



The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English

Henry Hitchings

Download now

Read Online →

The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English

Henry Hitchings

The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English Henry Hitchings

AN *ECONOMIST* BOOK OF THE YEAR

The Secret Life of Words is a wide-ranging account of the transplanted, stolen, bastardized words we've come to know as the English language. It's a history of English as a whole, and of the thousands of individual words, from more than 350 foreign tongues, that trickled in gradually over hundreds of years of trade, colonization, and diplomacy. Henry Hitchings narrates the story from the Norman Conquest to the present day, chronicling the English language as a living archive of human experience.

A SAMPLE OF THE THOUSANDS OF STORIES BEHIND THE WORDS:

- Alcatraz Island was named by a Spanish explorer who arrived in 1775 to find the island covered with pelicans, or *alcatraces*. And "alcatraces"? The word goes back to the Arabic *al-qadus*, which was a bucket used in irrigation that resembled the bucket beaks of pelicans.
- What does a walnut have to do with walls? The word comes from the Old English *walhnutu*, meaning foreign nut. They were originally grown in Italy and imported, and the northern Europeans named them to distinguish them from the native hazelnut.
- A crayfish is not a fish. The name comes from the old French word *crevice*, through the Old German *crebiz* and the modern French *ecrevisse*. The "fish" part is just the result of a mishearing."

The Secret Life of Words is a wide-ranging chronicle of how words witness history, reflect social change, and remind us of our past.

 [Download The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English Henry Hitchings

Download and Read Free Online The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English Henry Hitchings

From reader reviews:

James Blouin:

The actual book The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English has a lot info on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was published by the very famous author. The author makes some research just before write this book. This book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this book.

Albert Aucoin:

The book untitled The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains her idea with easy method. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read this. The book was published by famous author. The author will bring you in the new era of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice study.

Brent Thompson:

You could spend your free time to learn this book this book. This The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English is simple to bring you can read it in the recreation area, in the beach, train as well as soon. If you did not have got much space to bring the particular printed book, you can buy often the e-book. It is make you much easier to read it. You can save the actual book in your smart phone. So there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

Harry Baxter:

As we know that book is significant thing to add our understanding for everything. By a book we can know everything we wish. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated as well as blank sheet. Every year was exactly added. This publication The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English was filled concerning science. Spend your time to add your knowledge about your scientific research competence. Some people has distinct feel when they reading the book. If you know how big selling point of a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a book. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book you wanted.

Download and Read Online The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English Henry Hitchings #CF8KXAHWREN

Read The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English by Henry Hitchings for online ebook

The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English by Henry Hitchings Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English by Henry Hitchings books to read online.

Online The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English by Henry Hitchings ebook PDF download

The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English by Henry Hitchings Doc

The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English by Henry Hitchings Mobipocket

The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English by Henry Hitchings EPub

The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English by Henry Hitchings Ebook online

The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English by Henry Hitchings Ebook PDF