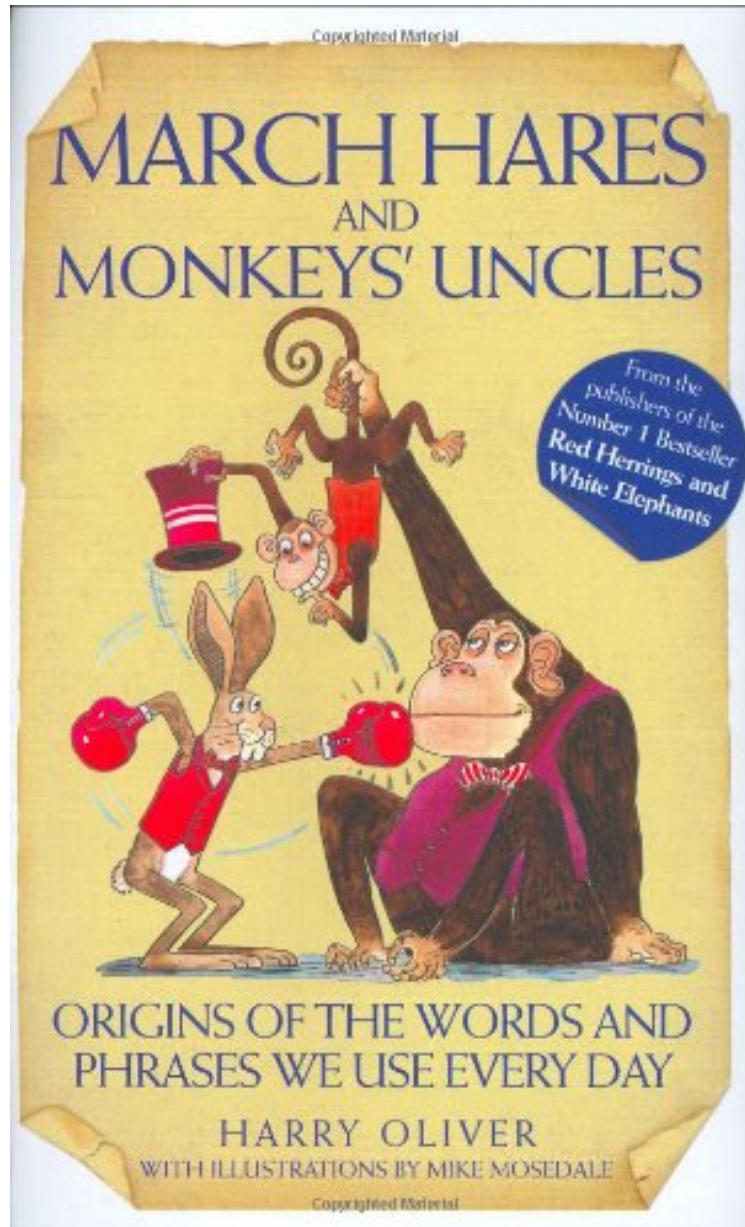


March Hares and Monkeys' Uncles: Origins of the Words and Phrases We Use Every Day

Harry Oliver

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Harry Oliver : March Hares and Monkeys' Uncles: Origins of the Words and Phrases We Use Every Day before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised March Hares and Monkeys' Uncles: Origins of the Words and Phrases We Use Every Day:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting PrasesBy Bobbie BrownLots of interesting and silly facts about our every day sayings. Some meanings seem a bit farfetched but are true.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great BookBy Steven J. BolligerI am American my wife is British is always saying things I dont understand so this book helps me with finding out what she is talking about as it gives the meaning of phrases she uses5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Not Very Informative or EntertainingBy Loyd EskildsonOliver belives that fascinating stories lie behind many terms and phrases in our language; his objectives are to inform and entertain with this material.The material is grouped by topic - eg. Food and Drink, Military, Sports and Games, Law and (dis)Order, Religion, etc. Some examples follow."Caesar's Salad" - not named after the Roman leader, but a 1924 innovation by Chef Caesar in an Italian Restaurant in Tijuana."Foot the Bill" - originally a 15th century term meaning to add up all the components and total them at the foot (bottom) of a bill."Boycott" - came from people agreeing to abstain from contact with a very disliked Captain Boycott during the late 19th century while land reform was underway.Unfortunately, overall Oliver failed to achieve his objectives. The first because, seemingly more often than not, he was unable to explain a phrase or term's origin; as a result, the interestingness of the material also suffered.

Why is a March hare mad? Why do we sometimes call ourselves a monkeys uncle? What are people really doing when they go and see a man about a dog? And what is the original meaning of flying by the seat of your pants? While we might choose our words carefully, we rarely think about the origins of the many phrases, place names, and expressions we use every day. Yet, behind these words lie marvelous stories, steeped in the weird and wonderful traditions of everyday life. From names of streets and public houses to the names of countries, seas, and oceans, this book answers the questions you've always had about the language we all use.

About the AuthorWriter and editor Harry Oliver's passion for language began when he discovered Roald Dahl during a rainy summer school holiday. His love affair with the English language led him to study Literature the University of London where he attained his degree. On leaving he entered the world of publishing. Author of two other books, he lives and works in London.