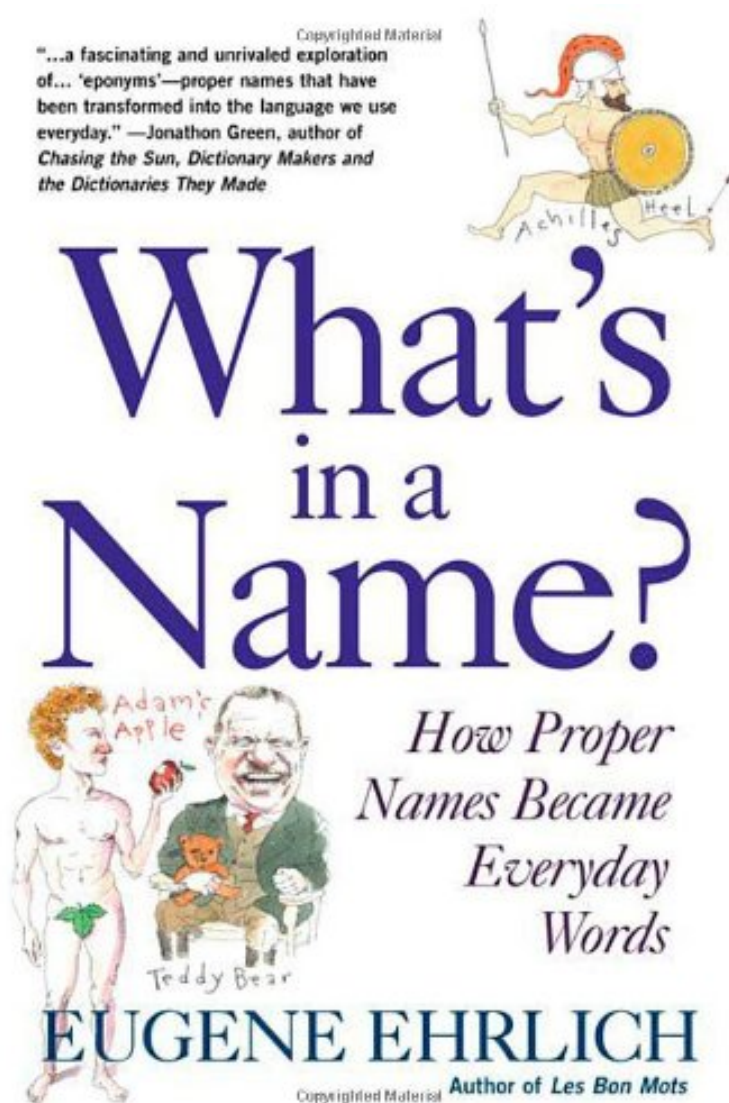


(Mobile book) What's in a Name?: How Proper Names Became Everyday Words

What's in a Name?: How Proper Names Became Everyday Words

Eugene Ehrlich

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Eugene Ehrlich : What's in a Name?: How Proper Names Became Everyday Words before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What's in a Name?: How Proper Names Became Everyday Words:

A fun and informative guide to the how and why of proper names and their haphazard entry into common English

language by the author of the bestselling *Amo, Amas, Amat and More*. Mining the English language to turn up a colorful cast of characters, Eugene Ehrlich finds the historic and literary figures who have given their names to the English language in the interest of keeping it vibrant and their names alive. In *What's in a Name?* Ehrlich traces the history of eponymous words and their progenitors, illuminating the legacy of Louis Braille, inventor of the system of embossed printing for the blind; the verbal acrobatics of Baron Munchausen; the sadism of the Marquis de Sade; and much more. *What's in a Name?* will amuse and enlighten word buffs, history lovers, and trivia pursuers alike as Ehrlich, in his inimitable way, uncovers an exhaustive assemblage of characters who have left an indelible mark on the English language.

.com Venn diagram, Mbius strip, and Achilles' heel are all phrases that clearly derive from the names of the persons who described, discovered, or inspired them. But a lot of English words one would never know had originated in proper names. So knowing, however, enriches one's understanding of the word, whether the person behind it is real or imagined, historical or literary, a scientist or a mythical figure. The next time you see a maverick (Samuel Augustus Maverick, Texas cattle rancher) epicure (Epicurus, Greek philosopher) whisk up a tantalizing bchamel sauce (Marquis de Bchamel), don't hector (Trojan hero) him about his sideburns (Union general Ambrose Everett Burnside) or his cardigan (James Thomas Brudenell, 7th Earl of). Just grab a sandwich (also Earl of), your favorite teddy bear (President T. Roosevelt), and a copy of Eugene Ehrlich's wonderfully entertaining *What's in a Name*, for a laze under the bougainvillea (Louis Antoine de Bougainville). No Baedeker (German publisher) can recommend an afternoon better spent. --Jane Steinberg "Utterly absorbing accounts of words that owe their origins to the deeds and misdeeds of real and fictional people. Well worth investigation." (Katherine A. Powers, *The Boston Globe*) "Eugene Ehrlich's researches offer the most exhaustive collection yet of eponyms-proper names that have been transformed into the language we use every day." (Jonathon Green, author of *Chasing the Sun: Dictionary Makers and the Dictionaries They Made*)