



### Damp Squid: The English Language Laid Bare

Jeremy Butterfield

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When James Murray compiled the *OED* in the 19th century, he used a small army of volunteers--and thousands upon thousands of paper slips--to track down the English language. Today, linguists use massive computer power--including the world's largest language databank, the Oxford Corpus, which contains more than two billion words--to determine for the first time *definitively* how the English language is used. From evidence contained in the gargantuan Oxford Corpus, Jeremy Butterfield here uncovers a wealth of fascinating facts about the English language. Where does our vocabulary come from? How do word meanings change? How is our language really being used? This entertaining book has the up-to-date and authoritative answers to all the key questions about our language. Butterfield takes a thorough look at the English language and exposes its peculiarities and penchants, its development and difficulties, revealing exactly how it operates. We learn, for instance, that we use language in chunks of words--as one linguist put it, "we know words by the company that they keep." For instance, the word *quintessentially* is joined half the time with a nationality--something is "quintessentially American" or "quintessentially British." Using such observations, Butterfield explains how dictionary makers decide which words to include, how they find definitions, and how the Corpus influences the process.

Covering all areas of English, from spelling and idioms to the future of English, and with entertaining examples and useful charts throughout, this compelling and lively book will delight word lovers everywhere.



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A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book Damp Squid: The English Language Laid Bare it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book features high quality.

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