business

e-cash

e-commerce

e-money

e-publishing

e-tailer

e-ticket

non-business

e-book

e-zine

e-signature

‘cyber’ words

negative

cybercrime

cyberfraud

cyberkidnapper

cyber attack

cybersickness

cyberterrorism

cyberwidow

neutral

cybercafe

cyberland

cyberforensics

The impact of new technology:

(2) What we do with it.

TLAs (Three Letter Acronyms)



LOL Laugh out Loud

BBL Be back later

EOD End of discussion

LMK Let me know

FYA For your amusement

POS Parent over shoulder

The Advance of Technology and the Rise of the Retronym

acoustic guitar

vinyl album

snail mail

landline phone

analogue radio

desktop computer

dumbphone

electric guitar

CD album

e-mail

mobile phone

digital radio

laptop computer

smartphone

Change isn't for everyone...



Irritating expressions

How are you? – I'm **good**

At this moment in time, the meeting is still in progress.

Please enter your PIN **number**.

Passengers **are kindly requested to proceed** to gate 15.

I'm really **liking** that.

It's **fairly** unique.

We have **pan** fried fish or **oven** baked chicken.

You haven't done your homework. – **Whatever!**

Irritating 'solutions'



Entrance and Exit Solutions

Climate Protection Solutions



We've seen what's new...

So what's gone / going?

A

~~How do you do?~~

It's throwing it down

Thanks for your invite

It's trending

~~The person to whom it
belongs...~~

Whatever!

~~Railway station~~

Can I get a coffee?!

~~You shall do your homework!~~

Awesome!

B

Hey! Hi! Hello...

~~It's raining cats and dogs~~

~~Thanks for your invitation~~

~~It's popular~~

The person to who it
belongs...

~~I don't mind.~~

Train station

~~Can I have a coffee?~~

You will do your homework!

~~Marvellous!~~

The Age of Political Correctness

~~manic depressive~~

bipolar

~~air stewardess~~

flight attendant

~~BC, AD~~

BCE, CE

~~blind~~

non-sighted

~~fat~~

person of substance

~~cheating~~

collaborative learning



Implications for Teaching

Implications for Teaching...

Reception vs. Production

Important for learners to understand what they hear.

Less important for them to immediately produce 'new' language.

Exposure is the key: YouTube, podcasts, TV, etc.

Implications for Teaching...

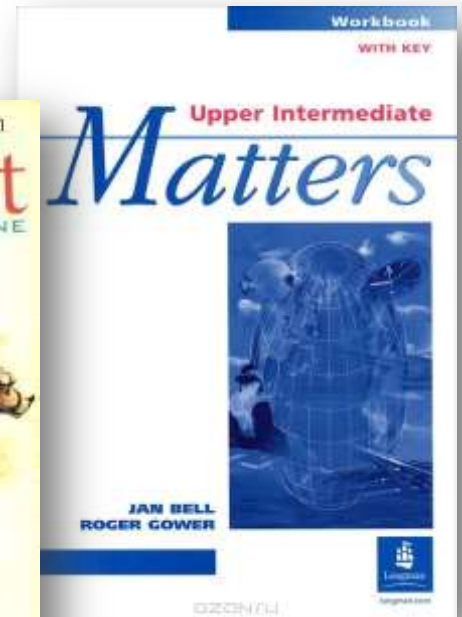
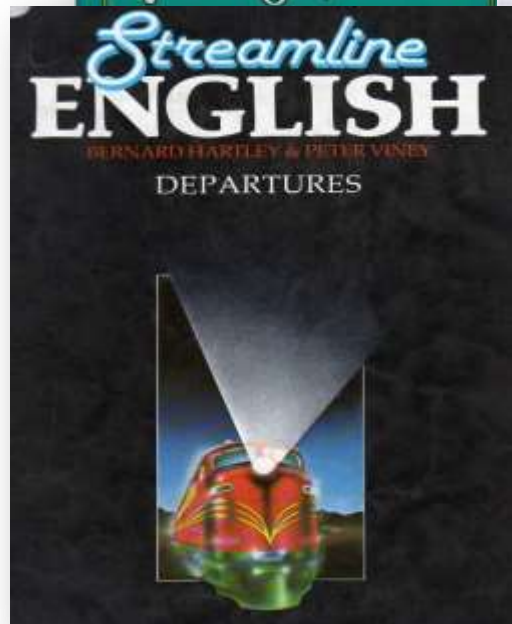
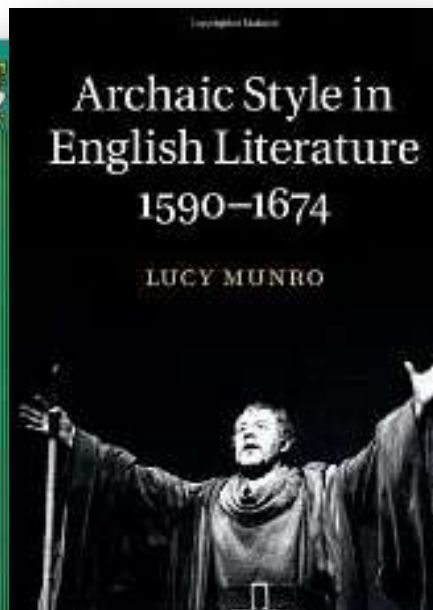
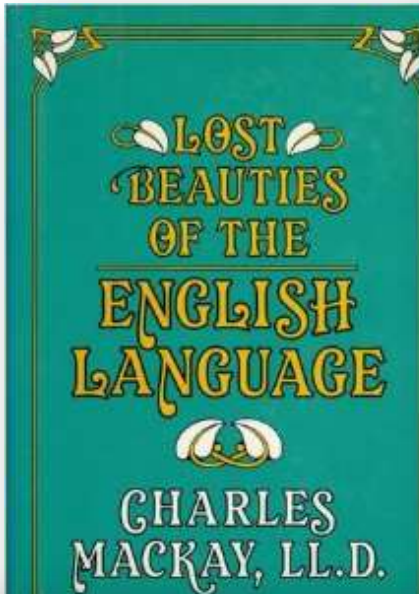
The demands of exams

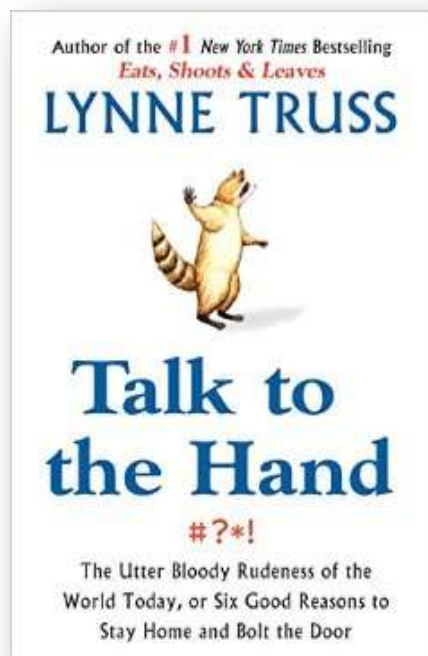
Exams demand accuracy – ‘new’ language may not yet be acceptable to examiners.

‘New’ language more acceptable in speaking than writing.

Play it safe!

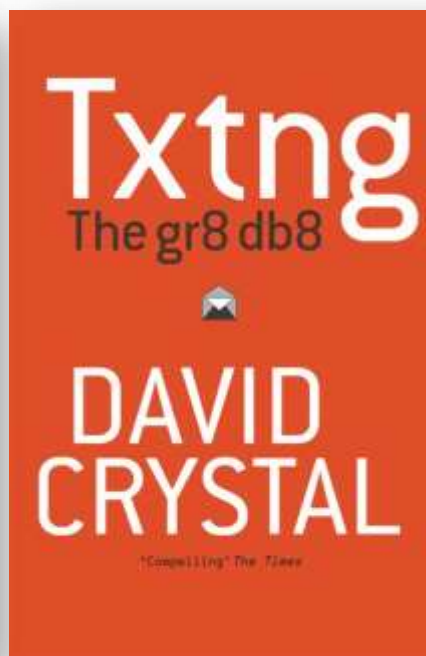
Modern Reference Materials?





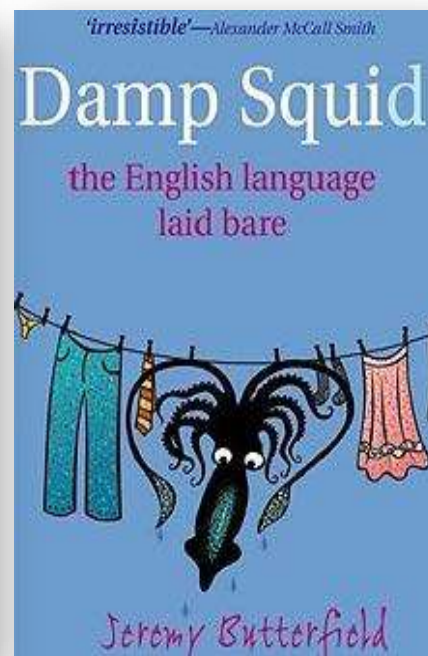
**Lynne
Truss**

***Talk to the
Hand***



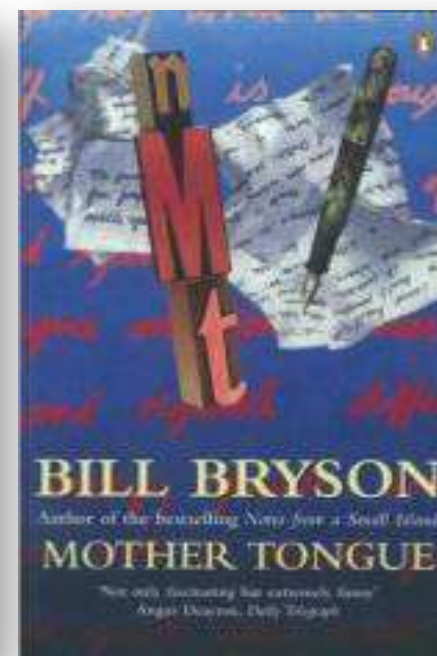
**David
Crystal**

***Txtng –
The gr8
db8***



**Jeremy
Butterfield**

Damp Squid



Bill Bryson

***Mother
Tongue***

Useful websites

English Lessons - Phrasal Verbs

Practice your English with Caroline Brown's English Lessons

www.carloinebrownenglishlessons.com

[ESL Lessons](#)

[English Grammar](#)

Cambridge English Courses

urban
DICTIONARY

Like

2.2m

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@urbandictionary

word of the day

look up any word, like bootylicious:

search

dictionary thesaurus names media store add edit blog

S T U V W X Y Z # new favorites tv

www.urbandictionary.com

Urban Dictionary is the dictionary **you wrote**. *Define your world*

6,914,397 DEFINITIONS SINCE 1999

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HOME

ASK AC

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STRANGE

STUFF

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ALL THE

WORDS

ABOUT

SEARCH

GIFTSHOP



: The online home of American Slang!

ular

Test your knowledge of American slang. **Top hits:** [Vintage Sex Slang](#), [Pimp Quiz](#)

Trans
n the

www.slangcity.com

Unfortunate double meanings of baby names.

Explanations of sexual slang in plain English. **Top hits:** [Adult Slang Picture Dictionary](#) (adult content, illustrated
als), [Map of the Human Body](#) (adult content, illustrated with a classic painting.)

Answers to reader's questions. **Top hits:** [Chode](#) (adult content), [Scissor Sisters](#) (adult content)



What's New?

COLUMNS

This week's column: [tag](#)

nt columns: [shubberdegullion](#), [macaroni](#), [kerplunk!](#),
[sack](#), [gobsmacked](#), [Miss Thang](#), [tigerish](#), [freeway flyer](#),
[bogue](#), [good doobie](#), [blitted](#), [in Queer Street](#)

and...

New Song Translations (Slang to Standard English): [Boom](#)
[Boom Pow](#), [Baby Got Back](#), [Pop Champagne](#)

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[Across the pond](#)

This idiom means on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, used to refer to the US or the UK depending on the speaker's location.

[All mouth and trousers](#)

Someone who's all mouth and trousers talks or boasts a lot but doesn't deliver. 'All mouth and no trousers' is also used, though this is a corruption of the original.

[All my eye and Peggy Martin](#)

An idiom that appears to have gone out of use but was prevalent in the English north Midlands of Staffordshire, Cheshire and Derbyshire from at least the turn of the 20th century until the early 1950s or so. The idiom's meaning is literally something said or written that is unbelievable, rumor, over embellished, the result of malicious village gossip etc.

[All talk and no trousers](#)

Someone who is all talk and no trousers, talks about doing big, important things, but doesn't take any action.

[An Englishman's home is his castle](#)

This means that what happens in a person's home or private life is their business and should not be subject to outside interference.

[Argue the toss](#)

If you argue the toss, you refuse to accept a decision and argue about it.

[As the actress said to the bishop](#)

This idiom is used to highlight a sexual reference, deliberate or accidental.

[At a loose end](#)

If you are at a loose end, you have spare time but don't know what to do with it.

[At the end of your tether](#)

If you are at the end of your tether, you are at the limit of your patience or endurance.

[Back foot](#)

If you are on your back foot, you are at a disadvantage and forced to be defensive of your position.



Language Change: What of the Future?

And what of the future?

What changes would **you** like to see?

If I was minister for English...

Bye Bye to:

's' in 3rd person singular

irregular verbs

Less frequently used tenses

articles

used to and past 'would'

... and a few other adjustments:

simplification of question tags

time/tense agreement

simplification of prefixes

e.g. 'un' for everything negative:

unpolite, uncorrect, unrelevant, illegal...

simplification of spelling rules



European Commission

CLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Memo to all Departments

Re: English Spelling

24th January 2023

The European Commission hereby announces that agreement has been reached to adopt English as the preferred language for all European communications, rather than German, which had been under consideration as the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, it was agreed that English spelling had some room for improvement, and it has been agreed to implement a five year phased plan for what will become known as Euro English.

Beginning next year, 's' will be used instead of the soft 'c'. Certainly, sivil servants will reseive this news with joy. At this time also, the hard 'c' will be replased with 'k'. Not only will this klear up konfusion, but komputer keyboards kan have one letter fewer. There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome 'ph' will be replased by 'f'. This will make words like 'fotograf' 20 per sent shorter.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Double letters will be abolished – these have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. In adition, the konfusion kaused by the silent 'e' in the languag wil be solved by abolishing this as wel. By the fourth year, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing 'th' with 'z' and 'w' with 'v'.

During ze fifz year of ze plan, ze unesesary 'o' kan be dropd from vords kontaining 'ou', and similar changes vil of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters. After zis fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech ozer.

Ze drem vil finali kum tru!

Thank You

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