



## The Life of Slang

By Julie Coleman

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*Bad-ass, bee's knees, and bomb-diffity - slang rules*

Teachers, politicians, broadcasters, and parents complain of the slang-infested language of today's teenagers. But slang has been around for centuries, always troubling those who take a purist line on the English language. In this entertaining book, Julie Coleman traces the development of slang across the English-speaking world and explores why and how it flourishes. She makes use of a marvellous array of sources, including newly available online records of the Old Bailey, machine-searchable historical newspaper collections, slang users themselves, scholarly works, and the latest tweets. It is a book guaranteed to teach you some new words that you should never use in polite company.

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

Review from previous edition: "Enjoyable and succinct. Rarely, since Eric Partridge, has any scholar evinced such pleasure in the vulgar tongue... Coleman is a 'top banana'."

--Robert McCrum, The Observer 04/03/2012

"Completely fascinating ... immensely enjoyable ... Coleman's thinking lifts this book above the usual semi-disposable level of writing about rude words."

--James McConnachie, The Sunday Times 04/03/2012

"Coleman relishes slang in all its chewy, vigorous glory, and gives a sociological insight ... This book is the 'cat's whiskers'"

--The Independent on Sunday 11/03/2012

### About the Author

**Julie Coleman** was born in Coventry and attended Finham Park Comprehensive. She studied at Manchester University and King's College London, taught at Lund University in Sweden, and is now a Professor in the School of English at the University of Leicester. She has written several books about dictionaries.

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**Patrick Bergeron:**

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