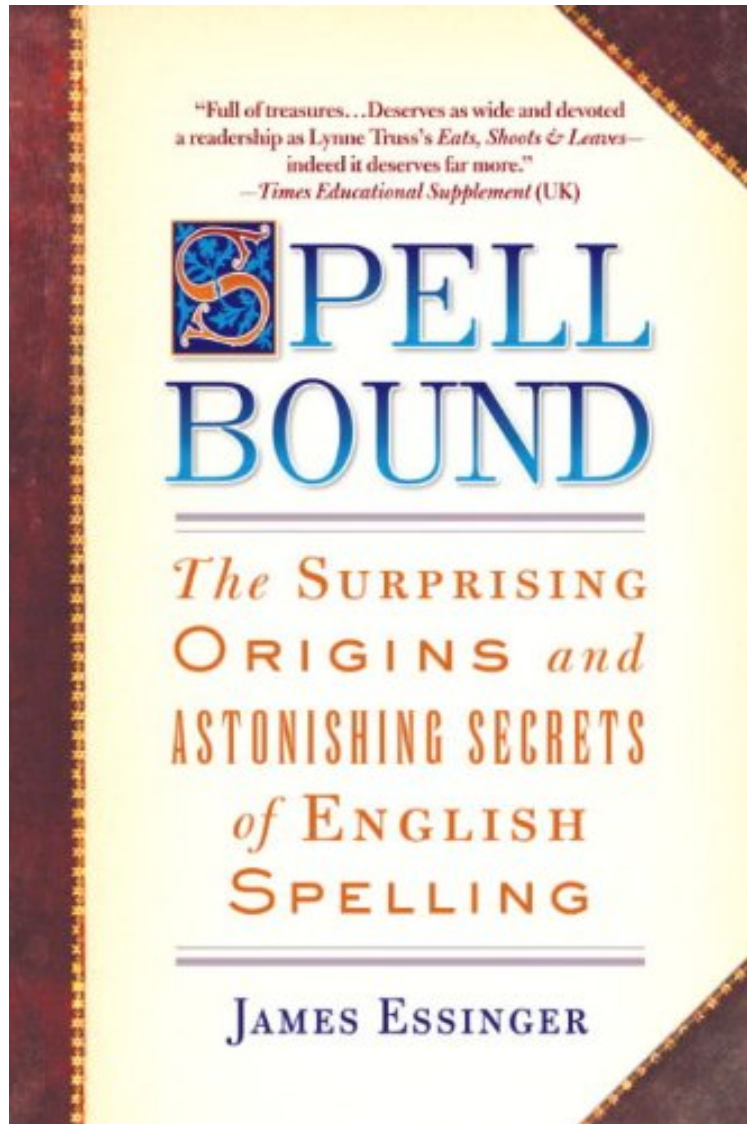


(Download pdf) Spellbound: The Surprising Origins and Astonishing Secrets of English Spelling

# Spellbound: The Surprising Origins and Astonishing Secrets of English Spelling

Von James Essinger

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Von James Essinger : **Spellbound: The Surprising Origins and Astonishing Secrets of English Spelling** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spellbound: The Surprising Origins and Astonishing Secrets of English Spelling:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Wissenschaftliches Thema gut prsentiertVon TextBildTonGut lesbar, in schner Sprache geschrieben, angenehm lesbar.

Nicht langweilig, Bekanntes und Neues. Für alle, die sich für Sprache, speziell die englische, interessieren. Gut recherchiert, ein Fehlerchen habe ich gefunden, aber leider wieder vergessen, was es war ;-).

**Kurzbeschreibung** Welcome to the illogical, idiosyncratic, outrageous linguistic phenomenon known as the English language. The story of how this ragtag collection of words evolved is a winding tale replete with intriguing accidents and bizarre twists of fate. In this eye-opening, fabulously entertaining book, James Essinger unlocks the mysteries that have confounded linguists and scholars for millennia. From the sophisticated writing systems of the ancient Sumerians through the tongue twisters of Middle English, the popular National Spelling Bee, and the mobile phone text-messaging of today, *Spellbound* chronicles the fascinating history of English spelling, including insights about the vast number of words English has borrowed from other languages (orange, vanilla, and ketchup, to name a few), and how their meanings differ from country to country. Featuring a lively cast of characters ranging from the fictional to the historically noteworthy (Chaucer, Samuel Johnson, Noah Webster, Shakespeare, Bill Gates), this affectionate tribute to English spelling shows why our whimsical, capricious common language continues to hold us spellbound. From the Trade Paperback edition. From Publishers Weekly British author Essinger (*Jacquard's Web: How a Hand Loom Led to the Birth of the Information Age*) provides an enlightening and enjoyable excursion into "the magical nature" of writing through the history of English spelling. Essinger provides many examples of English's well-known inconsistency between spelling and pronunciation, and the fact that many words are spelled illogically and arbitrarily. But there is, he says, "method in the madness" and concludes that there is no need for reform. Essinger notes fascinating research showing that some dyslexic children find Chinese characters easier to comprehend than written English, because Chinese characters relate to meaning rather than sound. Extremely valuable is the author's well-researched chronicle of the evolution of English spelling, beginning with the invasion of William the Conqueror in 1066, through Middle English (a hybrid of Norman French and Anglo Saxon) and the subsequent transformation into Modern English. The rise of Modern English was sparked by changes in pronunciation, the influence of the Renaissance, which led to heavy borrowing from Latin and Greek, and the introduction of the printing press. Essinger takes the influence of technology through the present, looking at the impact of e-mail and text messaging. A good-humored buoyant style helps make this examination of the origin and current state of English spelling a pleasure to read. (May 1) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. **Pressestimmen** His enthusiasm is contagious.... Mr. Essinger explains convincingly why our verb inflections are as simple as they are and why our nouns have no grammatical gender. *Wall Street Journal*