



Dictionary of Word Origins

Linda; Flavell, R. H. Flavell

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Words are the building blocks of language, but their derivations are often stories in themselves. Have you ever wondered why we wear *perfume*, read *magazines*, vote for *candidates*, and speak in *jargon*? With entries from *accolade* to *zoo*, and including such disparate items as *blackmail*, *fiasco*, and *rigmarole*, this dictionary explains the origins and development of 300 commonly used words. In selecting words for inclusion, Linda and Roger Flavell have chosen those with a story to tell. The result is an enlightening guide to the richness and diversity of the English language, boasting both scholarly accuracy and much to delight the curious browser.

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