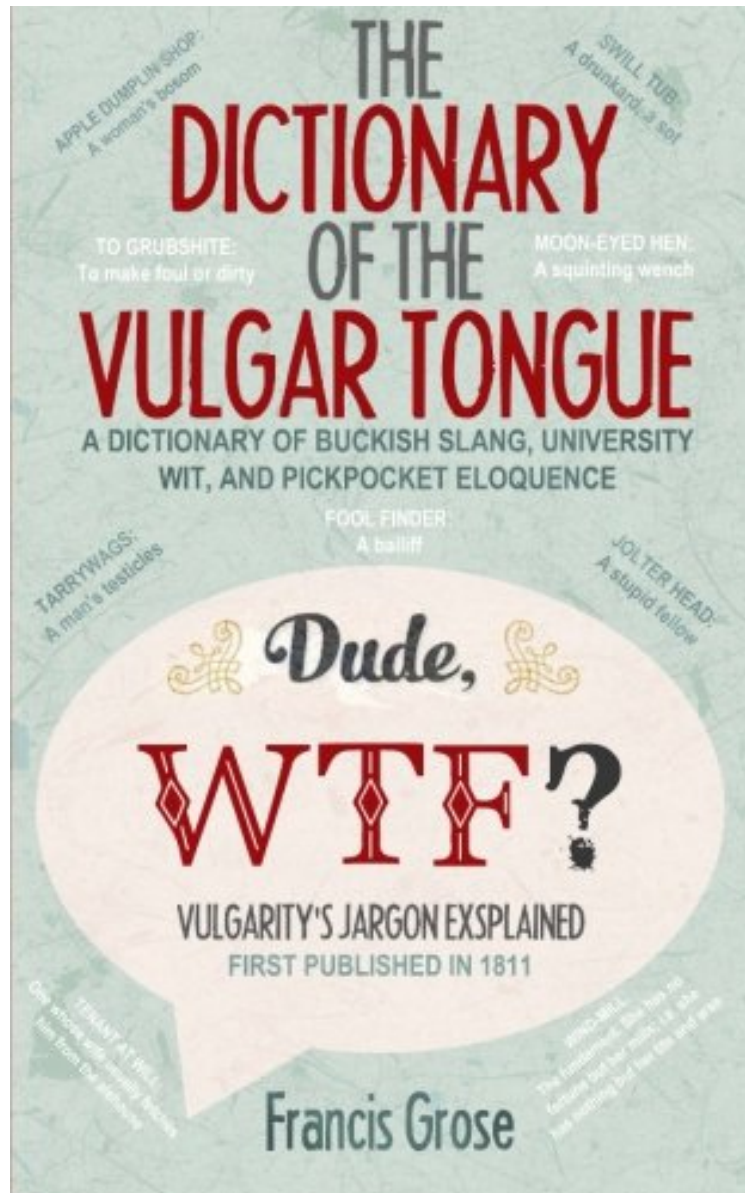


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19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. A classic now available in electronic formatBy R. ShelbyMost students of the English language are familiar with the "1811 Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue". Others will not be. It is not quite an obscure work but it does occupy a rather small niche. Although attributed to Francis Grose, the 1811 Dictionary is actually an updating of Grose' "A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue" (1785). Grose died in 1791; the 1811 update was provided by a group of men who acknowledged Grose as the primary author. Grose collected words and phrases used by the common people, i.e. the everyday speech of everyday folks. Thus "vulgar" in the title means "common" and not "dirty", "rude" or "nasty". The 1811 Dictionary includes language which was ignored by lexicographers. Most scholars of the time felt that such language was not worth recording or reporting. Grose and those who updated the dictionary in 1811 probably were motivated by amusement as much as by lexicography. That is, they found the speech of the "common folk" entertaining. There is no doubt that slang can be amusing but it is also often enlightening, e.g. by providing cultural or sociological insights. Regardless of the motivation of the compilers, the 1811 Dictionary is a useful work for students of English language and culture. Those interested in the topic of American slang will find the work of Wentworth Flexner interesting. Two particularly good volumes are Dictionary of American Slang Based on Historical Principles and Speaking Freely: A Guided Tour of American English from Plymouth Rock to Silicon Valley.24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Dictionary of SlangBy John PoolThis work is one that I have found to be entertaining from several reads. This is definately not a sit down and plow through it book, but rather one can pick up and put down as needed. As a whole, I found in interesting from a perspective of much of what we consider normal everyday language these days was only a couple of hundred years ago considered the "ebonics" of the time. It does very much carry the tone and verbage of the day, which may disinterest some, but fans of Victorian, Edwardian, or Elizabethan period speech should adore this, as well those whom are interested in such through some of the more fanciful spin offs such as Steampunk fans. I would say that this if you are looking for new (old) ways to spew forth vulgar phrases you will be disappointed, but if you are looking for phrases and even the occasional insult of Shakespearan wit, you can find more than a few gems within this book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. we pretty much use the same kinds of blue language todayBy K McClureThis is a dictionary of naughty language circa the year 1811. Some of it is bafflingly strange, some of it is oddly familiar. The most amusing thing is even though the wording is very different, we pretty much use the same kinds of blue language today.

WARNING: This book was written over two hundred years ago, so certain words, which we frown upon today, are littered throughout. Not for those easily offended. The A to Z Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue is truly the Profanisaurus of the 19th century. The book was originally intended as a guide to the street slang for the upper-class men, to give them some insight into the crass language of the street. The book is cram-packed with thousands of words and derivations. Read the insults Georgians and early Victorians used on a daily basis. Examples of what to expect: SHITTING THROUGH THE TEETH. Vomiting. Hark ye, friend, have you got a padlock on your arse, that you shite through your teeth? Vulgar address to one vomiting. MUTTON MONGER. A man addicted to wenching. WIND-MILL. She has no fortune but her mills; i.e. she has nothing but her tits and arse. TOSS POT. A drunkard. APPLE DUMPLIN SHOP. A woman's bosom. MOON-EYED HEN. A squinting wench. TETBURY PORTION. A c**t and a clap. WHIFFLES. A relaxation of the scrotum.

"It was a runaway success when published in 1811 by soldier Francis Grose, but now The Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue is getting tongues wagging again after being published online."Telegraph