

The Life of Slang

By Julie Coleman

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Bad-ass, bee's knees, and bomb-diffity - slang rules

Teachers, politicians, broadcasters, and parents complain of the slang-infested language of today's teenagers. But slang has been around for centuries, always troubling those who take a purist line on the English language. In this entertaining book, Julie Coleman traces the development of slang across the English-speaking world and explores why and how it flourishes. She makes use of a marvellous array of sources, including newly available online records of the Old Bailey, machine-searchable
historical newspaper collections, slang users themselves, scholarly works, and the latest tweets. It is a book guaranteed to teach you some new words that you shold never use in polite company.

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Editorial Review

Review
Review from previous edition: "Enjoyable and succinct. Rarely, since Eric Partridge, has any scholar evinced such pleasure in the vulgar tongue... Coleman is a 'top banana'."

--Robert McCrum, The Observer 04/03/2012

"Completely fascinating ... immensely enjoyable ... Coleman's thinking lifts this book above the usual semi-disposable level of writing about rude words."

--James McConnachie, The Sunday Times 04/03/2012

"Coleman relishes slang in all its chewy, vigorous glory, and gives a sociological insight ... This book is the 'cat's whiskers'"

--The Independent on Sunday 11/03/2012

About the Author

Julie Coleman was born in Coventry and attended Finham Park Comprehensive. She studied at Manchester University and King's College London, taught at Lund University in Sweden, and is now a Professor in the School of English at the University of Leicester. She has written several books about dictionaries.

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