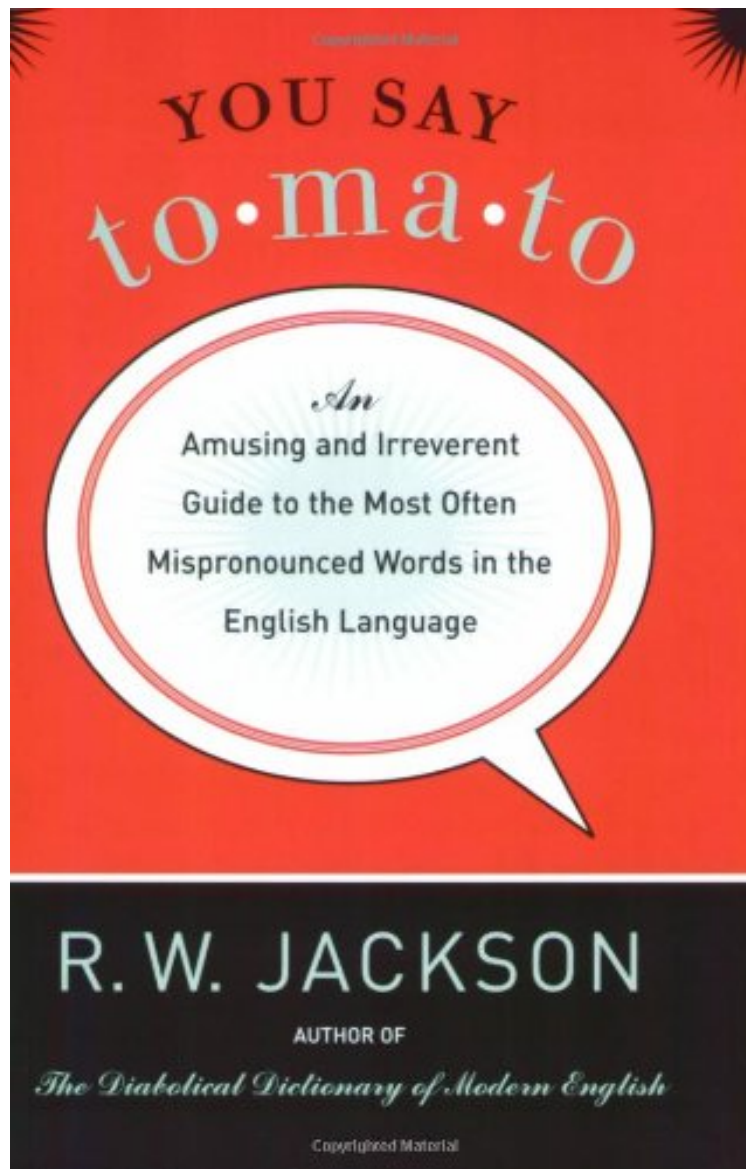


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You Say Tomato: An Amusing and Irreverent Guide to the Most Often Mispronounced Words in the English Language

R. W. Jackson

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R. W. Jackson : You Say Tomato: An Amusing and Irreverent Guide to the Most Often Mispronounced Words in the English Language before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised You Say Tomato: An Amusing and Irreverent Guide to the Most Often Mispronounced Words in the English

Language:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. No pronunciation key
By John R. Hightower
If you want to buy this book thinking that it will help you with learning correct pronunciation, don't waste your time. A pronunciation key is needed for any book that addresses this issue. There is none.
Some of the definitions are amusing.
6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Borderline racist, often wrong, and (worst of all) not funny
By Charlene Vickers
It's been a long time since I've been this disappointed in a book. Not only does *You Say Tomato* fail at everything it does, it also takes the opportunity to insult as many people as it can while it's failing.
This book has multiple personality disorder. On one hand, it seems to think that it's a comedy book, which would be fine if the jokes were funny or if Jackson knew anything about timing or pacing. They aren't and he doesn't, which makes it difficult for the reader to differentiate between his attempts at humor and the information he's also trying to impart. Jackson has also confused stereotypes with humor; every other entry contains a putdown of the French, Southerners, New Yorkers, Russians, and almost every other group Jackson isn't personally a member of. It's borderline racist, Mr. Jackson, but even that wouldn't be a disaster IF THE JOKES WERE FUNNY. Enough with the "French are inferior to Americans in every way" or "Southerners are stupid hicks who can't talk" garbage. Enough with the "the only way you can succeed is to become an American" nonsense. Enough with all of your jingoism.
On the other hand, *You Say Tomato* tries to be a reference book, which would be fine if it were anywhere near reliable. Many of the pronunciations he belittles are perfectly acceptable; he seems to be belittling them because he thinks that non-American pronunciations are flat out wrong. If it weren't for his narrow-minded comments about the French and the English, I'd wonder if he even realized there was a world outside the United States, or that books are normally distributed internationally. But he doesn't even accept all American accents as equally valid: oh, no, he belittles Southern accents and African-American accents too, because apparently his way of speaking is the One True Way and everyone else had better be just like him or accept their own inferiority.
I suspect this book was originally going to be a simple pronunciation guide before the popularity of *Eats, Shoots Leaves* enticed the writer into "improving" his work. It wasn't an improvement.
I *so* do not recommend this book. Not funny, not accurate, not worth your time or money.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not as good as it seems
By Filipe
It is not as good as it seems, particularly for two reasons:-first, it does not use the regular phonetic code/key (the same dictionaries use), which makes it difficult at times to understand what the author meant;-second, it is not accurate for some words: it says that only one pronunciation is correct, although dictionaries and other reference books accept more than one pronunciation as standard.

Ever wonder if "vase" is pronounced VASE or VAHZ? If "Pulitzer" is PYOO-lit-zer or PULL-it-ser? If "niche" is NITCH or NEESH? Whether you're an articulation stickler or (like the rest of us) insecure with pronunciation, R. W. Jackson's *You Say Tomato* is sure to tickle and inform. With subtle, acerbic repartee, Jackson has created a diabolically funny dictionary of words that, as he gleefully points out, even our highest officials grapple with. Are you among the millions who cringe when George W. Bush pronounces "nuclear" as NOOK-lar? Are those TV news reporters correct when they say SAW-di Arabia? (It's SOW-di, right?) How can they be so nay-EEV? Nothing is sacred with Jackson as lexicographer. He trains his sardonic sights on everything from political correctness to pop music, corporate culture to foreign policy, reality shows to the right wing. Prepare yourself for a wickedly irreverent reading experience!

From Booklist
Word geeks everywhere will delight in this 700-word pronunciation guide, which is intended to take readers through the "murky phonological corridors where words such as 'Aesop' and 'anchovy,' 'viva voce' and 'synecdoche' lie in wait to trip the tongue fantastic." Given in alphabetical order, entries list the word, its phonetic spelling, its part of speech, and a definition with decidedly snarky overtones. Acumen (uh-KYOO-mun), for instance, is defined as "a quality mysteriously absent from homogenized twenty-first-century studentry (except in the area of cheating)." Jackson, also the author of *The Diabolical Dictionary of Modern English* (1986), displays the kind of irreverent wit that will appeal to fans of George Carlin. And in between providing chuckles, he relays some surprisingly useful information (note to self: forte is pronounced "FORT" not "For-tay"). In addition to its high browsing appeal, this little tome should come in handy for all who wish to wield language with a certain savoir faire (sav-wahr FAR).
Joanne Wilkinson
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About the Author
R. W. Jackson is the author of *THE DIABOLICAL DICTIONARY OF MODERN ENGLISH*. His idols include Swift, Dr. Johnson, Oscar Wilde, Mark Twain, Dorothy Parker, P. G. Wodehouse, and George Carlin. He lives in Sun City, Arizona.