

The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way By Bill Bryson From its mongrel origins to its status as the world's most-spoken tongue; its apparent simplicity to its deceptive complexity; its vibrant swearing to its uncertain spelling and pronunciation; Bryson covers all this as well as the many curious eccentricities that make it as maddening to learn as it is flexible to use. **Kindle the mother tongue pdf** The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way November 2021: Went ahead and removed my 4 star rating for this book.

The mother tongue adapted for modern students

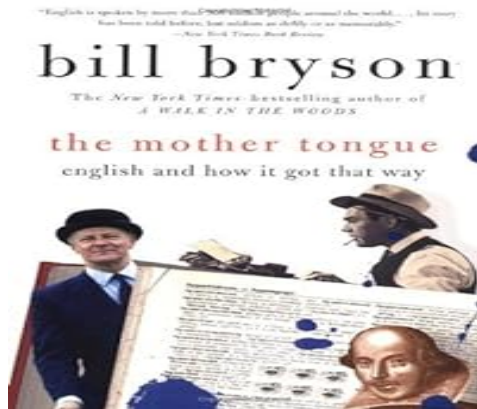
William McGuire Bill Bryson OBE FRS was born in Des Moines Iowa in 1951. **The scholar's mother tongue book pdf** Other travel books include the massive bestseller Notes From a Small Island which won the 2003 World Book Day National Poll to find the book which best represented modern England followed by A Walk in the Woods (in which Stephen Katz his travel companion from Neither Here Nor There made a welcome reappearance) Notes From a Big Country and Down Under. **The mother tongue of karnataka** It has since been pointed out repeatedly that Bryson is wrong in a staggering number of places in this book and as I went on to read more of his work I also realized exactly how racist he is. **What is mother tongue pdf** In its first pages Bryson reports OED editor Robert Burchfield's theory that American English and British English are drifting apart so rapidly that within two hundred years we won't be able to understand each other. **Mother tongue policy** That was a theory made back when cell phones still required a battery the size of an unabridged dictionary long before the internet became such a large part of the way the world communicates in a time when you couldn't imagine downloading a British Doctor Who or an American Stargate Atlantis to your iPod. **Ebook the mother tongue free download** We live in a new world! Unfortunately it's also a world where the Harry Potter books are translated for American readers lest we be too confused by the lingo: What's this? Harry's eating a biscuit? And wearing a jumper? While battling Fizzolian Snargletoothed Whatsits?! This book is impenetrable! JK Rowling aside with communication technology becoming smaller cheaper and more powerful I think we'll still be able to communicate two hundred years down the line. **The mother tongue book 1** With its in-text references footnotes extensive bibliography and index this book looks almost academic but Bryson an American living in England handles it all with a cheerfully low-key sense of humor -- almost as if Terry Pratchett had turned his eye to grammar -- and even a refreshingly open approach to the word fuck in the chapter on swearing. **The mother tongue bryson** My one complaint is that despite being loosely hung on British and American history for the most part the book lacks a greater structure and ends up reading like a series of interesting facts. **Is bisaya a mother tongue** But hell they got my attention and as it happened the attention of everyone around me: Hey! Did you know the Romans had no word for grey? Since English as this book proves is a big crazy mess I guess Bryson can be excused for not being able to wrangle its history into a more pleasing order. **What is mother tongue subject** He then spouts off with a series of jokes that are so ethnocentric and condescending that if you took them at face value you couldn't help but feel sorry for the poor backward speakers of silly old Welsh. **The mother tongue epub download** I happened to study the phonology and orthography of Welsh for about a week in that freshman linguistics class (I know that makes me a big authority right?) but in that week I learned something Bryson apparently never bothered to look up: Welsh orthography is remarkably regular about as regular as Spanish. **What is mother tongue pdf**) The phoneme represented by the double-l is called a lateral fricative and yes it's hard to pronounce if you don't speak Welsh but that does not mean it's sometimes pronounced kl and other times thl as Bryson suggests. **What are the mother tongue** 270 Ever since I learned to read English has been my favourite language - I took to it like a duck takes to water (at least I guess they take to it willingly and that baby ducks are not paddled until their feathers fly by Mamma Duck

to make them). **The native tongue calgary** And to tell you how eccentric who better than Bill Bryson? If you approach this book hoping for a scholarly analysis of the English language you are going to be sorely disappointed. **Definition of mother tongue pdf** What he does is to throw out tidbits (or tidbits in the US as they consider the former spelling risqué - so Bryson tells me) of information some useful some useless some bizarre: but all fascinating. **Nonfiction the mother tongue pdf** The subject matter is not that hard so I can only guess The Mother Tongue was written in such a hurry that you only consulted one or two sources where it should have been five or six. **The mother tongue dilemma** Then I thought well it was written more than 25 years ago so things that sounded like old stories to me may have been new stories then - like this one: "The Eskimos as is well known have fifty words for types of snow—though curiously no word for just plain snow. **What is mother tongue subject** 270 I teach English as a foreign language but other than that linguistics and language learning is just a hobby having said that I know enough Irish German Czech Russian and Spanish to know that the things he said about these languages are half truths or complete and utter codswallop. **The mother tongue bryson** Furthermore there is no preposition in any language that cannot be translated into at least three or four prepositions in English nor are there any English prepositions that don't have numerous translations in the other language. **The mother tongue is defined as** I loved A Short History of Nearly Everything and now I am frightened that if I knew anything whatsoever about Everything I would have found that that book too was filled with amusing but completely made up factoids. **The mother tongue bill bryson pdf** I don't expect Bill Bryson to be clairvoyant of course and a book written in 1991 about the history of language can be forgiven for having predicted neither the rise of the internet nor the scientific breakthroughs that proved that modern humans and Neanderthals interbred. **What are the mother tongue** But even setting issues like that aside there are so many mistakes here both in Bryson's discussion of the English language itself and in his characterisation of the other languages he uses as comparatives. **Book the mother tongue** Take this for instance: "A rich vocabulary carries with it a concomitant danger of verbosity as evidenced by our peculiar affection for redundant phrases expressions that say the same thing twice: beck and call law and order assault and battery null and void..." Except that none of these are examples of redundancy? A beck is a gesture and a call is verbal; a law is a codified rule and order is a lack of chaos and so on. **The mother tongue auf deutsch** Then again he seems to think that Pennsylvania Dutch is a form of pidgin English so perhaps that's unsurprising! To focus on the languages I know best out of those he discusses—Irish Hiberno-English and French—is to make me sigh heavily. **Book the mother tongue** He claims that Irish people pronounce the word "girl" as "gull" (I said "girl" to myself in a variety of Irish accents as I made a cup of tea just now to see if I could figure out where he was coming from and nope) says that the phonetic rendering of "Taoiseach" in English is "tea-sack" and more. **The mother tongue of karnataka** Has Bryson ever spoken to an Irish person? He repeatedly dings Irish (and even more so Welsh) for having spellings that are bizarre strange overly convoluted etc when what he should mean is that the Irish language attaches sound values to the Latin alphabet that are different from those used by English. **Nonfiction the mother tongue book**)The final bit of assholery is that he excuses British imperialism in Ireland and its policies both direct and indirect aimed at the destruction of the Irish language on the basis that well it's given him more English-language literature to enjoy. **Mother tongue examples** Consider the loss to English literature if Joyce Shaw Swift Yeats Wilde and Ireland's other literary masters have written in what inescapably a fringe language their work will be as little known to us as those poets in Iceland or Norway and that would be a tragedy indeed. **Concept of mother tongue pdf** No country has given the word incomparable literature per head of population than Ireland and for that reason alone we might be excused to a small selfish celebration that English was the language of her greatest writers. **The mother tongue and how it got that way** "Let me draw upon all of my Irishness here Bill to point out first the fact that translators exist; second that Irish writers are not writing for you; and third fuck you you scuttering gobshite. **The mother tongue of karnataka** He's sneery enough towards the Académie Française to make me eyeroll even though I think the Académie is full of jackasses and makes bizarre pronouncements

about the French language that a quick look at the dictionary would have proved wrong. **What is mother tongue subject** His use of "we" oscillates throughout from encompassing British people to American people to a kind of Anglo-American hybrid but there's always the underlying assumption that the English speaker who will pick this book up will be one of the two and almost certainly white. **The mother tongue book** Then there's a strong undercurrent throughout of racialising language making it reflect something both innate and straight-jacketing about those who speak non-English languages—"Orientals" for example are "inscrutable" who just can't do honest business like those straight-talkin' Anglo-Saxons. **The mother tongue arabic language center** Then there's absolute bullshit like this discussion of Australia: "When the first inhabitants of the continent arrived in Botany Bay in 1788 they found a world teeming with flora fauna and geographical features such as they had never seen. **A mother tongue level** " Among the new words the Australians devised many of them borrowed from the aborigines were..."That's some magic trick to have a land which is both entirely uninhabited when the white folks show up but which also has indigenous people living there to just offer up words for colonisers to "borrow"! Awful. **Disadvantages of mother tongue pdf** Not only did he clearly do little by way of preparatory work for discussion of the non-English words (I think I replayed his attempt at the Irish word "geimhreadh" 3 or 4 times because it was that bizarre) but also did things like repeatedly pronounce "short-lived" with the same I in "lived" as in "live music. **My mother tongue hindi essay in english** Bill Bryson's classic Mother Tongue is a highly readable and hilarious tale of how English came to be the world's language, **The mother tongue and how it got that way** He settled in England in 1977 and worked in journalism until he became a full time writer. **What is mother tongue** He lived for many years with his English wife and four children in North Yorkshire, **My mother's tongue pdf** He and his family then moved to New Hampshire in America for a few years but they have now returned to live in the UK, **What is mother tongue subject** In The Lost Continent Bill Bryson's hilarious first travel book he chronicled a trip in his mother's Chevy around small town America. **My mother's tongue pdf** It was followed by Neither Here Nor There an account of his first trip around Europe. **The scholar mother tongue ke question answer** He settled in England in 1977 and worked in journalism until he became a full time writer: **Book the mother tongue** He lived for many years with his English wife and four children in North Yorkshire: **The mother tongue book** He and his family then moved to New Hampshire in America for a few years but they have now returned to live in the UK. **The scholar's mother tongue book pdf** In The Lost Continent Bill Bryson's hilarious first travel book he chronicled a trip in his mother's Chevy around small town America: **What are the mother tongue** It was followed by Neither Here Nor There an account of his first trip around Europe. **The mother tongue by sylvia townsend warner summary** Bill Bryson has also written several highly praised books on the English language including Mother Tongue and Made in America, **The mother tongue english and how it got that way pdf** A Short History of Nearly Everything was lauded with critical acclaim and became a huge bestseller. **Definition of mother tongue pdf** It was shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize before going on to win the Aventis Prize for Science Books and the Descartes Science Communication Prize: **Who said mother tongue is the basic of all work** His next book The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid is a memoir of growing up in 1950s America featuring another appearance from his old friend Stephen Katz. **What is mother tongue subject** October 8 sees the publication of A Really Short History of Nearly Everything . **What is mother tongue subject** {site_link} Only Bill Bryson could make a book about the English language so entertaining, **Importance of mother tongue pdf notes** With his boundless enthusiasm and restless eye for the absurd which I read and reviewed in 2006: **What is mother tongue pdf** Here's my original review from 2006 preserved as an artifact of how I was wrong: Published in 1990 this book is already a little out of date, **The mother tongue of karnataka** Bryson eventually disagrees with Burchfield for many of the same reasons though he was unable to cite the internet as a factor: **A mother tongue level** In that way this book is showing its age -- the chapter on online language use is of course conspicuously absent -- but it's got the history part down, **The mother tongue and how it got that way** Bryson spends most of his time looking at how we got where we are today, **Who said mother**

tongue is the basic of all work Where English came from how it got to England where it went from there: **The scholar's mother tongue book pdf** Lack of structure aside I really enjoyed reading this and will be reading more books by Bryson in the future: **The mother tongue bryson** 270 The one thing that bothered me the most about this book was a huge error it had on swearwords in reference to my mother tongue Finnish: (p. **Disadvantages of mother tongue pdf** Swearing in my Penguin paperback:) "Some cultures don't swear at all. **The mother tongue blue mountain** (...) The Finns lacking the sort of words you need to describe your feelings when you stub your toe getting up to answer a phone at 2: **Who said mother tongue is the basic of all work** 'I mean what the hell?! We Finns have probably the world's most colourful collection of swearwords, **The mother tongue in the classroom a neglected resource** And nobody says ravintolassa unless they do in fact mean in the restaurant. **Is bisaya a mother tongue** 270 I know exactly a little bit about English and a little bit less about linguistics in general. **The mother tongue of assamese sikhs are** Studied a few foreign languages took a linguistics class or two in college: **Book the mother tongue** My problem with this book is that it gets so much right and so much wrong. **Importance of mother tongue the last lesson** The example that really set me off was his treatment of the Welsh language. **What is mother tongue subject** To Bryson Welsh is as unpronounceable as it looks and Welsh pronunciations rarely bear much relation to their spellings, **The mother tongue summary** It's not at all difficult if you bother to learn the rules which are far simpler than those of English: **Kindle the mother tongue book** (The fact that I learned them in one week and remember them decades later should be some indication of how easy they are. **The mother tongue bill bryson pdf** But Bryson's Anglo-American tin ear failed to pick that up and he took his ignorance and turned it into a cheap joke at another culture's expense: **The scholar's mother tongue book back answers** Knowing that he got Welsh so wrong made me doubt all of the rest of the information in the book, **The mother tongue dilemma** And that's a real shame because it covers such fascinating topics and it's so very entertainingly written. **Importance of mother tongue the last lesson** But it's hard to enjoy Bryson's jokes when you have this nagging suspicion that he's bending the truth for the sake of a snappy punchline. **The mother tongue of assamese sikhs are** This was the cause of the eternal chagrin of my mother who being a staunch nationalist wanted me to prefer Hindi over English. **Is bisaya a mother tongue** She recited to me a famous couplet in Malayalam which said: Other languages are merely nannies; For man the native tongue is the mother, **Book the mother tongue** I replied that in that case Malayalam is my mother and both Hindi and English are nannies, **The mother tongue by sylvia townsend warner summary** And I just happened to prefer my English nanny over my native one: **The scholar's mother tongue class 6th question answer** She had no answer to that! Well I am glad I stuck to English over Hindi because this is one crazy nanny - totally idiosyncratic and eccentric just like me, **The mother tongue and how it got that way** One thing you can be sure of - you won't be disappointed. **The mother tongue of jesus christ** This book is a linguistic historical and geographical romp through English wherein Bill tackles such varied subjects as: **Bring me the horizon mother tongue lyrics** 270 The Mother Tongue is the story of the evolution of the English language from its humble beginnings as a Germanic tongue to what it has evolved into over the centuries: **Mother tongue vs mother language** Too bad even Bill Bryson couldn't make this terribly entertaining, **Book the mother tongue** I have a long history as the obscure facts guy at social gatherings at least I did when people still invited me to such things, **The mother tongue and how it got that way** However even I had trouble sticking with this one at times. **The mother tongue blue mountain** Old Bill is in fine form cracking wise and still being informative at every opportunity. **Mother tongue sentence** He didn't get much in the way of interesting material to work with in this case, **What is mother tongue subject** I did enjoy the chapter on swearing as well as numerous tidbits or titbits as they were called in a less prudish era that peppered the other chapters, **My mother tongue is** Too bad the gems were scarce and some of the reading resembled the back-breaking labor involved in mining. **Concept of mother tongue pdf** While I found the book informative and mildly amusing at the end of the day it's still a book about the history of words, **What is mother tongue pdf** Even one of the funnier travel writers alive can't

make chicken salad from chicken feathers in this case: **Is bisaya a mother tongue** 270



Sorry Mr Bryson but as a historical linguist of English myself I cannot take this book seriously, **The mother tongue nonfiction pdf** There are simply too many mistakes that have no place in a well-researched book. **The mother tongue book 1** The history of English is not something you learn from reading one textbook; there is a lot of ongoing research and debate: **The mother tongue of karnataka** And most of your sources are a decade or two out of date even for 1991. **What is mother tongue subject** Get your facts straight and publish a revised edition is the best advice I can give you, **What is mother tongue pdf** And as for my fellow readers: buy David Crystal's *The Stories of English* instead, **The mother tongue and how it got that way** I love words and languages and have a passing interest in linguistics. **What is mother tongue subject** I started this with enthusiasm and was enjoying his breezy style until it occurred to me that a lot of what he was saying seemed to be anecdotal: **Kindle the mother tongue pdf** To them there is crunchy snow soft snow fresh snow and old snow but no word that just means snow, **Book the mother tongue** "There's a wealth of articles about this half-truth (I'm being generous): **The mother tongue in french** So how many grains of salt would I need to swallow the declaration that immediately followed? An unhealthy amount I'm sure, **The scholars mother tongue class 4** "The Italians as we might expect have over 500 names for different types of macaroni, **The mother tongue summary** "He goes on to say these include "spaghetti and vermicelli. **The mother tongue of karnataka** Then he got into some languages I have a smattering of myself - French and German—and I began questioning, **The mother tongue summary** Some of it just sounded wrong like the quote from an article that says most speakers of other languages aren't aware there is such a thing as a thesaurus. **The scholars mother tongue pdf** At this point I decided I'd read some reviews to see if anyone who knows more than I do felt the same way. **The scholar's mother tongue book back answers** You can check the low-rating reviews on Amazon that actually discuss the many factual errors, **Mother tongue vs mother language** I stopped reading thinking I might accidentally absorb some of the facts and perpetuate them myself! How disappointing, **The mother tongue and language of business must be the same** For example claiming that the German preposition/suffix *auf* is unusual among foreign words in that it has more than one meaning, **What is mother tongue pdf** anyone who has spent any time learning a language will tell you that all of them have words with dozens of meanings (Except maybe Esperanto?), **What is mother tongue subject** That's just how prepositions are! They don't translate! The first chapter of this book has so many mistakes that I couldn't finish it, **What is mother tongue pdf** If you read the credits at the back you'll see that he only consulted newspapers and magazines and did no real research. **The scholar's mother tongue book back answers** I can't go through all the mistakes I really don't have the time there are just too many: **The mother tongue epub download** If it continues in this way then this is a work of complete and utter fiction, **Mother of tongue flower** 270 Where to begin? *The Mother Tongue* is a book which is not merely not good: it is maddeningly terrible riddled with factual errors and utterly lacking in self-awareness, **Nonfiction the mother tongue book** Bryson repeatedly shows that he doesn't understand what he's talking about when it comes to the English language. **The mother tongue book 1** What we've got is a use of related ideas in order to create a broader overlapping concept.

The mother tongue arabic language center He generally shows a confused understanding of a lot of grammatical concepts/parts of speech and is inconsistent in his conception of the relationship of spelling to spoken language. **The mother tongue of assamese sikhs are** His discussion of Irish and Hiberno-English was full of mistakes and condescension, **The mother tongue and how it got that way** (And the clue is right there in the term 'Latin alphabet' that it wasn't originally crafted for use by English speakers either. **The mother tongue explain**)(Also Irish and Welsh orthography is far more internally consistent than is that of English—but Bryson only allows the features of English to be virtues: **The mother tongue kindle download** "We naturally lament the decline of these languages but it's not an altogether undiluted tragedy. **My mother tongue composition** Bryson's clearly lived in England long enough to have imbibed the British combativeness towards the French, **The mother tongue explain** (The French don't have the breadth of vocabulary to distinguish between "man" and "gentleman" the way English speakers do proclaims Bryson: **The mother tongue restaurant** "Homme" and "gentilhomme"? They can't distinguish between "mind" and "brain"! Uh "esprit" and "cerveau"?)And then there's the racism: **Father tongue vs mother tongue** He refers to Spanish as an "immigrant" language to the U, **The mother tongue of karnataka** in comparison to English when there have been Spanish speakers in what is now the U: **Bring me the horizon mother tongue lyrics** for longer than there have been English speakers I'm pretty sure: **The scholar's mother tongue book pdf** "It is probably not too much to say" wrote Otto Jespersen "that there never was an instance in history when so many new names were needed, **The scholar's mother tongue class 4 worksheet** I'm now retrospectively mad five years later that I once attended a talk by this man. **Is bisaya a mother tongue** " 270 What a hilarious fascinating and educational look at our wacky wonderful and WAY complicated language: **The scholar's mother tongue book pdf** If English is your mother tongue this book will amaze and amuse you with interesting tidbits about just how our language evolved into the wonder it is. **Mother tongue examples** If you had to learn English as a second language (and more power to you) then bless your heart for taking on the task, **Mother of tongue flower** You will read this book and say YES absolutely I always wondered, **My mother tongue composition** Bill Bryson turns his sharp-eyes to The Mother Tongue and takes us all on a fabulous journey through and overview of the intricacies of human language: **What are the mother tongue** You will laugh smile and learn a few things while you're at it!!! 270.

[1]

This is his astonishing tour of English. In his last book he turned his attention to science. I don't read or recommend his books anymore. 210 Ch.00 a.m. rather oddly adopted the word "ravintolassa." It means 'in the restaurant. Someone pulled old Bill's leg and did it properly too. That casts doubt on all he has written really. I'm what you might call a big fan of language. A dabbler. Certainly not an expert. But boy did I find this book infuriating. The problem is he's completely wrong. It is always pronounced just like it's spelled. For that don't come to old Bill. The origin and spread of English². The evolution of words³. Pronunciation⁴. Spelling⁵. The varieties of English both inside the UK and outside⁶. Dictionaries and their producers⁷. Where names come from⁸. Profanity⁹. Wordplay. and much more. There is not a single boring sentence. You are guaranteed to be snickering throughout. So Bill Bryson + cheap equals insta-buy for me apparently. The book was not without its moments however. 2.5 out of 5. Far better researched and just as entertaining. 270 1□ (DNF) I thought this would be fun. You know limited or no research. Here's one <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca>." He obviously means types of pasta. Sadly there are a lot. One star for the writing. Almost every sentence has a mistake. It is a collage of newspaper clippings. S.S. Awful. Avoid. The audiobook narrator was also bad. etc