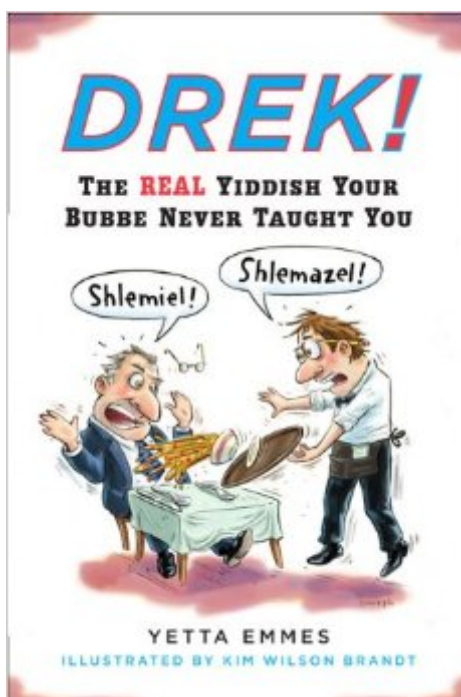


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Drek!: The Real Yiddish Your Bubbe Never Taught You



Synopsis

One doesn't have to be Jewish to recognize the words that have made their way into every fold of popular language: Chutzpah, Mensch, Tokhes, Mishmash, Nudge, Shtick, Schmaltzy, Schlep, Icky, and so on. Then there are phrases whose meaning and syntax are borrowed from Yiddish: "bite your tongue", "drop dead", "enough already", and "excuse the expression". This hilarious, concise guide includes chapters on the Basic Descriptions of People (the good, the bad, the ugly, and the goofy), the Fine Art of Cursing, Juicy Words and Phrases, Exclamations and Exasperations, and the Fine Art of Blessing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As one learns a language, knowing what "not to say" can be as important as knowing what you can say. In addition to the "colourful" Yiddish it will show you, this book includes many perfectly acceptable words and phrases for many occasions or places in the life of a Jew. It includes a brief synopsis of Yiddish grammar as its final chapter. Its author's transliteration scheme is a bit unusual, but given this book's strengths, that's a minor flaw.

Yiddish to those who don't know, is a language derived from German (although if you ask three Jews for their opinion as to the origin of Yiddish, you'll get four opinions back at you darling!!). To the Jew who grows up in a Yiddisah "Stub" or house, learns many good expressions, and so many not so good ones! Drek takes a wonderful, factual approach to this dying language via the

humorous road! This book dares to expose the secrets, words, and expressions that only a Yiddisah-cupe would know! I recommend this book to anyone; Jew or non-who wants to have a great laugh, return to their childhood roots or just to pick up some very bad words indeed! My Wife, Helene and I laughed out loud and are going to buy a crate full of "Drek" for our friends and family! My only complaint is now I may not be able to talk behind people's backs so easily - they have the Drek! Who knows for sure! Gay-cach-and-yam to all, and to all a goodnight!!

Book is broken down into chapters by language category. Humorous and informative introduction followed by chapter by chapter historical introductions and then content. Fairly good attempt at pronunciation help and spelling, however, some prior experience with words in speaking environment is still necessary to truly capture the pronunciation. Overall, short but sound book.

the phonetic spellings help enormously, and i found myself sounding out familiar phrases from my childhood. a treasure of ethnic communication to be protected and savored

What a fun book!! Easy to remember words with the translations right next to them. Even some history on the language of Yiddish. Very enjoyable.

I bought this as a guide for my boyfriend, who is technically Jewish but doesn't really practice, as a fun way to learn something more about the culture he comes from as well as to just have some fun with language. This book was easy to read and digest, the phonetic guide was very helpful, and it was entertaining.

I had hoped for something more than this skinny, undersized volume. to spin an old gag, "Life is a drek sandwich. Sometimes you get more bread... sometimes you get more drek." Not too much drek in this sandwich. For instance I wanted a definition of "Yutz." I had to go to Google to find it. And a couple of other terms that have more than one meaning left those alternatives unlisted. But it's better than no sandwich at all. And I found other volumes I might investigate later, if I find myself in need of such diversity. In brief, I got the Drek I paid for, but not much else.

This book is not quite the drek of its title, but it's not a great guide to impolite Yiddish, and the author is not emmes. Her explanations are not always on the mark and when you are using another language to be insulting, it's very important to know the exact meaning and power of the words you

are using. You could read Wex's Just say Nu or go back to the source The Joys of Yiddish. My bubbe was dead, my zaide would not teach me these words, but my late mother and her friends used these words. This book does not give you a warm feeling and since its explanations are sometimes wrong, I would not use it as a guide; you could get in trouble.

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