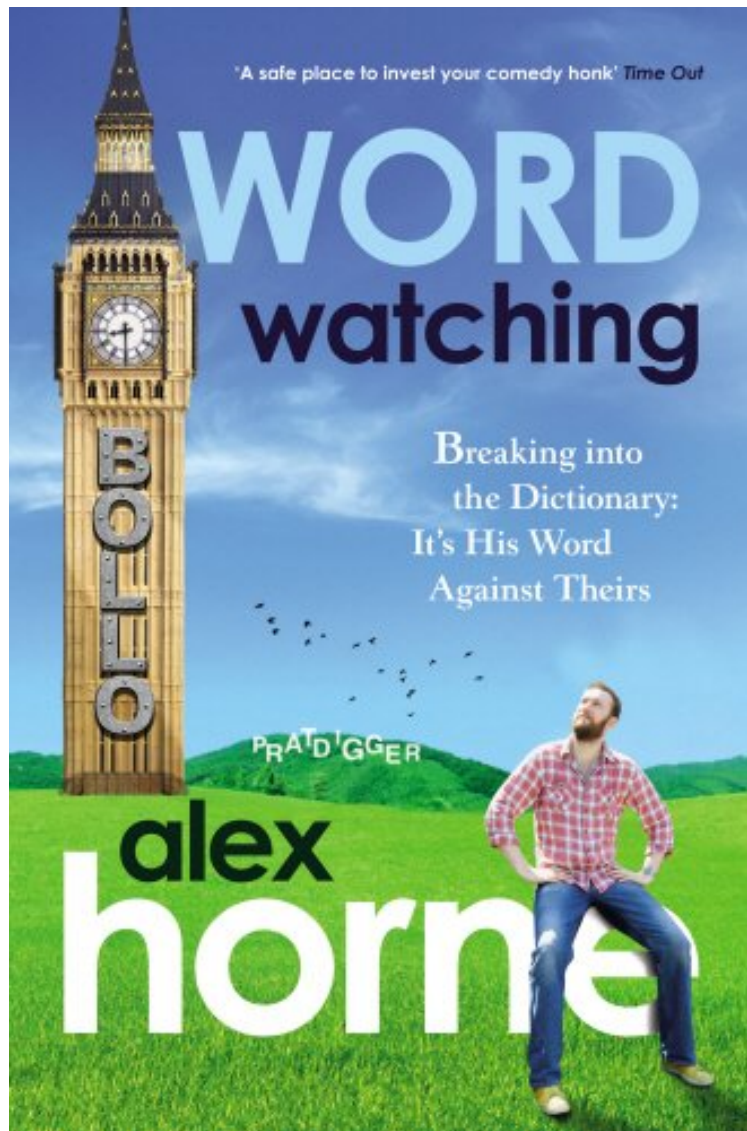


(Download) Wordwatching: How to Break into the Dictionary

Wordwatching: How to Break into the Dictionary

Alex Horne

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Alex Horne : Wordwatching: How to Break into the Dictionary before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wordwatching: How to Break into the Dictionary:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fun and quirky, but not as much as you'd thinkBy Mary Lavers (in Canada)It was a fun book with a fun concept (lover of words with a sense of humour wants to get his own made-up words into the dictionary, thus obtaining the ultimate nerdy immortality) and I would recommend it to a friend.It's strange that there would be "spoilers" in a humourous memoir like this, but you may not want to read any further if

you like to be surprised. My main criticisms are that I felt lied to a number of times in the book (he'd assert something as fact and then later admit that it was made up) and that the whole thing seemed too forced. I love making up words as well, but the words he made up served no other purpose than getting into the dictionary. Usually when a word is created, it's because someone felt the need to express something for which they could find no satisfying word in existence, and when it catches on it's because other people heard it and loved it and wanted to use it too. The words Alex Horne created were meant to trick people into thinking they'd always been around. Did he need another slang word for money? No, he created one precisely because there are so many words like it already in use, he thought it'd be easy to slip one in. The only one of his neologisms that has a unique definition is "pratdigger" (a person who acts as a magnet for annoying people and tends to bring loads of them to parties--"I like Charlene, she seems nice, but those friends of hers are all dicks." "Yeah, she's a bit of a pratdigger.") except that it's not his word! It's an 18th century word meaning "pickpocket" (a meaning I believe should be revived). I think his most successful words are "wordwatching" and "verbal gardening," neither of which he mentions as intentional neologisms. Perhaps they weren't his? For more reviews, please visit my blog, [CozyLittleBookJournal](#).

Alex Horne loves words. He loves them so much, in fact, that he decided to invent his own to create a brand new verbal concept and successfully implant it into the English language, and the Oxford English Dictionary. But breaking into the dictionary was going to take more than just a gentle word in the ear of the OED's editor, as Alex soon discovered. Evidence was required. Alex needed proof that his word was in print and used by more people than just him and his mom. He needed, to use the dictionary's word, a "corpus" of examples, so a corpus he resolved to create. And he gave himself 1,000 days in which to do it. This is the story of what happened next. Did Alex get a word in the OED? What is a pratdigger? Are you already using one of Alex's words without realizing it? You won't regret spending your hard-earned honk on this hugely entertaining book full of wordy trivia and funny tales of verbal invention.

From [Booklist](#) The author, a comedian by trade, has loved words and wordplay pretty much as long as he can remember. Approaching his 10,000th day, the word he made up to denote one's 10,000th day on Earth, he realized he really wanted to do something important. What better way to do that than to invent a new word or two? For the rest of human history, people would be saying things that he created. Of course, getting a new word into the lexicon isn't as easy as making one up and sending it to a dictionary editor; for example, you have to demonstrate that your made-up word is actually being used, that it has an accepted meaning. The book follows Horne's efforts to get his new words into general circulation, a challenge that involves slipping his lexographic creations into public forums (for instance, using one on a popular TV show) and generally making a cheerful nuisance of himself. A very enjoyable book that should spark the interest of word lovers and do-it-yourselfers, not to mention fans of offbeat memoirs by A. J. Jacobs, Danny Wallace, and Dave Gorman. --David Pitt