How Language Works - David Crystal - 2007-01-01
Steven Pinker meets Bill Bryson in this landmark exploration of language. In the author's own words, "How Language Works is not about music, or sex, or anything at all." Language is so fundamental to everyday life that we take it for granted. But as David Crystal makes clear in this work, language is far more than just the stuff of conversation: it is the stuff of thought itself, the medium through which we communicate with one another. 

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The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language - David Crystal - 2018-11-29
Now in its third edition, The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language is the most comprehensive coverage of the history, structure and worldwide use of English. Fully updated and expanded, with a fresh redesign of layout, and over sixty audio resources to bring language extracts to life, it covers all aspects of the English language including the modern world. The Encyclopedia brings the cutting edge to the field of English language study by offering new pronunciations, updated statistics on global English use that now cover all the countries and the future of English in a post-Brexit Europe, regional and social variations, with fresh insights into the growing cultural identities of 'new Englishes'. English in everyday use with new sections on gender identities, forensic studies, and 'big data' in conversation, literature, and digital developments, including the emergence of new online varieties in social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp. Packed with brand new colour illustrations, photographs, maps, tables and graphics, this new edition is an essential tool for a new generation of twenty-first century English language enthusiasts.

Wordsmiths and Warriors - David Crystal - 2013-02-26
Wordsmiths and Warriors explores the heritage of English through the places in Britain that shaped it. It unite the warriors, the transgressors, and the innovators. How was the English language spoken originally by a few thousand Anglo-Saxons become used by more than one,500 million? What developments can be seen as we move from Beowulf to Chaucer to Shakespeare to Dickens and the present day? A host of fascinating questions are answered in The Story of English, a groundbreaking history of the language by David Crystal, the world-renowned writer and authority on English. Crystal shows how the language we use today has its roots in the earliest days of our complex heritage. The language truly lives—in the accents and dialects of non-standard English users all over the world. Whatever their regional, social or ethnic background, each group has a story worth telling, whether it is in Scotland or Somerset, South Africa or Singapore. Interspersed within this chronological story are accounts of uses of dialects around the world as well as in literature classics from The Canterbury Tales to The Lord of the Rings. For the first time, regional speech and writing is placed center stage, giving a sense of the social realities behind the development of English. This significant shift in perspective enables the reader to understand for the first time the importance of everyday, previously marginalized, voices in our language and provides an argument too for the way English should be taught in the future.

Language Play - David Crystal - 2005-06-06
The English language is now accepted as the global lingua franca of the modern age, spoken or written in by over a quarter of the human race. But how did it evolve? How did a language spoken originally by a few thousand Anglo-Saxons become used by more than one,500 million? What developments can be seen as we move from Beowulf to Chaucer to Shakespeare to Dickens and the present day? A host of fascinating questions are answered in The Story of English, a groundbreaking history of the language by David Crystal, the world-renowned writer and commentator on English. Many books have been written about English, but they all focus on a single variety. This book, published to mark the first anniversary of the launch of the Oxford English Dictionary, presents a broad view of a language that has been described as the most 'successful' language ever, with 1,500 million speakers internationally, presenting a difficult task to those who wish to define it or to impose a single standard on it. English, David Crystal turns the history of English on its head and instead provides a startlingly original view of where the richness, creativity and diversity of the language is to be found. He shows how the whole of the world can contribute to the development of our language, and that each group has a story worth telling, whether it is in Scotland or Somerset, South Africa or Singapore. Interspersed within this chronological story are accounts of uses of dialects around the world as well as in literature classics from The Canterbury Tales to The Lord of the Rings. For the first time, regional speech and writing is placed center stage, giving a sense of the social realities behind the development of English. This significant shift in perspective enables the reader to understand for the first time the importance of everyday, previously marginalized, voices in our language and provides an argument too for the way English should be taught in the future.

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A Little Book of Language - David Crystal - 2011
A narrative history of language-exploring the first words of an infant to the modern day-exploring the first words of a modern infant-exploring the first words of a modern baby. Written by an expert both for specialists in the subject and for general readers interested in the English language.

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Intensive Interaction, which she shows is a straightforward and uncomplicated way, through attending to body language and non-verbal cues, to deal effectively with people who are non-verbal, even those in a state of considerable distress. This simple method is accessible to anyone, regardless of the other person's age or personality. Among the book's many joys are the diverse places that allow warriors such as Byrhtnoth and King Alfred to share pages with world-famous Hunners like Robert Burns and Tim Bobbin, and the unexpected discoveries that emerge from playing with the other's episode.