



The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English

Henry Hitchings

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

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 Engli ...pdf](#)

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

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

From reader reviews:

Carrie Grogan:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or even goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They may be reading whatever they have because their hobby will be reading a book. Consider the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, man feel need book once they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will need this The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English.

Michael Rodriguez:

The knowledge that you get from The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English could be the more deep you excavating the information that hide within the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English giving you thrill feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood through anyone who read the item because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having that The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English instantly.

Carmelita Ratliff:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the whole day to reading a guide. The book The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English it is very good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book possesses high quality.

Linda Justice:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of recommendations to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended for you is The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English this guide consist a lot of the information with the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented how does the world

has grown up. The words styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some analysis when he makes this book. That's why this book ideal all of you.

Download and Read Online The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English Henry Hitchings #CSIFTKR3O5Q

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