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New Words for Old Recycling Our Language for the Modern World

Caroline Taggart

Description

The English language is a versatile and agile thing, and as our world changes, so too does the way we use it. Sometimes we coin new words for new creations, but very often we adopt and adapt existing words to suit new purposes, or simply put two together to form a third.

New Words for Old looks at the story behind some of the words we use every day and how their meanings have changed over time. From technology and fashion to politics and music, our language displays centuries of imagination and creativity, so often overlooked.

Tracing the development of *green* from the days when it was just a colour, *web* when it was something spiders made and *trolls* when they were nothing more threatening than the baddies in fairy tales, this is a fascinating tour through the history of the words we use every day and demonstrates just how wide we cast the net when trying to describe something new.

Sales Points

- An exploration of how we adapt and adopt words in the English language to suit our changing needs
- Featuring terms from the wonderfully wordy worlds of science, technology, entertainment and fashion, and a whole host of portmanteaus from every field
- From bestselling author Caroline Taggart, whose books have sold over 850,000 copies
- Taggart's bestselling Michael O'Mara titles include the *Sunday Times* bestseller *I Used to Know That* (over 320,000 copies sold), *My Grammar and I* (over 347,000 copies sold) and *An Apple A Day* (70,000 copies sold).

Reviews

- 'pleasantly diverting' - *The Guardian*
- 'friendly, yet informative... this book will certainly start many a discussion among friends' - *Best of British Magazine*
- 'fascinating... perfect for anyone obsessed with word play' - *Yours Magazine*
- 'fascinating and enlightening... a compelling compendium of extraordinary etymological delights' - *Lancashire Evening post*

Author Biography

Caroline Taggart worked in publishing as an editor of popular non-fiction for thirty years before being asked by Michael O'Mara Books to write *I Used to Know That*, which became a *Sunday Times* bestseller. Following that she was co-author of *My Grammar and I* (or *should that be 'Me'?*), and wrote a number of other books about words and English usage. She has appeared frequently on television and on national and regional radio, talking about language, grammar and whether or not Druids Cross should have an apostrophe.

Her website is carolinetaggart.co.uk and you can follow her on Twitter @citaggart.

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