



Chambers Dictionary of Etymology

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How are the words 'door' German 'Tür' and Sanskrit 'dvar' related? When did the word Blarney first appear in print? What's the linguistic history of the word 'history'? The Chambers Etymological Dictionary holds all the answers for any person curious about the origins of the words they use, and how these words have changed over time. This fascinating dictionary explores the development of meaning, spelling, and pronunciation of over 25,000 English words. Over 30,000 detailed entries trace words back to their Proto-Germanic or Indo-European roots, and include words borrowed from other languages, as well as the sources and dates of their first recorded use. For many years academics, wordsmiths, crossword lovers, and language enthusiasts of all stripes have turned to this celebrated volume as their reference of choice in lexical matters. First published as the Barnhart Etymological Dictionary, the Chambers Dictionary of Etymology offers a unique combination of approachability and authoritativeness in an accessible single-volume format, making it an essential etymological resource for the expert, and a fascinating reference for the general reader. Sample entry from the Chambers Etymological Dictionary: blarney n. flattering, coaxing talk. 1766, Lady Blarney (for Blarney), a smooth-talking flatterer in Goldsmith's *The Vicar of Wakefield*, her name being a literary contrivance in allusion to Blarney Stone, a stone in a castle near Cork, Ireland. Anyone kissing the stone is supposed to become skillful in flattering and coaxing. The word is used in its general sense in a letter of Sir Walter Scott (1796).

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From Reader Review Chambers Dictionary of Etymology for online ebook

Adria Tingey says

I want to give it a 4.5, but I didn't look up enough words to know if it was amazing. I plan on buying it though. Don't you always want to know where words came from?? Especially slang and colloquialisms?! Fun.

Fern Adams says

I guess putting this here means I have to confess that I do read dictionaries! However this is no ordinary dictionary and my main disappointment with it is that it's taken me so long to find it (my family wish it had taken longer as they're fed up of hearing about words!) Really useful for tracing word origins and their development.

Bob Hartley says

My sister got me this for my birthday, which is good timing because I've still got no internet in my house, so when I get curious about etymologies I can just look them up without cycling to the library between 9 in the morning and 7 at night. My qualm with this, though, is that with it being an American publication (I'm sure I read that in the introduction but I might be wrong), there's American slang which is really obscure, but not even the most widely used English slang. Some Scottish slang that's come into common usage but even then slim pickings. Also the lack of swear words. The closest thing to a swear word in this is zounds. God's wounds. I could have fucking told you that. I'm not speaking from an immature angle, like when we were in school and we used to look up bitch in French and Spanish dictionaries for a laugh; I'm genuinely interested in the etymology of fuck (which I think is related to Dutch "fokschaap" - "stud (sheep)") and shit and bloody. It's an almost stereotypical American view that cursing and scholarship are antithetical and the dictionary propagates that. Finally, there are no place names or birth names except for America. Apart from all that, though, it's up to scratch at least with etymonline.com, which was my previous source for etymology. It'll just be a hassle finding out how the city of Paris got its name in the future.

Crazy Uncle Ryan says

This is an excellent and very useful dictionary. A must have for anyone with an interest in etymology.

Matt says

There are occasionally words that I can't find in here, but most of them are here. The author states clear word etymologies when they are available. But when there is no clear etymology, the best current theories are proposed. A very well-organized and well-researched book. Highly recommended to lovers of words and the

English language.
