

The Unexpected Evolution of Language: **Discover the Surprising Etymology of Everyday Words**

By Justin Cord Hayes



The Unexpected Evolution of Language: Discover the Surprising Etymology of Everyday Words By Justin Cord Hayes

This book is awesome awful!

Did you know that "awful" first originated as a compliment? How about the fact that it was perfectly fine for someone to defecate in their living room? Or that at one time a bully was actually a sweetheart?

You may think that these things sound outlandish, but hundreds of years ago, the words "awful," "defecate," and "bully" meant something entirely different than what we know today. The Unexpected Evolution of Language reveals the origins of 208 everyday terms and the interesting stories behind their shift in meaning. Arranged in alphabetical order, you will enjoy uncovering the backstories to terms like:

- Awful worthy of respect or fear; inspiring awe
- Bimbo slang for a stupid, inconsequential man
- **Defecate** to purify; cleanse
- Invest to clothe; to dress
- Nice foolish; stupid
- Relay hunting term meaning fresh pack of hounds

From "aftermath" and "sophisticated" to "empty" and "prestige," you will aboslutely love seeing just what kind of damage time has done to the English language.



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The Unexpected Evolution of Language: Discover the Surprising Etymology of Everyday Words By Justin Cord Hayes Bibliography

• Sales Rank: #1498381 in Books

Published on: 2012-10-18Released on: 2012-10-18

• Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 7.50" h x .60" w x 5.50" l, .50 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 240 pages



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About the Author

Justin Cord Hayes, coauthor of *The Big Book of Words You Should Know* and *Roget's Thesaurus of Words for Intellectuals*, is an experienced journalist and teacher. He lives in North Carolina.

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