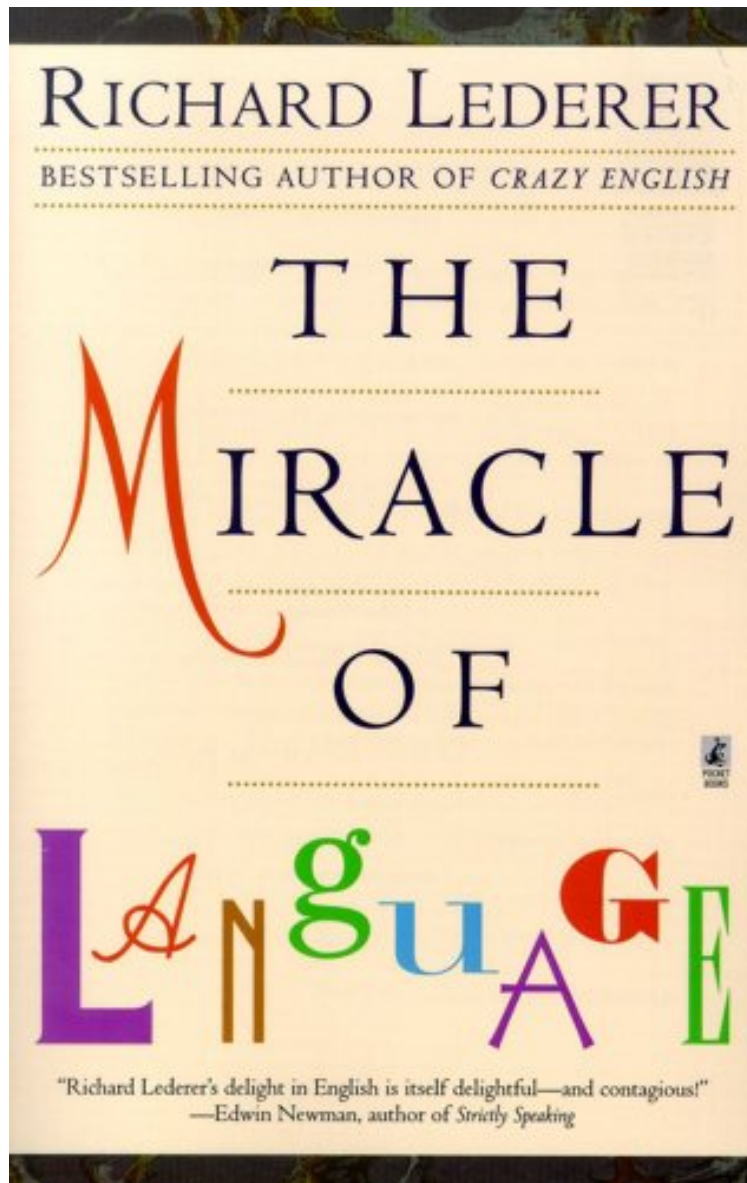


(Mobile pdf) The Miracle of Language (English Edition)

The Miracle of Language (English Edition)

Von Richard Lederer

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Von Richard Lederer : The Miracle of Language (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Miracle of Language (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
excellent, but...Von Cyndy HalubekBeing a "language-freak" myself, I was very pleased to find that books such as Mr Lederer's even exist. Being a Luxembourg national,I speak and write 4 languages (English, French, German and

Luxemburgish, even if the latter doesn't quite count for a "real" language) and have some knowledge of Spanish and Italian. What disappointed me in Mr Lederer's book is that hardly are you really getting into it, up comes page 11, line 16, and the "meterologist" hits you... You try to ignore the missing "o", and read on to page 50, when in line 27 the French word "droit" creeps in, making me get up at 4.30 in the morning just to check and make sure (this guy can't be wrong...) that there is an "e" missing at the end.... Sorry, Mr Lederer, for being like that, but if you're going to write such wonderful books, maybe better double-check the spelling?

Kurzbeschreibung Master verbalist Richard Lederer, America's "Wizard of Idiom" (Denver Post), presents a love letter to the most glorious of human achievements... Welcome to Richard Lederer's beguiling celebration of language -- of our ability to utter, write, and receive words. No purists need stop here. Mr. Lederer is no linguistic sheriff organizing posses to hunt down and string up language offenders. Instead, join him "In Praise of English," and discover why the tongue described in Shakespeare's day as "of small reach" has become the most widely spoken language in history: English never rejects a word because of race, creed, or national origin. Did you know that jukebox comes from Gullah and canoe from Haitian Creole? Many of our greatest writers have invented words and bequeathed new expressions to our everyday conversations. Can you imagine making up almost ten percent of our written vocabulary? Scholars now know that William Shakespeare did just that! He also points out the pitfalls and pratfalls of English. If a man mans a station, what does a woman do? In the "The Department of Redundancy Department," "Is English Prejudiced?" and other essays, Richard Lederer urges us not to abandon that which makes us human: the capacity to distinguish, discriminate, compare, and evaluate. From Publishers Weekly In this collection of entertaining and enlightening essays-- BOMC and QPB alternates selection in cloth-- Lederer celebrates language as "incomparably the finest of our achievements." Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s New England schoolmaster, columnist, and bestselling author Lederer (Crazy English, 1989) offers an enthusiastic new assemblage in tribute to language generally and the English kind in particular. Sounding in turn like D'Israeli the Elder on curiosities of literature, William Targ on bibliomania, H.L. Mencken on words, or William Lutz on doublespeak, Lederer compiles a scrapbook that preaches, naturally, to those who are devoted to the wonder of words aggregated. There are tributes to heroes of our tongue: Shakespeare, Johnson (with incursions by Bierce and other witty lexicographers), Lewis Carroll, Mark Twain, Emily Dickinson, T.S. Eliot, and George Orwell. In terms of one syllable, Lederer proves the power of short words. They can, he says, "make a straight point between two minds," which seems a little hard to do, but you get the line. English isn't perfect, however: It's sexist (queens do not rule queendoms), lacks certain utilitarian words (what will we call the decade that will follow the Nineties?), and lends itself to redundant repetition, too, as Lederer cheerfully illustrates and shows. He likes libraries and letter-writing (citing St. Paul as a great correspondent). There's even a lesson in versification and examples of favored writing from his prep- school students. The text concludes with a few hundred pithy comments on words by practitioners from Aristophanes to Wittgenstein. A golly-gee skimming of the manifest wonders of "the most glorious of all human inventions," not deep but easygoing enough to satisfy Lederer's legion of fans. -- Copyright 1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.