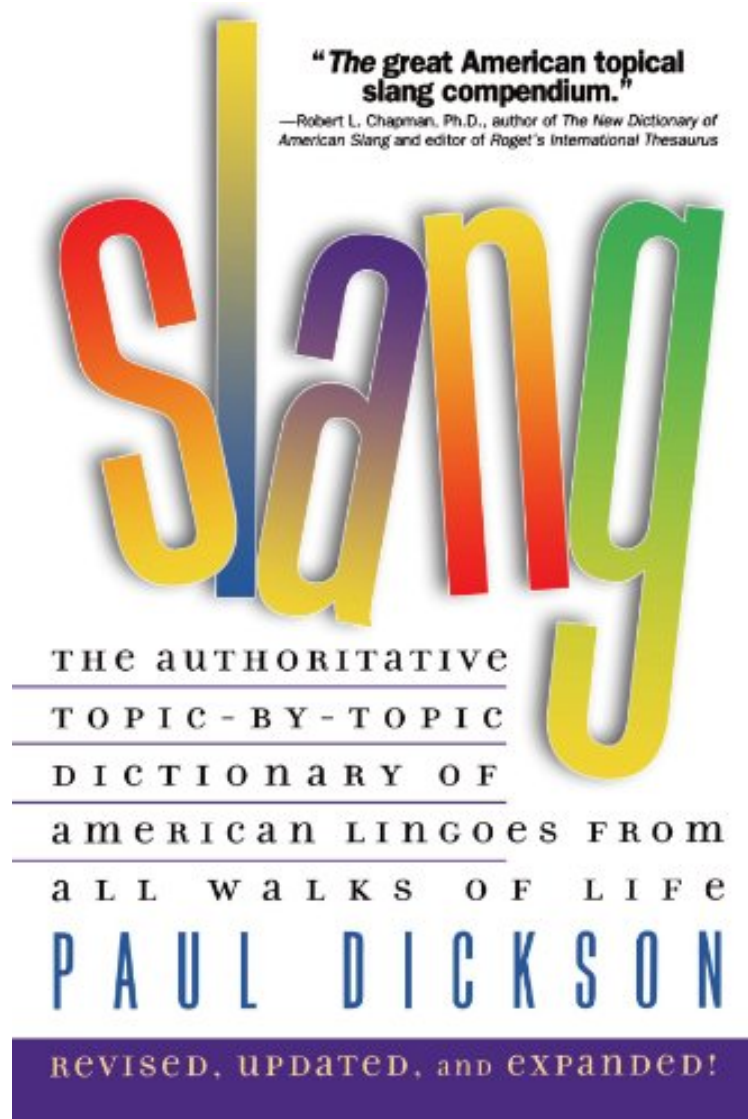


(Read free ebook) Slang

Slang

Paul Dickson

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Paul Dickson : Slang before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slang:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love It as a Cross-CheckBy OhioanI like this slang dictionary, and its predecessors, because the slang is categorized into chapters, depending on the milieu the slang is usually used in: Automotive, for example, Business and Finance, Crime, Hip-Hop, and so on. I like browsing this book to see what slang is used in different categories. And sometimes I use this topical dictionary as a cross-check on other slang

dictionaries, just to confirm the information. The arrangement of slang into "topics," though, means that if you want to know the meaning of a particular slang word, you must use the fine-print index to look it up, then turn to the page number the word is on. This doesn't bother me, however, because each slang dictionary seems to have its own take on usage, and Dickson's take is area-of-origin of the slang term, and, because he chose to confine the terms to individual chapters, that requires an index.³ of 4 people found the following review helpful. What a huge disappointment. By MonaLSI bought this book after hearing about it on NPR, and was really looking forward to reading through it. But after reading it cover to cover, I was appalled at the number of inaccurate definitions of commonly used slang terms. Did no one fact check this book? Some of the definitions aren't even from the US, they are from other countries - and the meanings are very different. The way the book was organized wasn't very logical either, it appeared to jump all over the place, making finding a particular term difficult. I can't recommend this book for someone wanting to learn about American slang.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. Open your eyes . . . there a whole world you dont know! By S. Roberts Yes, this book is great. It opens one's eyes to all the ethnicities in the world and how the different "tribes", albeit it Mexican, Black, White, Teenagers, Asian, Mixed with two or three ethnicities, etc., communicate. So, read it and learn to love people for their character, not the slang they speak.

The first edition of Paul Dickson's *Slang* was selected by William Safire of *The New York Times* as one of the best language books of the year. Completely updated with more than twice as many entries, this latest volume truly encompasses the whole colorful range of current American slang. Divided into twenty-nine broad categories, these are the words that make American English as expressive as it is fascinating. From high schools to the halls of Congress, this invaluable resource reveals the way Americans speak and think today. Burgeoning from the web of new words on the Internet, the fluid language of the drug culture, or the brutal and ironic parlance of the Vietnam and Gulf wars, these verbal inventions have carved their places in the vernacular. Consider such recent coinages as *digerati* (digital equivalent of *literati*), *spam* (to deploy mass postings on the Internet), and *phat* (good, cool). Drawing from fields as diverse as aviation, the media, and real estate, Dickson has unearthed thousands of pithy expressions for the common denominators of American life, including: *wrong side of the curtain* (tourist or economy class on an airline), *roboanchor* (a TV anchor who reads but does not understand the news) and *house on steroids* (a small home that's bigger after major remodeling work). With each section prefaced by illuminating discussions of that particular culture's language, *Slang* goes well beyond the role of a traditional dictionary; it lays claim to a treasured place in any language-lover's library.

From Booklist *Slang* is so bountiful in American English that it lends itself to a variety of lexicographical approaches. A number of slang dictionaries have treated this most unconventional of vocabularies through the conventions of the standard canonical dictionaries, ranging them alphabetically, assigning usage labels, summarizing their origins, and defining them. At least two have taken different approaches, clustering terms in categories. One is Richard A. Spears' NTC's *Thematic Dictionary of American Slang* (McGraw-Hill, 1998). *Slang: The Topical Dictionary of Americanisms* is another. While Spears' dictionary has more than 800 categories and is more historical than edgy, Dickson's dictionary of American slang differs in significant ways. Its 30 topical areas include the timeless, such as "Food and Drink," "Medical and Emergency Room Slang," "Teen and High School Slang," and, of course, "The Sultry Slang of Sex." It also includes the very contemporary, such as "Java-speak" (modern coffeehouse slang) and "Net-speak." However, the Net-speak chapter falls short through a lack of slang terms from the world of bloggers. Bloggassary [<http://www.bloggassary.com/>] offers more. Dickson's bare-bones entries simply offer definitions on each term--no origins, no usage labels, no examples of the word in use. Occasional sidebars, however, provide fuller information on select terms, such as numbers with special meaning in drug culture, the emergence and acceptance of *phat*, and bird-watchers' lingo. A prefatory essay introduces each topical area and characterizes its argot. These essays underscore the creativity of slang as well as its occasional absurdity, as in the grandiose names for what could unpretentiously be called small, medium-sized, and large cups of coffee. Informative, reliable, entertaining, and modern, this topical slang dictionary complements the more staid slang lexicons and more scholarly general dictionaries. James Rettig Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Boston Herald American Like dictionarist Samuel Johnson, Paul Dickson is good at words, great at definitions. Library Journal Paul Dickson is a national treasure who deserves a wide audience. About the Author Paul Dickson, a freelance writer and author of forty-two books, lives in Garrett Park, Maryland. He has written for a number of newspapers and magazines, including *Esquire*, *Playboy*, and *Smithsonian*. His critically acclaimed books include *War Slang*, *Words, Names*, *The Dickson Baseball Dictionary*, *The Congress Dictionary*, and *What's in a Name?*