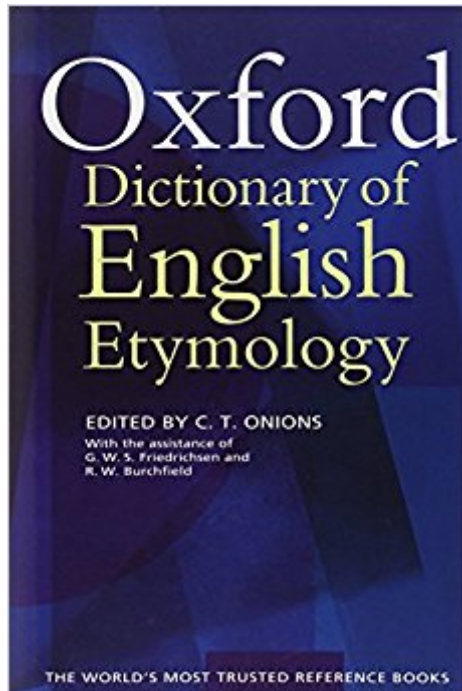




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The Oxford Dictionary Of English Etymology



Synopsis

This comprehensive dictionary by one of our century's greatest language scholars provides a clear and brief account of the origins, history, and sense-development of more than 38,000 words.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dr. C.T. Onions first joined the staff of the Oxford English Dictionary in 1895. He worked on the OED, the Shorter OED, and then published his Shakespeare Glossary in 1911. A wonderful and learned scholar, he died in 1966 as the first edition of The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology was going to press. Assisted by G.W.S. Friedrichsen and R.W. Burchfield, Onions created a magnificent work of erudition, with 24,000 main entries. Including their derivatives, the dictionary delves into the origins of more than 38,000 words. For each entry, the dictionary provides the correct pronunciation, followed by a short definition, and the century and source of the word's first recording. Then come the etymological notes. Thus one learns that "froth" (an aggregation of small bubbles on liquid) was first noted in the 14th century, in Sir Gawain and the Bible, that it comes from the Old Norse frooa, and was taken from there into German (fraup) and Old English (froth). Now in its fifth printing and a standard reference for scholars, Onions's opus is still the most comprehensive etymological dictionary of English ever to be published. --Stephanie Gold

This is a very fine etymological dictionary, as aromatic a piece of lexicography as the great Onions (who, sadly died while the work was going through the press) ever achieved. Anyone who wants to take journeys back through the mazes of the fickle human mind cannot very well do without this

volume. * Anthony Burgess, Observer * ODEE is going to be, as it deserves to be, the standard etymological dictionary of the English language. * Times Literary Supplement *

Great service and product.

I like it.

Really not what I signed on for but it will do for now.

I have found this book to be only a supplement to my Webster's College Dictionary. Most of the etymology I am looking for is in my regular dictionary. I have found some slight expansions of the folk influence on words, but basically I check my dictionary first. Fortunately, I used a gift certificate so I didn't pay the full price of the book myself.

This is probably the best Dictionary concerning etymology. Mentioned 'The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology' has approximately 24,000 main entries, but with derivatives there are more than 38,000 words. Professor Charles Talbot Onions (1873-1965) presents deep and accurate knowledge about etymology, so that it was very pleasant to read & study his Etymological Dictionary, or rather Etymological masterwork (finished by G.W.S. Friedrichsen and R.W. Burchfield). Sure, we know that some analyses are speculative and dubious, but this fact is unfortunately common in this branch of linguistics. (Who knows everything?) Personally I could say, that sometimes I feel like reader of detective story, because, etymology is like searching unknown things several hundreds years ago. On the other hand, some Greek words are written in Latin only, so readers do not know how to write accents and breathings (and they need another dictionary for Greek, probably Liddell & Scott & Jones: 'A Greek & English Lexicon').

Best book on etymology that I have seen to date. A must have to understand, overstand and interstand how words are used and where they first appeared in history. A perfect companion for Blacks Law Dictionary 4th Edition...see pic

I was disappointed. The entries were too brief and the book seemed to dwell on esoteric plant and other biological information and not general purpose words.

Go to ETYMONLINE dot com, and give the creator at least half the cost of this book. No cryptic entries there; all words and phrases are traced to their origins, and even compared with other Indo-European languages like Persian and Sanskrit. All entries being hyper-linked, navigation is so much easier from one word to other related words. Some P's & C's of this book: PROS: Physical copy is always handy Meanings of words given, just like a dictionary, in addition to their etymology. CONS: Entries are abbreviated too much, hence cryptic Etymology generally not traced to other Indo-European cognates.

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