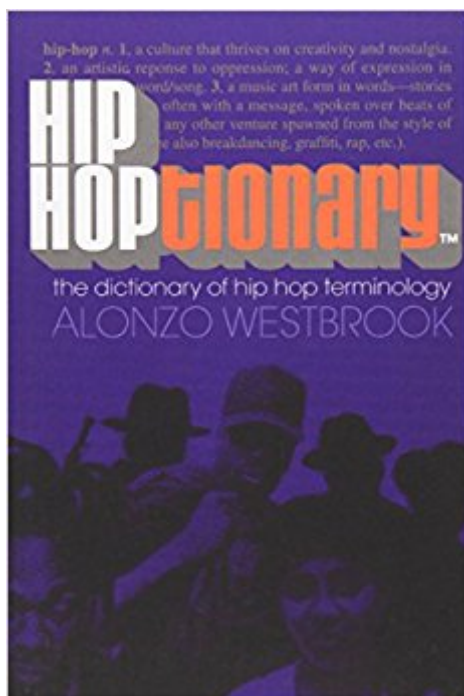


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# Hip Hoptionary TM: The Dictionary Of Hip Hop Terminology



## Synopsis

The bumpin' book for hip-hop disciples (a.k.a. fiends), songwriters, all other writers, pop culture fans, linguists, and parents who are just trying to figure out what their kids are saying. The inventive sounds of hip-hop (which became America's number two music genre in 2001, outselling country) have echoed far from their Bronx beginnings of twenty years ago. Making its way from Compton sidewalks to suburban malls, garnering commentary from The Wall Street Journal alongside Vibe, hip-hop by definition delivers its messages in the most creative language possible. Celebrating hip-hop's boon to the realm of self-expression, Hip Hoptionary translates dozens of phrases like "marinating in the rizzi with your road dawg" (relaxing in your car with your friend), including: Big bodies: SUVs or luxury vehicles Government handle: registered birth name 411: the latest scoop or information Bling-bling: diamonds, big money, flash and cash Brick City: Newark, New Jersey 1812: war, fight (as in War of 1812) In addition to the lexicon of idioms and beeper codes, Hip Hoptionary also features lists of hip-hop fashion labels, books, mixed drinks, and brief bios of America's famous rappers, making this the ultimate guide for a Double H (hip-hop) nation.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Three Rivers Press; 1 Reprint edition (October 15, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0767909240

ISBN-13: 978-0767909242

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #329,138 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #139 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Rap #361 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Music #463 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Reference

## Customer Reviews

Adult/High School-This useful source of definitions for contemporary urban slang also contains plenty of old-fashioned words and phrases that predate hip-hop culture by decades. Some examples of the latter include "ego-trippin," "grapevine," "cancer sticks," and "wallflowers." For

readers who are unfamiliar with hip-hop icons and artists, this book provides quick and convenient biographical sketches in alphabetical order of singers, rappers, and others. A list of standard English terms translated into "Slanguage" follows the main body of definitions. Next comes "Folk in the Know," an alphabetical list of pop- and hip-hop-related celebrities. However, this list does not include definitions or biographical information, and therefore its purpose is not clear. Overall, the book can be fun and informative-especially for students studying English as a second language. Native speakers of English who are isolated from hip-hop culture, yet want to better understand rap, R & B, and other black-youth-oriented art and media, will also enjoy this book. Joyce Fay Fletcher, Rippon Middle School, Prince William County, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Aiming to create a work that "capture[s] the language and preserve[s] the culture of hip-hop, [while also serving] as a tool for education," New York City-based journalist Westbrook here offers a "hoptionary" defining roughly 2500 terms. The book is divided into three sections: slang to standard English, standard English to slang (both thumb-indexed), and a list of hip-hop artists. While there is a need for a well-written reference on hip-hop, this book does not fit the bill. Numerous spelling errors appearing throughout the final proof include "Introductory," "tims," "permance," "omone," and "Fflorida." Many of these errors are close enough to the correct spelling for the reader to guess the intended word, but some apparent errors add to the reader's puzzlement. For instance, "waze out" is defined as "syke," a word this reviewer was unable to define even after checking two standard dictionaries, two slang dictionaries, [www. dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com), [www.1000dictionaries.com](http://www.1000dictionaries.com), and several of the web sites listed on page 69 and talking to some teens familiar with hip-hop. Searching for phrases is hampered by the pagination, which is limited to odd numbers found on the right-hand pages, and the cross-referencing is inconsistent. For instance, "smell me" is cross-referenced to "feed me," a phrase that does not appear in the dictionary. In addition, of the 24 hip-hop web sites listed, two were inaccessible. Finally, the author's selection criteria are unclear, as many of the words found here can also be found in one or more of the established dictionaries with the same definitions. Examples include "B.E.T.," "wallflowers," "copyright," "cronies," "hot flashes," "young'uns," "coochie," and "swag," which this reviewer checked against The Random House Dictionary of the English Language (1987. 2d ed. unabridged), The American Heritage Concise Dictionary (Houghton, 1994. 3d ed.), The New Dictionary of American Slang (1986), and A Concise Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (1989). Of limited use, this book is further restricted by its seeming to address the black community only, though hip-hop culture crosses color and ethnic lines. Not recommended. Laurie Selwyn, Grayson Cty. Law Lib., Sherman, TX Copyright 2002

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This book is filled with old slang (mostly stuff used in 1998 -2001).I swear, most of the stuff in here is filled with terms my parents use on the daily bases, because it's out of date. . . -\_-If you buy it, know your buying a history book or something.

This book is a must have if you want to understand youth today. The Author is right on....

Perched atop every person's bookshelves should rest Joyce's "Ulysses", Doestoevsky's "The Brothers Karamazov", and Alonzo Westbrook's "Hip Hoptionary". It provides an excellent introduction to hip hop terms and expressions since the genre's inception, along with brief capsules of influential artists and a (quite handy) English to Hip Hop reverse lookup.I do have two minor complaints (or suggestions for the 2nd edition). First point: Westbrook should try delving more into the etymological aspects of hip hop. Sometimes the origins of expressions are many times more interesting than the words themselves. For example, I did not realize that the word "nino", meaning "crime boss", hails from "New Jack City" - all this time, I figured it had only to do with weather phenomena. Second point: an extra section of conversational hip hop (outside of sample sentences, which merely show context) would be great! These additions would easily make the book twice as thick; help preserve older, more obscure terminology; and make Hip Hoptionary feel less like it had been almost produced in a cultural vacuum (which presently belies the tremendous amount of research Westbrook has done.) 4 stars

I bought this Book, as I heard KRS1 gave an advise on it.As I holded it in my Hands I promptly thought thats too small for all tha Words. When I opened it first I was first totaly irritated. 9-10 words for the Letter "W" ?And some of the Words don't lead to another ?And that less Words ?I guess most of the 1 Star raters did'nt got what the author wanted to show, anyhow if the Words can be interpretated in another spell or sense, it gives rich and vital Information about some of tha most important Words in the whole Worldwide HipHop-Culture.Could you complete it ?part won digga.My Mention : I'm a German and I should need it. And tha short delivery Time was greatly.

I have a 14 year old white daughter who is into hip hop, and quite frankly I can't relate to her. (Ok, maybe when i grew up in e 70's with Wayne Newton and the Carpenters, being "phat" was being a bit on the pudgy side!) At any rate, I can't understand anything that my angel says, so I

figured...."What the heck", I'll purchase this lexicon and ultimately get back into the good graces of my first born. Well, did I ever!!!! We're starting our own hip hop band called "Allison and the fat, bald father", and let me tell you, I won't be the only "phat" part of this equation. We're already counting the dead presidents!!!! Thanks Alonzo for bringing my little girl back to me.

Disregarding word type (you know -- noun, verb, adjective, and whatnot), full of errors, misspellings, and antiquated expressions, this book is easily the worst hip-hop cash-in I've ever seen. Herein you will find many superfluous definitions of pre-hip-hop parlance such as 'boob tube,' 'nips,' ('Asians: offensive') and 'ticked off.' Absent are such basic expressions as 'acting the fool,' 'be-be kids,' and 'big up.' In just one of many appalling errors, the book defines 'baby daddy' as 'the mother of a man's child.' Avoid!

I highly recommend this book to scholars, parents, and students. From the very beginning of the intro, Westbrook draws you into "the flowering of Negro expression". Turning our attention to our ancestors, which used slave songs to communicate messages, explaining rap is continuing to do the same. It's play on words are in your face, raw and real. As a result, has brought different cultures together to blend and mix. This book brings it all together.

This book "translates" supposed hip hop lingo into middle American English and vice versa. But there were several racist slang terms included in this book simply for the sake of including them. Asian is defined as "Nip." Arabs are defined as "Camel Jockey." Whites are "Crackers, honkeys," etc. First of all, why are these racist terms included? Second, no one in hip hop even calls Asians "nips." Biggie Smalls (Notorious B.I.G.) called us "chink" and the word "chinky-eyed" is used, but "nips" is not used, even by the loud racist rappers who would spit on us. The Hiphooptionary reveals its intrinsic racism when it defines Black as "nigger (offensive)" The parenthetical was added to the definition to tell people that this word is offensive. Why wasn't the same parenthetical added to the definition of "Asian?" "Nip," after all, is a terribly offensive term, and so are some of the other words used in this racist book. Hip hop is not about racism. I love hip hop, but I hate racism. You should [not buy this book]. Irwin Tang, writer.

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Guide to Fix Tight Hip Flexors and Cure Tight Hips Life! (hip flexors, hip pain, hip flexor stretches, hip flexor, hip pain relief, hip joint pain, hips) Hip Hop: A Short History (Hip Hop) (Hip Hop (Mason Crest Paperback)) Tight Hip Flexors: The 7 Minute Tight Hip Solution: Simple and Effective Movements That Quickly Release Tight Hip Flexors And Reduce Hip Pain (Hip replacement ... mobility exercises, hip flexor exercises) The Hip Hop Wars: What We Talk About When We Talk About Hip Hop--and Why It Matters It's Bigger Than Hip Hop: The Rise of the Post-Hip-Hop Generation B-Boys: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop (Volume 2) Graffiti: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop Book 4) DJs: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop Book 1) MCs: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop Book 3) Hip-Hop Dance (Hip-Hop Insider) It's a Hip Hop Hip Hop World For Every B-Boy and B-Girl: Children's Book It's A Hip Hop Hip Hop World For Every B-Boy and B-Girl: African American Children's Book MCs: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop) (Volume 4) The Men of Hip-Hop (Hip-Hop Insider) Eminem (Hip Hop) (Hip Hop (Mason Crest Paperback)) Dr. Dre (Hip Hop) (Hip Hop (Mason Crest Paperback)) Eminem (Hip-Hop Stars) (Hip-Hop Stars (Hardcover)) Hip-Hop: A Short History (Superstars of Hip-Hop)

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