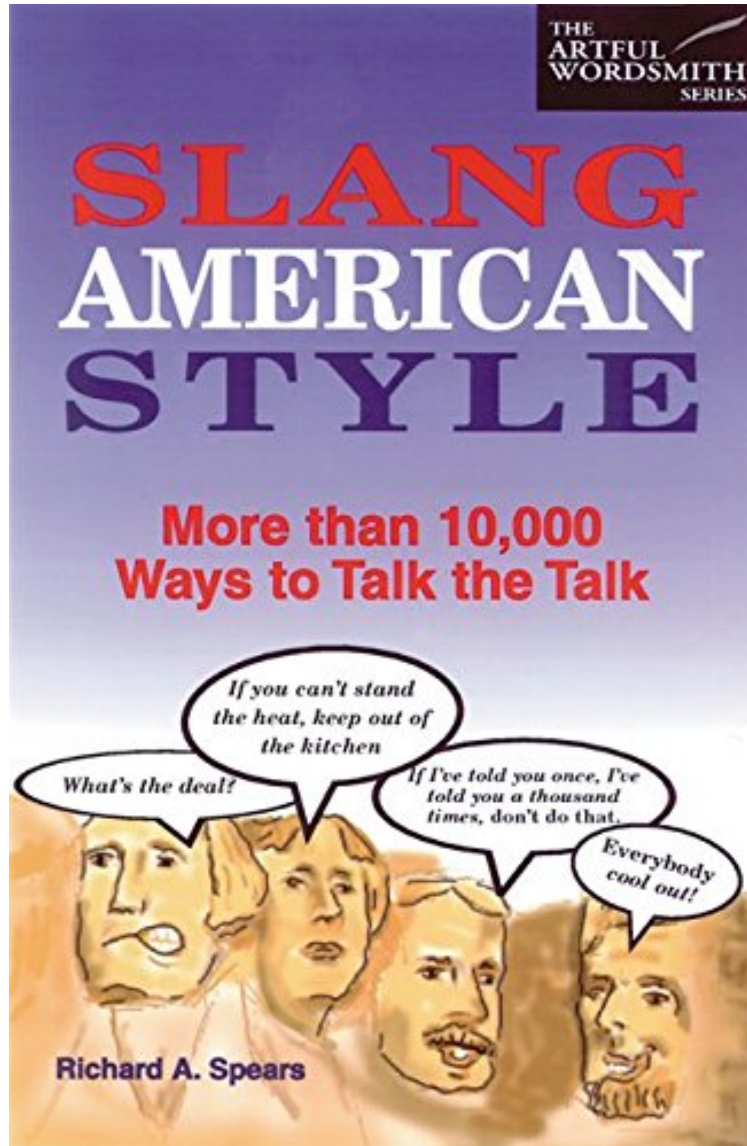


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the following review helpful. Slang American Style By K. Pennavaria A wonderful browsing book as well as a carefully researched reference tool, SLANG AMERICAN STYLE offers definitions and usage examples for more than 10,000 expressions. This second edition (published in 1997) adds about 2000 expressions to the first. Phrases and words can be found either by looking in the dictionary section itself, or by using the "phrase-finder" index. One would need the index if, for example, the phrase looked for was "cut bait." It doesn't appear in the dictionary between "cut and run" and "cut corners," but the index points the reader to the phrase "Fish or cut bait." The compiler, Richard A. Spears, collected these expressions from numerous sources, especially college students, television, old movies, and current magazines. He indicates the grammatical function for each word or phrase, and provides the phonetic pronunciation for some entries. For anyone who really needs a pronunciation guide, one is available in the front matter, which also contains a detailed breakdown of how each entry is structured. The only problem I had with the book was the visually unsettling use of little squares to divide definitions within entries. The effect is the same as when a printer can't handle certain word-processing fonts. But overall, this is an excellent resource for the ever-fascinating world of American slang, and would make an excellent gift for language buffs or friends overseas.

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Fun to read and packed with information, this contemporary dictionary of American slang includes terms that are likely to be heard in movies, on television, in the streets, and on college campuses.

About the Author Richard A. Spears, Ph.D., is a reference editor and former linguistics professor who has written more than 30 dictionaries, including NTC's American Idioms Dictionary (ISBN: 0-8442-0273-8) and NTC's American English Learner's Dictionary (ISBN: 0-8442-5859-8).