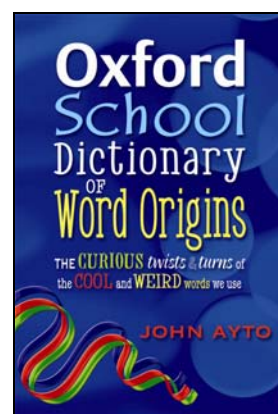


Oxford School Dictionary of Word Origins

By **John Ayto**



THE **CURIOUS** *twists & turns* of the **COOL** and **WEIRD** words we use.

This new edition of the *Oxford School Dictionary of Word Origins* unravels the history of thousands of words and phrases. Written by etymological expert John Ayto, this informative and entertaining dictionary will delight all ages from eight to eighty.

With an accessible and fun page layout, this dictionary recounts the absorbing and fascinating history of thousands of words. This new edition takes a fresh look at the cool and curious words we use, and tells the stories of where words come from; whether they are to do with food, the supernatural, fashion, invented words, or words from the 80s, 90s, and noughties.

chortle is one of several words invented by writer Lewis Carroll, author of *Alice in Wonderland*. This one is a blend of two other words, *chuckle* and *snort*.

leprechaun comes from Irish *leipreachán*, based on Old Irish *luchorpán*. This was made up of *lu* meaning 'small' and *corp* meaning 'body'.

marshmallow Marshmallows get their name because they were originally made from the root of the marshmallow, a pink flower that grows in marshes.

fancy is short for the word fantasy.

goodbye is short for *God be with you*.

- The only word origins dictionary for children today
- Full central section focuses on over 40 extended topics – acronyms (AIDS, NATO), invented words (nylon, spoof), shortened words (photo, exam), new words from the last 50 years (Big Mac, email)

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