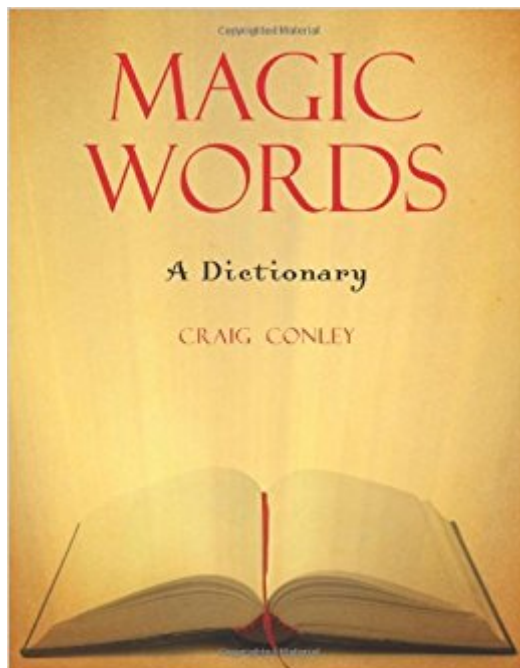


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# Magic Words: A Dictionary



## Synopsis

**Magic Words: A Dictionary** is a one-of-a-kind resource for armchair linguists, pop-culture enthusiasts, Pagans, Wiccans, magicians, and trivia nuts alike. Brimming with the most intriguing magic words and phrases from around the world and illustrated throughout with magical symbols and icons, **Magic Words** is a dictionary like no other. More than seven-hundred essay style entries describe the origins of magical words as well as historical and popular variations and fascinating trivia. With sources ranging from ancient Medieval alchemists to modern stage magicians, necromancers, and wizards of legend to miracle workers throughout time, **Magic Words** is a must have for any scholar of magic, language, history, and culture.

## Book Information

Paperback: 360 pages

Publisher: Weiser Books (October 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1578634342

ISBN-13: 978-1578634347

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 1 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #608,639 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #230 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Mythology & Folklore](#) #331 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Reference](#) #361 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Wicca, Witchcraft & Paganism > Paganism](#)

## Customer Reviews

A vividly written introduction includes contemplations on ritual and pronunciation, and each multi-paragraph entry explains meanings, origins, and literary references. --Library Journal, October 2008  
I am in awe of the volume and variety of the usages and references discussed: the research seems monumental. . . . Recommended as a very useful resource...  
---Phil Willmarth, Linking Ring Magazine  
Wonderful.  
---Graham P. Collins, editor of Scientific American  
[A]n impressive work. . .  
---Brad Henderson, MAGIC, The Magazine for Magicians

When it comes to his research Craig Conley has often been called a "language fanatic" by gossip

columnist Cindy Adams and a "cult hero" by Publisher's Weekly. His exhaustive research led him to compile *Magic Words: A Dictionary*. He is also the author of *One-Letter Words: A Dictionary* and a regular columnist for *Pentacle* magazine. He lives in Florida and Wales, UK.

I absolutely LOVE this book. It's great if you're interested in magic, but it's really for people who love the sound of WORDS. The evening I received it, I sat on the porch swing to look through it. A half hour later, I discovered that I had been sitting for 30 minutes reading and laughing out loud. There are words and phrases from Ancient Greece to spells from the tv show *Bewitched*! (The yaga zoozie spell was my all-time favorite; it's in the book.) I keep it in my fifth grade class, and use magic phrases as a signal to get to work! I need another copy for home. I also ADORE the literary references. This is a brilliant book for magicians and logophiles!

The book is interesting and well-researched, and good as a starting point for more elaborate research. However my one discovery was that the author's understanding of "Magician" is solely based off the pop-culture understanding (think guy on stage sawing woman in half) Students of serious esoteric movements / paganism / witchcraft will be dismayed to find this. This perspective was expected, but more as a chapter and not the central focus. Magic as a ritualized spiritual practice has virtually nothing in common with "entertainment magic" save some roots. The book would undoubtedly have more academic merit if the dictionary was more focused on etymological/historical origins of magical words. But his sources can be good steps in the right direction.

I've been looking everywhere for this book, even checked big libraries. Now I own it!

This book is an awesome source for writers who add 'magic' to their stories.

It is a beautifully made book printed on nice paper, and appears very informative on the topic. I returned it only because it wasn't the topic I expected, my fault for not reading the description (my fault).

I have a deep love of comprehensive texts and when I bought this I wasn't really sure what I was buying. So, I was very pleased when I received it and saw how much it contained and how many references it gave for its entries. It's a great source for historical reference of phrases we hear all

the time. Bippity-Boppity-Boo!

This book is a rare treat. Not only will you admire the depth and breadth of the author's research, nearly every page has a fascinating tidbit for you to discover. It's exactly the kind of book you show to friends with a "Hey, check out this cool...". This is the perfect gift for a word lover, a writer, or anyone who delights in obscure and wonderfully-produced books.

I find this a very interesting book, filled with all kinds of good information on magic words, great for any time a special words is required.

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