



Crazy English

Richard Lederer

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In what other language, asks Lederer, do people drive on a parkway and park in a driveway, and your nose can run and your feet can smell? In **CRAZY ENGLISH**, Lederer frolics through the logic-boggling byways of our language, discovering the names for phobias you didn't know you could have, the longest words in our dictionaries, and the shortest sentence containing every letter in the alphabet. You'll take a bird's-eye view of our beastly language, feast on a banquet of mushrooming food metaphors, and meet the self-reflecting Doctor Rotcod, destined to speak only in palindromes.

Crazy English Details

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Author : Richard Lederer

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From Reader Review Crazy English for online ebook

Frederick Bingham says

The author is an expert at the english language and its strange ways. One of the most amusing parts is a fictional interview with "Farmer Pluribus" who makes unusual plural words. "Foxen in the henhice" is the primary example. My son loved the word with 1913 letters.

Valerie says

Been a while since I've read this, and I'll have to go over it to give a detailed critique. The flyleaf deals mostly with oxymorons (don't know if it deals with the word 'oxymoron' itself 'sharp-dull', I make it).

On balance, I think the book is too fast-paced--almost breathless in parts. Some of its information is inaccurate. Some of the supposed oxymorons, for example, are not contradictory, though they might seem so at first blush.

Furthermore, this book is rendered essentially useless as a reference book by the lack of an index.

As a game of wordplay, it's moderately fun--but one can see easily how it might be better done. There's an overall tone of smug cattiness that I never have found amusing.

Jess Candela says

I loved it, but nothing else quite comes close to the joy to be found within the pages of *Anguished English: An Anthology of Accidental Assaults Upon Our Language*

Linda says

Palindromes can be very complex!

Ms. Knapp says

In what other language, asks Lederer, do people drive on a parkway and park in a driveway, and your nose can run and your feet can smell? In *CRAZY ENGLISH*, Lederer frolics through the logic-boggling byways of our language, discovering the names for phobias you didn't know you could have, the longest words in our dictionaries, and the shortest sentence containing every letter in the alphabet. You'll take a bird's-eye view of our beastly language, feast on a banquet of mushrooming food metaphors, and meet the self-reflecting Doctor Rotcod, destined to speak only in palindromes.

Donald Rice says

This book is a wonderful help for those who enjoy scholarship and etymology. The book is very interesting and fun.

The word, "pedagogue" (pg. 186), is a special slave or servant, tutor, who walks a child to school and back again and sees that the child studies.

Carly Johnson says

Great read for any word enthusiast!

Victoire says

It's a fantastic book for showing off. The fun facts about language can really develop one's interest in linguistics. What I loved most was the part about the ding-dong theory where the articulation of sing-sang-sung really got me wondering about the magic of language

Jared Leonard says

This was my first encounter with how messed up the English language really is. He pretty much touches on all the essentials: clichés, figures of speech, big words, oxymorons, grammatical structure, etc. A fun and humorous read that I've enjoyed coming back to every so often.

Renee says

I'd say you'd be a 'nym'phomaniac to love this but that would be terribly wrong! But full of 'nyms' this one is: from acronyms to tautonyms to eponyms. And a whole lot more of the craziness that is the evolving English Language. I made me frown and laugh out loud and scratch my head and pat my back. It made me feel unschooled at first and finishing, it made me feel accomplished. If there were a book to start a user of the English language on the path of becoming a language enthusiast, this could be it. I enjoyed it thoroughly and have much to share with my students. I want to hug the one who recommended it to me and I want to recommend it to everyone like a gift of a happy hug. Or maybe more of a mad bear hug!

Bayla says

English is a crazy language, and Dr. Lederer shows us how. Recommended for verbophiles of all shapes and sizes.

Erin says

Not my favorite book about English. I felt that it didn't go enough in depth about the interesting bits (ie: how all these weird words came about) and spent far too long on certain things (ex: food phrases). I'll probably keep it on my shelf for when I want to reference one of the many fabulous words that the book glossed over, but I won't suffer through reading it cover-to-cover again.

Jess says

I'm a language geek so this book was awesome to me.

DDog says

I love this book. It looks at so many odd things about the English language and exploits them to the fullest degree of humor. To this day I say "foxen" instead of foxes, all because of this book.

Elsha van de Boogaard says

I generally like books on the English language, so I expected to like this a lot. However, parts of it are quite outdated (talk of typewriters, "computer virus" as a brand new phrase, etc.) and other parts are entire "chapters" written in example phrases. For instance, pages of food metaphors one after another. There were some interesting parts, but I definitely wouldn't recommend.
