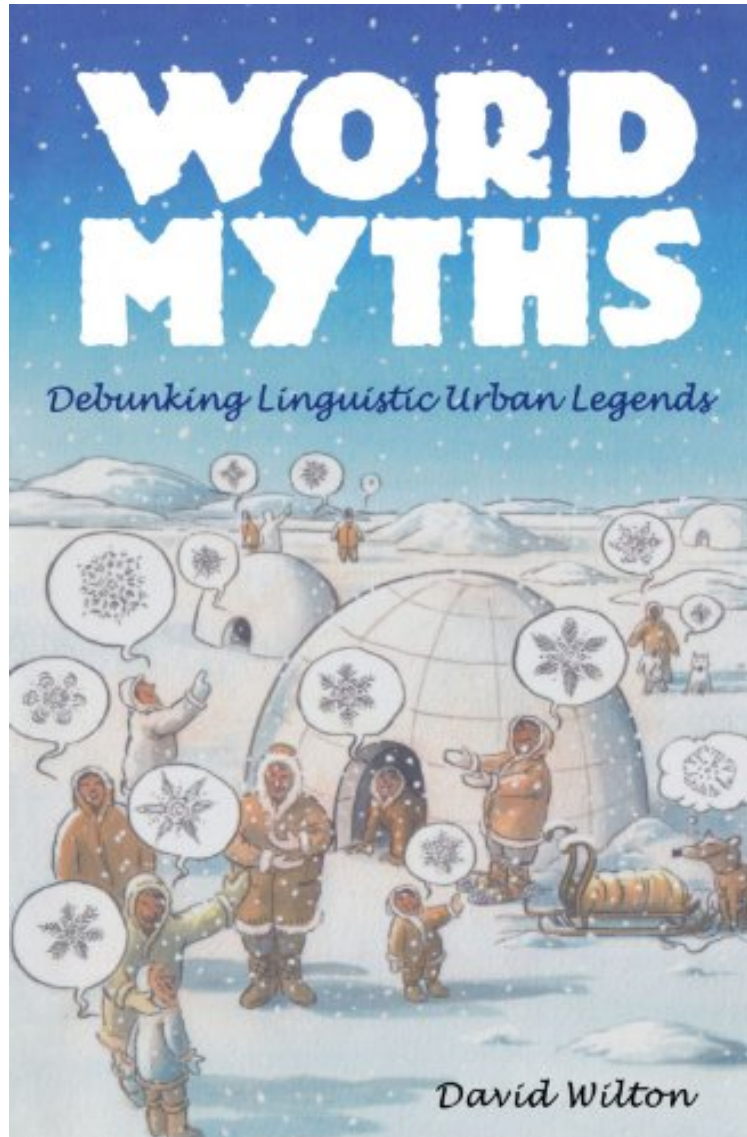


[FREE] Word Myths: Debunking Linguistic Urban Legends

Word Myths: Debunking Linguistic Urban Legends

David Wilton

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#768609 in Books David Wilton 2008-11-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 5.30 x .70 x 7.90l, .59 #File Name: 0195375572221 pagesWord Myths Debunking Linguistic Urban Legends | File size: 23.Mb

David Wilton : Word Myths: Debunking Linguistic Urban Legends before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Word Myths: Debunking Linguistic Urban Legends:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It was okay. Often the explanations of why the ...By APIt was okay. Often the explanations of why the source of a word was a myth was flimsier than the myth.5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Linguistic Urban Legends DebunkedBy Robert R. MendenhallHave you heard that Eskimos have 500 words for "snow"? What does the international distress signal "SOS" mean? Do you know what an

"apronym" is? Have you noticed that some nautical enthusiasts attribute a maritime origin to nearly every word or phrase? This observation prompted one participant of an online discussion group to use the acronym "CANOE" to mean the "Conspiracy to Attribute Nautical Origins to Everything"! You'll discover that many etymologies you thought you "knew," you really didn't know at all. This little 200-page book was just great fun and most enlightening to read. I've referred to it often in my university communication classes -- a great resource for anyone interested in the origins and use of English words and phrases -- well researched and well written. Kudos to author David Wilton!¹ of 2 people found the following review helpful. You'll be glad you read this in surprising conversationsBy DjinnaGot this as the Kindle sample, and became so hooked I went for the whole thing. After the second time I brought up something explored in this book in everyday conversation, I knew it was worth buying. The most interesting aspect, to me, was seeing how having old media (and especially newspapers) digitized into searchable format has significantly changed the currently accepted origins of words and phrases. Easy to pick up and put down as a background book, while maintaining overall themes through the chapters.

Do you believe that Ring Around the Rosie refers to the Black Death? Or that Eskimos have 50 (or 500) words for "snow"? Or that "Posh" is an acronym for "Port Out, Starboard Home"? If so, you badly need this book. In *Word Myths*, David Wilton debunks some of the most spectacularly wrong word histories in common usage, giving us the real stories behind many linguistic urban legends. Readers will discover the true history behind such popular words and expressions such as "rule of thumb," "the whole nine yards," "hot dog," "raining cats and dogs," "chew the fat," "AWOL," "under the weather," "in like Flynn," "Dixie," "son of a gun," "tinker's damn," and many more. We learn that SOS was not originally an acronym for "Save Our Ship" or "Save Our Souls," but was chosen because the morse code signal (3 dots, 3 dashes, 3 dots) was easy to send and recognize. Also, "let the cat out of the bag" does not refer to the whip (the "cat") used to punish sailors aboard ship. The term "upset" (to defeat unexpectedly) does not date from the horse race when the heavily favored Man O' War was beaten by a nag named Upset (Upset was the only horse ever to defeat Man O' War, but the word predates the race by half a century). And Thomas Crapper did not invent the flush toilet, nor do the words "crap" or "crapper" derive from his name. As Wilton quashes these word myths, he offers us the best of both worlds: not only do we learn the many wrong stories behind these words, we also learn why and how they were created--and what the real story is. "Think 'hot dog' was coined by a New York baseball vendor, or that a certain vulgarity originated as an acronym? Then you need to read this book, which shows that some of the best etymological stories are just tall tales." --Chicago Tribune (10 Best Books About Language, 2004) "Most everything you know about word and phrase origins is likely to be wrong, and David Wilton proves it with a light touch and a wealth of fascinating case histories. Absolutely everyone with an interest in language will love this book." --J.E. Lighter, Editor, *Historical Dictionary of American Slang*

"Think "hot dog" was coined by a New York baseball vendor, or that a certain vulgarity originated as an acronym? Then you need to read this book, which shows that some of the best etymological stories are just tall tales."--Chicago Tribune (10 Best Books About Language, 2004) "Think "hot dog" was coined by a New York baseball vendor, or that a certain vulgarity originated as an acronym? Then you need to read this book, which shows that some of the best etymological stories are just tall tales."--Chicago Tribune (10 Best Books About Language, 2004) "Think "hot dog" was coined by a New York baseball vendor, or that a certain vulgarity originated as an acronym? Then you need to read this book, which shows that some of the best etymological stories are just tall tales."--Chicago Tribune (10 Best Books About Language, 2004) About the Author David Wilton is the creator and editor of wordorigins.org, since 1997 a leading Internet site for word and phrase origins. He has served as a journalist, Army officer, defense contractor, chemical and biological arms control negotiator, and software marketing executive. He lives in California.