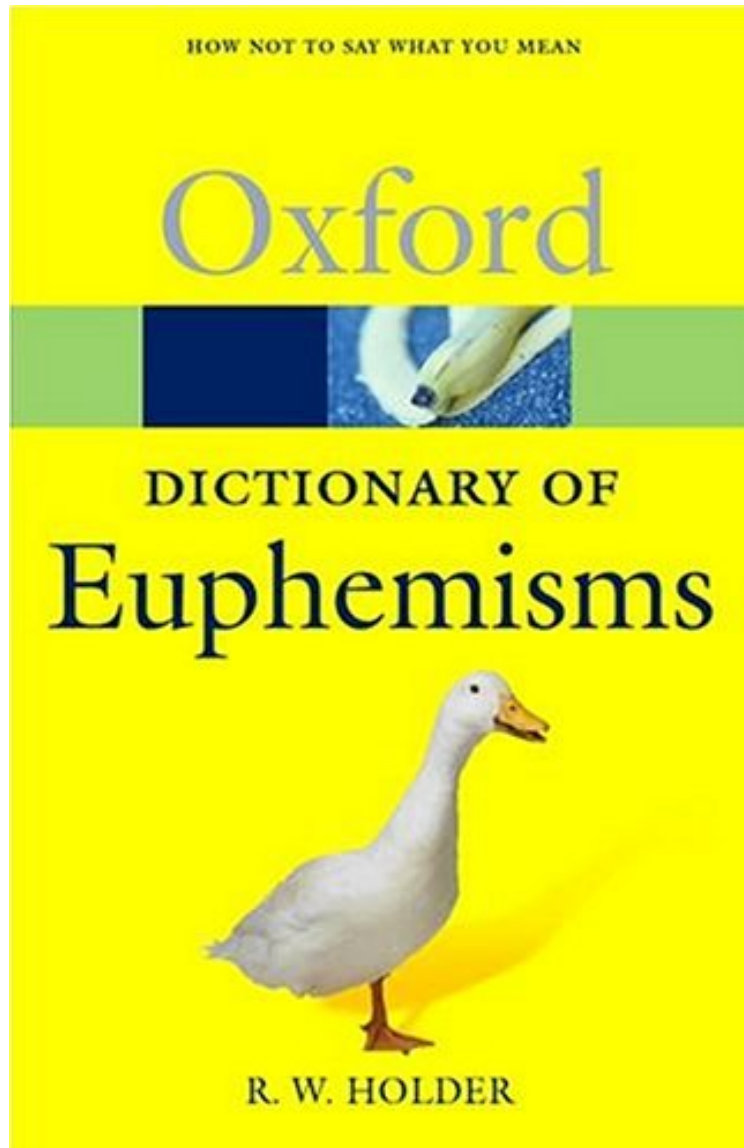


[E-BOOK] A Dictionary of Euphemisms: How Not To Say What You Mean (Oxford Quick Reference)

A Dictionary of Euphemisms: How Not To Say What You Mean (Oxford Quick Reference)

R. W. Holder

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R. W. Holder : A Dictionary of Euphemisms: How Not To Say What You Mean (Oxford Quick Reference) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Dictionary of Euphemisms: How Not To Say What You Mean (Oxford Quick Reference):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A scholarly book.By tomA bit dull and not at all what I expected. But

is probably a good companion to Rawson's book of Euphemisms. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic! By D. Pasquino If someone has to produce translations using euphemisms, this book is what we need!! Very well printed and organized in the searching, it gives the opportunity to read as well used for translation! 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Say What You Mean--Or Use A Euphemism By A Customer Author, R. W. Holder holds fast to two tests of a euphemism: 1) It must be a substitute for blunt precision or disagreeable truth 2) That a euphemism once meant, or still does mean, something else entirely different. In short, a way to be politically correct. A softer, kinder, way of speech so to speak. In this work of almost 500 pages, we learn the art of not saying what we mean. Some are almost common language now. Such as "bowel movement", "working girl", "Native American" and "downsizing". Newer ones include, "white knuckler" and "vertically challenged" (a nice way to say your boss is short) I enjoy the way this is cross indexed and arranged. I did notice that a great percentage of the material is British. I wonder if that means the Brits are very good at "mums the word"? Seriously, I downrated the review a bit due to that fact. Filled with thousands of quotations, definitions, derivations, and historical explanations, this dictionary is extremely comprehensive for perusing. A good edition for reference collections. -CDS-

Now in paperback, this brand new edition of *A Dictionary of Euphemisms: How Not To Say What You Mean* is still as lively a guide to the language of evasion, hypocrisy, prudery, and deceit as you could wish for. Packed full of the old favourites, such as 'early bath' or 'push up the daisies', as well as euphemisms from modern times, like 'human sacrifice', 'coffee-housing', and 'tuft-hunter'. Definitions include examples from literature and the press, along with historical explanations of origins, and now obsolete euphemisms like 'leaping house', 'nightingale' are signposted as such. And to prove that the use of euphemisms is not just a British speciality, there is widespread coverage of American euphemisms too: 'English' (pertaining to sexual deviance), 'watermelon' (an indication of pregnancy).

.com Language is more frequently used to disguise or temper what one means to say rather than telling it like it is, at least that's how it seems when looking through the 5,000 or so euphemisms compiled by R.W. Holder. There are colorful phrases ("bury a quaker" for defecate, "buy a brewery" for become an alcoholic), slang terms ("crib" for brothel), and terms that obfuscate a negative reality (saying "convivial" when meaning habitually drunken or "corrective training" for political imprisonment). Useful for writers, linguists, and students of human behavior, the euphemisms are arranged alphabetically, but cross-indexed thematically. So if you want to know what "foul ane" means, you can look it up directly and find it's a Scottish reference to the devil, but if you're looking for a juicy alternative for "death," the index provides "cop a packet," "suck daisy roots," and "come home feet first." Serving as both a dictionary and a comprehensive thesaurus of idioms, it's as useful as well as entertaining semantic resource. -- Stephanie Gold ` from previous edition This ingenious collection is not only very funny but extremely instructive too ' Iris Murdoch `Many printable gems' Daily Telegraph `An informative, amusing collection' Observer `Hugely enjoyable and cherishable' Times Educational Supplement `Euphemists are a lively, inventive, self-regarding and bumptious bunch. Holder goes among them with an etymological glint in his eye.' Iain Finlayson, Financial Times `The Oxford Dictionary of Euphemisms is a goldmine for anyone who enjoys words.' Richard Bell, Writing Magazine `this fascinating book ... don't put this dictionary in the loo - there's another euphemism for you - or else guests will never come out. It's unputdownable once you open it. ' Peter Mullen, Yorkshire Post `Ordered alphabetically and indexed by subject, lovers of word play will have a field day. ' Paul James, Herald Express (Torquay) `Your complete guide to every euphemism you could ever want to know, and many you would rather not.' Daily Mail `A most valuable and splendidly presented collection; at once scholarly, tasteful, and witty.' Lord Quirk About the Author Having seen something written by Bob Holder as a schoolboy, T. S. Eliot remarked 'That boy loves words'. This love of language underlies this new edition of *A Dictionary of Euphemisms*. Bob has lived in West Monkton, near Taunton, since 1951. He has worked for manufacturing companies in Ireland, Belgium, and North America in addition to those in the United Kingdom and has also held a number of public appointments. From 1974 to 1984 he was Treasurer of the University of Bath and remained a Pro-Chancellor until 1997. He is also the author of *Thinking About Management* (Warner, 1994).