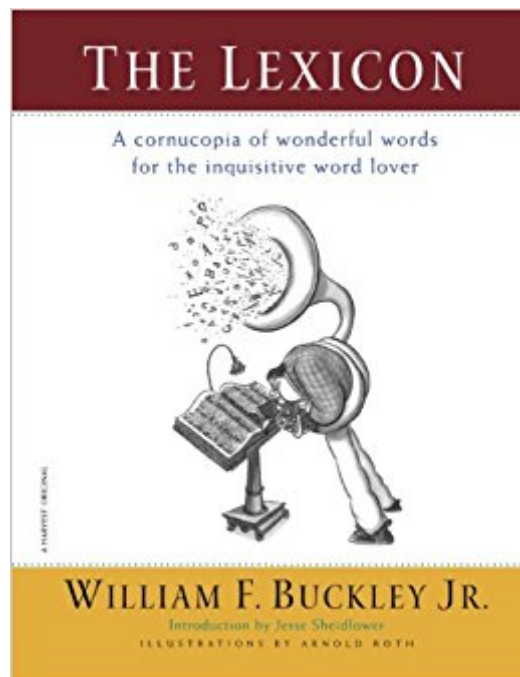




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The Lexicon: A Cornucopia Of Wonderful Words For The Inquisitive Word Lover



Synopsis

This boon to logophiles, culled from Buckley: The Right Word, presents the author's most erudite, out-of-the-ordinary, and interesting words - from prehensile and sciolist to rubric and histrionic - complete with definitions, examples, and usage notes. Introduction by Jesse Sheidlower; illustrations by Arnold Roth.

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Customer Reviews

Those who find their equanimity challenged by the lucubrations of William F. Buckley Jr. will surely see their torpor evanesce after reading The Lexicon. Monosyllabically: if it bugs you when you read words you don't know, this book will help. Buckley is renowned (and sometimes unfairly reviled) for his extensive working vocabulary, from which he unerringly picks the right word for every occasion. The Lexicon is a pocket guide to his esoterica with several hundred entries, each concisely defined and accompanied by an example of its use from his writings, which is quite a handy feature. For example: lucubrate (verb) To discourse learnedly in writing. Under the Eisenhower program, one could lucubrate over constitutional rights and freedoms and forever abandon captured American soldiers. It is a sign of his skill as a writer that the book may be read for pleasure. Illustrations by Arnold Roth add to the enjoyment, making this the perfect introduction to Buckleyian erudition.

--Rob Lightner

Buckley is a wordsmith extraordinaire, his speech and writing regularly peppered with arcane vocabulary. This book, previously published as part of Buckley's linguistic compendium, The Right

Word (LJ 12/96), brings together a list of his favorite words, each with a citation from one of his many published works. Words like epigone, nugatory, and rodomontade will stretch the frontiers of most readers' vocabulary, and the illustrations by Arnold Roth are a perfect accompaniment to the text. This would be a great choice for students studying for the SATs or for anyone who loves language?it's certainly more useful, and more fun, than those word-a-day calendars. Highly recommended for all collections.?Lisa J. Cihlar, Monroe P.L., WI Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I recently finished David Crystal's "The Story of English in 100 Words," and it prompted my purchase of W.F. Buckley's book, "The Lexicon." As a pretentious student of words, Buckley's book has been a healthy dose of humility to mitigate my hubris. The man could correctly use so many words. I've read several books by Buckley and about Buckley, and watched hours of firing line and his interviews on youtube. With this background, I believe that Buckley really did have a working knowledge of all of the words listed in this wordbook. I've memorized many of these words for graduate school examinations but I have yet to work them into my everyday speech. WFB was brilliant in that regard; erudite to the core. I use this book mostly as a motivator of what is possible. I arduously pick through this book in an attempt to increase my working vocabulary. It's a wonderful book, with a wonderful introduction, and a very brief overview of the how this book came about in the back. This book is a window into the words that Buckley found useful and important. Conservatives and liberals would do well to read and implement this book into their everyday agendas. Regardless of what one may think about Buckley, and his persuasions, this book is so damn good. (I bought the \$10 one, not the \$4 one, fyi)

Whether I agreed with him about a particular subject or not, I always loved listening to and/or reading from William F. Buckley, Jr., because of his brilliant mind, incredible vocabulary and sense of humor (and still count it a great privilege that I was able to attend two of his "Firing Line" debates, including the final one). THE LEXICON evokes fond memories and, hopefully, becomes efficacious in the eventuation of a decidedly more euphonious (if not to the level of a desideratum) colloquy.

This is written in classic Buckley style ! Buckley not only provides words that can be used as alternatives to common language but also provides very precise examples of how the words can be used. I keep "The Lexicon" on my desk at all times ! Buckley is my ad hoc Yale English language professor !

Another WFB treat from the past.

excellent

I bought this book mainly for my 20something son who has a natural way with the English language. I am trying to encourage a his natural conservative thought which I find a gift. There will never be another Buckley but with work perhaps my son can be. Reading Buckley's words are not nearly as fun as watching him on youtube when in debate against his thought. He is a true wordsmith and anyone who loves the power of the word will love this book, carry it as a handy guide and become a smarter person for it.

I enjoy listening to WFB, his vocabulary is astounding. However, this book has a few laughable entries - akin to saying "Laser" in air quotes because some of the words are mainstream, though obviously at the time of this book's publishing some words were quite new to the world. Worth adding to your library, WFB's personality shines through in the examples given often bringing a surprise smile to the reader.

Just received the book and WOW! I always watched his show and tried to watch him whenever he was on at other times. Anyone that was with me cringed when I watched him but their loss! When I read the words and where he used them I can picture him in his chair, leaning back and finding the correct word before putting his sentence together. A recent Vanity Fair issue had some great insight to him and his wife. What a man! Now I have to get the dvds to get what the book can't give the "expressions" to go with the words! Like a previous review, I too wish the pronunciations would have been included in the book. Lexicons will STILL be a dictionary for me.

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