



Casual Lex: An Informal Assemblage of Why We Say What We Say

Webb Garrison

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Are you a lover of language?

Awaken your passion for words, and savor the sheer deliciousness of the things people say!

Casual Lex holds the hidden pleasures found in our usage of words. This fresh edition of the classic *Why You Say It* will turn you on to the fascinating?and often surprising?stories behind everyday words and phrases. Experience *Casual Lex* and discover:

- The phrase *hell on wheels* comes from the early American practice of renting railway flatcars to create rolling casinos and brothels bound for the Wild West.
- *Gibberish* was the word coined by English villagers to describe the hard-to-understand dialects of certain bands of Gypsies.
- *Gymnasium* comes from the Greek word *gymnos*, which means "naked"?Greek athletes trained and competed in the nude.

If your joy of language has been aroused, then many more surprises await you. After all, even the most formal users of our language can benefit from a little *Casual Lex*.

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