



# Quicklet - Bill Bryson's *Made in America: An Informal History of the English Language in the United States*

*Megan Yarnall*

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### ABOUT THE BOOK

Made in America is Bill Bryson's account of America's history through linguistic development - and linguistic development through history. His account of America's birth and growth demonstrates the timeline of Americanisms, American phrases, and the melting pot that made American English distinctive among dialects. Bryson also explores regional dialects and how they came to exist via immigration and dispersion across the country.

Published in 1998 by Black Swan, Made in America incidentally showcases the path of American culture as it catalogues history and language. History, language, and culture are all wrapped into one because they are so tightly connected to each other, and Bryson can't avoid giving an account of all three as he gives an account of language.

Made in America begins with the Mayflower voyage and travels all the way to present day modern America, accounting for the totality of America's timeline. Every chapter consists of a historical account of America during a specific time period, and then moves into the familiar language of that day, from where the phrases came, and how they survive in modern day English after evolving from their roots.

### MEET THE AUTHOR

Megan Yarnall is a publicist and writer from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She studied English, creative writing, and Italian at Dickinson College, and wrote her thesis on the connections between humans, their bodies, and language. She graduated in 2010 after spending four years organizing all of her college's concerts. Megan has lived abroad in Italy and loves studying foreign language, linguistics, and writing.

### EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK

The invention of the airplane and then commercial flying gave rise to the word stewardess and then jet lag as well as jumbo jet. The 1950s saw the start of technological innovation, and it seemed that invention was the driving force behind linguistic development and the introduction of new terms that were immigration, cultural differences or America's melting pot.

Language reflects culture and history because culture and history are its roots. At one time, America's culture was based on immigration and the integration of a variety of cultures on one land, and that fueled linguistic development. When America as a country transitioned into modern times and became more based on a single American identity and technology, the new identity and tech space began to fuel our language with

developments such as laptop, hacker, and software.

Additionally, as we become more accepting as a culture, our language becomes more accepting and relaxed as we cringe less at racial slurs - or at least openly discuss them - and our movements (such as the feminist movement) start to bleed through our communication. For example, the word femstruate instead of menstruate hasn't stuck around, and similarly other neologisms, because they've been used only by extremists and not in popular culture. Regardless, language changes and fluctuates with our trends, and can be a trusty source of what is going on - even dating back to the Mayflower...

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## CHAPTER OUTLINE

- Quicklet on Bill Bryson's *Made in America: An Informal History of the English Language in the United States*
- Bill Bryson's *Made in America: An Informal History of the English Language in the United States*
  - About the Book
  - About the Author
  - Overall Summary of *Made in America*
  - List of Important People
  - ...and much more

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Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Quicklet - Bill Bryson's Made in America: An Informal History of the English Language in the United States, you are able to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind

hangout fellas. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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