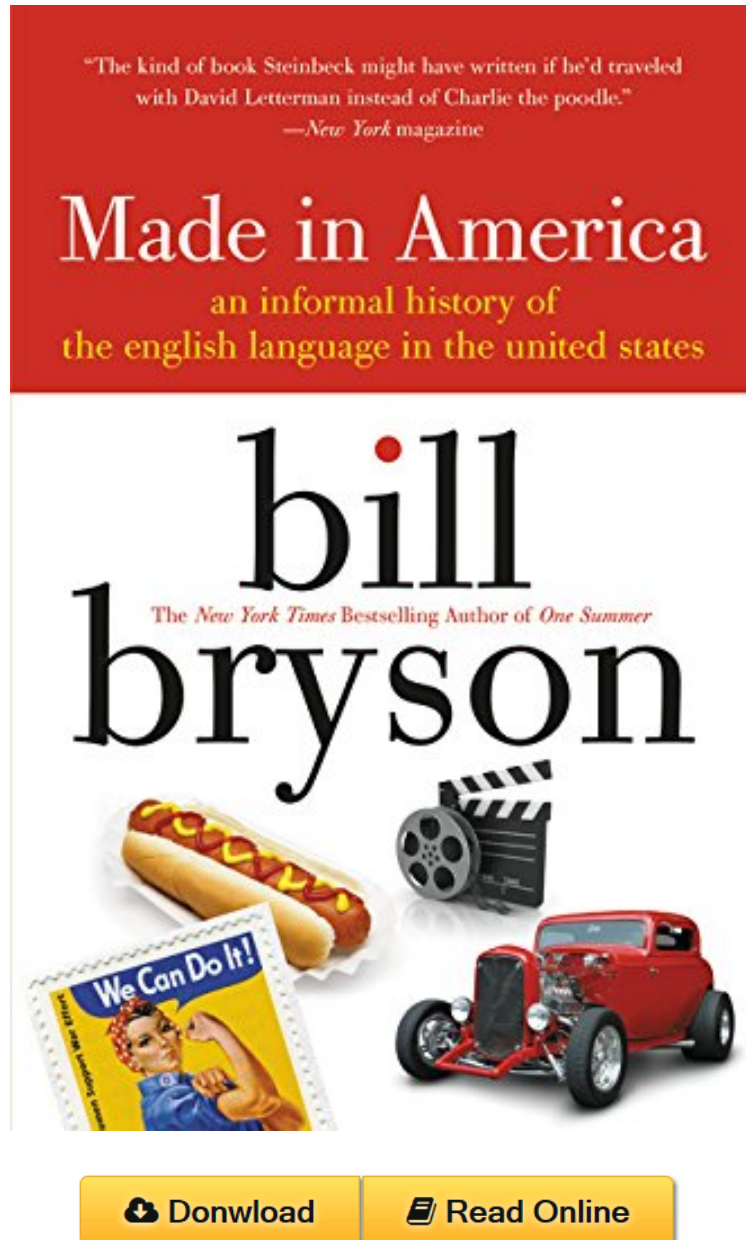


# Made in America: An Informal History of the English Language in the United States

Bill Bryson

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#41899 in Books Bill Bryson 2001-10-23 2001-10-23 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 1.08 x 5.311, .72 #File Name: 0380713810432 pages Made in America An Informal History of the English Language in the United States | File size: 46.Mb

**Bill Bryson : Made in America: An Informal History of the English Language in the United States** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Made in America: An Informal History of the English Language in the United States:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly and entertaining By Edwin C. Wolfe This is the second

time that I have read Bill Bryson's masterful essay, documenting the major influences in American history and how these events have shaped the language and created new words. I enjoyed it as much the second time as the first, 20 years previously. As might be expected, words are added continuously to the American melting pot, especially word derived from several languages spoken by immigrants. Equally significant has been the influence of major changes to society, such as the advent of railways, movies and computers. Bill Bryson is a man who is completely comfortable with and an authority on the topic of 'language'. What is unexpected is just how entertaining, readable and relevant is his account of the topic. This is a book that is different, one that I recommend strongly to all with an interest in words, their derivation and meaning. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Humorous and LOADED with fun facts and interesting information By LW Humorous and LOADED with fun facts and interesting information. Buy it! This led me to other Bill Bryson books, all of which I loved as well. I got this in a Yankee Swap....lucky me! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Subtitle Describes the Book By Mary Bell This is a book about the development of American English. It is written for the casual reader, not scholars. To give context, he includes cultural and technological history. Bill Bryson writes with an easy to read and humorous style. His books are always fun to read and reread. I am always sad when I read the last page.

Bill Bryson, bestselling author of *The Mother Tongue*, now celebrates its magnificent offspring in the book that reveals once and for all how a dusty western hamlet with neither woods nor holly came to be known as Hollywood . . . and exactly why Mr. Yankee Doodle called his befeathered cap "Macaroni."

.com Readers from Toad Suck, Arkansas, to Idiotsville, Oregon--and everywhere in between--will love *Made in America*, Bill Bryson's *Informal History of the English Language in the United States*. It is, in a word, fascinating. After reading this tour de force, it's clear that a nation's language speaks volumes about its true character: you are what you speak. Bryson traces America's history through the language of the time, then goes on to discuss words culled from everyday activities: immigration, eating, shopping, advertising, going to the movies, and others. *Made in America* will supply you with interesting facts and cocktail chatter for a year or more. Did you know, for example, that Teddy Roosevelt's "speak softly and carry a big stick" credo has its roots in a West African proverb? Or that actor Walter Matthau's given name is Walter Mattaschanskayasky? Or that the supposedly frigid Puritans--who called themselves "Saints," by the way--had something called a pre-contract, which was a license for premarital sex? *Made in America* is an excellent discussion of American English, but what makes the book such a treasure is that it offers much, much more. From *Publishers Weekly* Bryson offers a playfully anecdotal account of the etymology of distinctive words and phrases that help to create a distinctly American English. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* Journalist Bryson (*Mother Tongue*, Morrow, 1990) presents an engagingly written chronological history of the United States, focusing on popular culture and language. Along the way, he attempts to explain why American English is the way it is--why Americans paint the town red, talk turkey, keep a stiff upper lip, etc. He puts individual words and expressions in their social context as well as presenting well-researched and thoughtful discussions of our discovery and colonization of the New World, the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, westward expansion, the age of invention and industrialization, modern politics and war, popular culture, and the current state of American English. This is a page-turning trip across linguistic America that takes many deliciously discursive side trips. For Bryson's wonderfully sane and reasoned discussion of the issues surrounding "politically correct" language alone, this book is a worthwhile read. Highly recommended for collections large and small. Paul D'Alessandro, Portland P.L., Me. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.