

jamaican dictionary

jamaican dictionary is an essential resource for anyone interested in understanding the vibrant and expressive language of Jamaica. More than just a collection of words, a Jamaican dictionary offers insights into the culture, history, and daily life of Jamaicans. This article explores what makes a Jamaican dictionary unique, the structure and features of Jamaican Patois, common phrases, and how to use these tools for learning and communication. Readers will discover the importance of Jamaican slang, the evolution of the language, and practical tips for navigating Jamaican expressions. Whether you're a language enthusiast, traveler, educator, or simply curious about Jamaican culture, this comprehensive guide will equip you with the knowledge to better appreciate and use a Jamaican dictionary. The following sections provide a detailed overview, ensuring a thorough understanding of this fascinating linguistic treasure.

- Understanding Jamaican Language and Patois
- The Importance of a Jamaican Dictionary
- Key Features of Jamaican Dictionaries
- Common Jamaican Words and Phrases
- Jamaican Slang and Expressions
- Using a Jamaican Dictionary for Learning
- Tips for Navigating Jamaican Dictionaries
- The Evolution of Jamaican Language
- Frequently Asked Questions

Understanding Jamaican Language and Patois

Jamaican language is a dynamic blend of linguistic influences, shaped by the island's rich history and diverse population. The official language of Jamaica is English, but Jamaican Patois—also known as Jamaican Creole—is widely spoken throughout the country. Jamaican Patois evolved as a unique language, combining elements from English, African languages, Spanish, Portuguese, and indigenous tongues. This linguistic fusion reflects the complex social and historical factors that have influenced Jamaica over centuries.

Jamaican Patois is known for its distinctive pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. Unlike standard English, it employs a simplified grammatical structure and often uses words and phrases that are unfamiliar to outsiders. Understanding Jamaican Patois is key

to appreciating the island's culture, music, and everyday interactions.

The Importance of a Jamaican Dictionary

A Jamaican dictionary serves as a valuable tool for bridging the gap between Jamaican Patois and English. For non-native speakers, tourists, and even Jamaicans living abroad, a Jamaican dictionary provides the means to decode unfamiliar words and expressions. It plays a crucial role in preserving the language, supporting education, and promoting cross-cultural understanding.

By documenting Jamaican words, idioms, and slang, dictionaries help to maintain the integrity and richness of the language. They offer guidance on pronunciation, meaning, and usage, making Jamaican Patois more accessible to a global audience. Whether in print or digital form, Jamaican dictionaries are essential for anyone seeking to communicate effectively in Jamaica or with Jamaican communities worldwide.

Key Features of Jamaican Dictionaries

Comprehensive Word Listings

Most Jamaican dictionaries include extensive lists of words and phrases used in everyday conversation. These entries cover standard vocabulary, slang, idioms, and proverbs unique to Jamaican culture. Definitions are provided alongside phonetic spellings to aid pronunciation.

Pronunciation Guides

Given the differences between Jamaican Patois and English, pronunciation guides are a vital feature. Jamaican dictionaries often use simplified phonetic symbols or audio references to help users master the correct way to say each word.

Cultural Context

Understanding the meaning of Jamaican words often requires knowledge of the cultural context. Many dictionaries include background information, usage examples, and notes on how certain terms reflect Jamaican traditions, values, or humor.

Grammar and Syntax

Some Jamaican dictionaries offer explanations of grammatical rules and syntax differences between English and Jamaican Patois. This helps learners construct sentences and communicate more effectively.

- Word definitions with cultural notes
- Examples of usage in sentences
- Phonetic spelling for pronunciation
- Synonyms and related expressions
- Historical origins of words

Common Jamaican Words and Phrases

Everyday Vocabulary

Jamaican dictionaries feature many commonly used words that form the backbone of daily communication. These include greetings, farewells, and expressions of gratitude. Some popular examples are:

- Wah gwaan – What’s going on?
- Irie – Good, nice, or feeling positive
- Mi deh yah – I’m here / I’m doing fine
- Yah man – Yes / Of course
- Big up – Respect / Congratulations

Idiomatic Expressions

Jamaican Patois is rich in idiomatic expressions that convey humor, wisdom, or cultural values. Dictionaries provide explanations for phrases like “Soon come” (something will happen soon, but not right away) and “No problem, man” (everything is fine).

Proverbs and Sayings

Traditional Jamaican proverbs are included in many dictionaries, offering insights into the island’s philosophy and way of life. These sayings often reflect resilience, optimism, and a playful attitude.

Jamaican Slang and Expressions

Popular Slang Terms

Jamaican slang is an integral part of the language, especially among younger generations. These terms are frequently updated and reflect trends in music, fashion, and social life. Some examples include:

- Bredren – Friend (male)
- Sistren – Friend (female)
- Bashment – Party or celebration
- Raas – An exclamation of surprise or annoyance
- Fyah – Something impressive or exciting

Expressions in Music and Media

Reggae, dancehall, and other Jamaican music genres often incorporate slang and expressions found in dictionaries. These terms have become popular worldwide, influencing language and culture far beyond Jamaica's borders.

Regional Variations

Jamaican slang can vary by region, with different areas using unique words or pronunciations. Dictionaries sometimes include notes on regional differences, helping users navigate the diversity of Jamaican language.

Using a Jamaican Dictionary for Learning

For Language Learners

Students of Jamaican Patois or visitors to Jamaica benefit greatly from using a Jamaican dictionary. It aids in expanding vocabulary, improving pronunciation, and understanding cultural nuances. Most dictionaries are organized alphabetically, making it easy to find specific words or phrases.

For Teachers and Researchers

Educators and linguists use Jamaican dictionaries to study the development of language, teach Patois in classrooms, and document new slang. This supports the preservation of Jamaican language and culture for future generations.

For Travelers and Expats

Travelers and expatriates rely on dictionaries to navigate everyday situations, from ordering food to making friends. They provide practical guidance for communicating in markets, restaurants, and social settings.

Tips for Navigating Jamaican Dictionaries

Choose the Right Type

There are several types of Jamaican dictionaries, including print, online, and mobile app versions. Select the format that best suits your needs and learning style. Digital dictionaries often offer audio pronunciations and interactive features.

Understand Context

Always consider the context in which a word or phrase is used. Jamaican expressions may have multiple meanings depending on tone, situation, or relationship between speakers. Refer to example sentences for clarity.

Practice Regularly

Consistent practice is key to mastering Jamaican Patois. Use your dictionary daily, listen to Jamaican music, and engage with native speakers to reinforce your learning.

1. Start with basic greetings and phrases
2. Read example sentences aloud
3. Listen to native speakers for pronunciation
4. Note slang and idioms for casual conversation
5. Explore regional variations for deeper understanding

The Evolution of Jamaican Language

Historical Influences

Jamaican language has evolved over centuries, shaped by colonization, migration, and cultural exchange. African languages contributed significantly to the development of Patois, while English provided the structural foundation. Spanish, Portuguese, and indigenous influences are also present.

Modern Trends

Today, Jamaican Patois continues to grow and change, influenced by globalization, media, and technology. New words and expressions are regularly added, reflecting the creativity and adaptability of Jamaican speakers.

Preservation Efforts

Linguists and educators are actively working to document and preserve Jamaican language. Dictionaries play a central role in these efforts, ensuring that future generations can learn and share Jamaican Patois.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a Jamaican dictionary?

A: A Jamaican dictionary is a reference book or resource that lists words, phrases, and expressions used in Jamaican Patois, providing definitions, pronunciation guides, and cultural context.

Q: Why is Jamaican Patois different from English?

A: Jamaican Patois developed from a mix of English and African languages, along with influences from Spanish, Portuguese, and indigenous tongues, resulting in a unique grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

Q: How can I learn Jamaican slang using a dictionary?

A: Use a Jamaican dictionary to find popular slang terms, read example sentences, and listen to native speakers for proper pronunciation and context.

Q: Are Jamaican dictionaries available online?

A: Yes, many Jamaican dictionaries are available online and as mobile apps, offering interactive features, audio pronunciation, and regular updates.

Q: What are some commonly used Jamaican phrases?

A: Common phrases include “Wah gwaan” (What’s going on?), “Irie” (Good or nice), “Mi deh yah” (I’m here), and “Big up” (Respect).

Q: Can Jamaican Patois be written, or is it only spoken?

A: Jamaican Patois can be both spoken and written. Dictionaries often provide guidance on standardized spelling and grammar for written communication.

Q: How do Jamaican dictionaries help preserve culture?

A: By documenting words, idioms, and proverbs, Jamaican dictionaries help preserve the language and cultural heritage for future generations.

Q: Do Jamaican dictionaries include proverbs and sayings?

A: Yes, many dictionaries feature traditional Jamaican proverbs and sayings, offering insights into the island’s values and beliefs.

Q: Are there different types of Jamaican dictionaries?

A: Jamaican dictionaries come in print, online, and app formats, and may focus on general vocabulary, slang, or specialized topics.

Q: Is Jamaican Patois recognized as an official language?

A: While English is Jamaica’s official language, Jamaican Patois is widely spoken and increasingly recognized as an important part of the island’s linguistic identity.

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Unlock the Island's Tongue: Your Guide to the Ultimate Jamaican Dictionary

Are you planning a trip to the vibrant island of Jamaica? Or perhaps you're a language enthusiast fascinated by the rich Patois spoken there? Whatever your reason, understanding Jamaican English, often called Patois (though linguistically it's a creole), is key to truly experiencing the culture. This comprehensive guide serves as your ultimate companion, exploring the nuances of a Jamaican dictionary and the resources available to help you navigate this fascinating language. We'll delve into why a dedicated Jamaican dictionary is crucial, explore various resources, and offer tips for effectively learning and using this unique dialect. Get ready to unlock the island's tongue!

Why a Dedicated Jamaican Dictionary is Essential

Understanding Jamaican Patois isn't just about deciphering words; it's about grasping the cultural context interwoven within the language. A standard English dictionary simply won't suffice. Why? Because Jamaican Patois incorporates a unique blend of English, African languages, and Spanish, resulting in a lexicon and grammar distinct from Standard English. A dedicated Jamaican dictionary offers several crucial advantages:

Accurate Translations: It provides precise translations, considering the nuances and idiomatic expressions that often get lost in general dictionaries.

Contextual Understanding: It helps you understand the cultural connotations associated with specific words and phrases, enhancing your comprehension.

Improved Communication: It empowers you to engage more effectively with locals, enriching your travel experience and fostering deeper connections.

Preservation of Culture: Using a Jamaican dictionary helps preserve and celebrate the rich linguistic heritage of the island.

Exploring Different Types of Jamaican Dictionaries

The world of Jamaican language resources isn't limited to just one type of dictionary. You'll find various options, each with its strengths:

1. Printed Dictionaries:

These offer a tangible, offline reference point. Look for dictionaries that provide comprehensive word entries, including pronunciation guides (using International Phonetic Alphabet - IPA - is ideal) and detailed definitions. However, printed dictionaries can be limited in scope and may not always

include the latest slang or colloquialisms.

2. Online Jamaican Dictionaries:

These offer unparalleled accessibility and often incorporate audio pronunciations, making learning significantly easier. Many online dictionaries are constantly updated, incorporating new words and phrases. However, the quality can vary greatly, so it's crucial to choose reputable sources.

3. Bilingual Dictionaries (e.g., English-Jamaican Patois):

These are particularly useful for learners of Jamaican Creole. They provide direct translations between English and Patois, making the learning process more intuitive.

4. Specialized Dictionaries:

Some dictionaries focus on specific aspects of Jamaican Patois, like slang, proverbs, or regional variations. These can be invaluable for deepening your understanding of specific linguistic aspects.

Tips for Effective Use of a Jamaican Dictionary

Using a Jamaican dictionary effectively requires more than just looking up words. Here are some key strategies:

Understand the Context: Always consider the surrounding words and phrases to understand the intended meaning. The same word can have different connotations depending on context.

Pay Attention to Pronunciation: Jamaican Patois has its own unique pronunciation patterns. Utilize dictionaries with audio pronunciations to master the sounds.

Embrace the Idioms: Jamaican Patois is rich in colourful idioms and expressions. Learn these to enhance your fluency and understanding of the culture.

Learn the Grammar: While often simplified, Jamaican Patois has its own grammatical structures. Learning these will significantly improve your comprehension.

Immerse Yourself: The best way to master any language is through immersion. Listen to Jamaican music, watch Jamaican films, and interact with native speakers whenever possible.

Finding Reputable Jamaican Dictionary Resources

Finding a trustworthy Jamaican dictionary is crucial. Look for dictionaries published by reputable academic institutions or linguists specializing in Jamaican Creole. Online, check reviews and ensure the dictionary is regularly updated and maintained. Avoid resources that seem outdated or lack clear definitions and pronunciation guides.

Conclusion

Mastering Jamaican Patois opens doors to a deeper appreciation of Jamaican culture and its vibrant people. Using a dedicated Jamaican dictionary is an indispensable step in this journey. Whether you choose a printed version, an online resource, or a combination of both, equip yourself with the right tools to navigate this fascinating language and unlock the true essence of Jamaica.

FAQs

1. Is Jamaican Patois a language or a dialect? Linguistically, it's considered a creole, a language that develops from the mixing of different languages.
2. Are all Jamaican dictionaries the same? No, they vary in their comprehensiveness, accuracy, and the inclusion of features like audio pronunciations.
3. Where can I find free online Jamaican dictionaries? Several websites offer free online Jamaican dictionaries, but always check their credibility and accuracy before relying on them.
4. How can I improve my pronunciation of Jamaican Patois? Listen to native speakers, use dictionaries with audio pronunciations, and practice speaking with locals.
5. Is it necessary to learn Patois to visit Jamaica? While not strictly necessary, learning some basic Patois will significantly enhance your travel experience and interactions with locals.

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jamaican dictionary: *Jamaicasaurus* Joseph Farquharson, Byron Jones, Anton Wilson-Shim, Julie Malcolm, Larry Chang, Eric Rosenfeld, 2018-06-19 This book functions as both a translation dictionary and a thesaurus. With 3,781 entries and 14,000 translations and synonyms, it is not only the first translation dictionary to go from English to Jamaican Creole (Patois), but also the first book that can function as a Jamaican thesaurus. The *Jamaicasaurus* is thus an essential resource for anyone interested in Jamaican culture and language, whether local or foreigner, as it marks a new milestone for this dialect of increasing global interest while also serving native speakers searching for alternate words and expressions, recent slang, and old terms from the past. To use this book as a thesaurus, simply look up the English equivalent of the Jamaican word or phrase you have in mind to see the various Jamaican synonyms listed. The appendix at the back of the book additionally features lists of Jamaican expletives and exclamations, from mild to vulgar; odd curiosities; and the local

Jamaican names for 278 important species of plants and trees used in Jamaica for food, medicine, and cultural purposes (listed by scientific name first). Furthermore, and quite importantly, the *Jamaicasaurus* bridges the gap between the common English-based way of writing Patois words and the Cassidy-JLU (or 'Jamiekan') system developed by Jamaican linguists to more consistently and accurately represent how those words really sound. This version of the book uses that latter format, the Jamiekan format. It's easy to learn and worth trying. Another edition of the *Jamaicasaurus*, featuring common English-based spellings, is also available. It has a black cover.

jamaican dictionary: A-Z of Jamaican Patois (Patwah) Teresa P. Blair, 2013-07-30 After it was known that Jamaican natives failed interviews that were conducted in patois, the writer decided that it was time to awaken Patois. This book was written to inform readers that Patois is a written language which can be learned and spoken like any other language. The words and phrases in this book, originated from English, African, and Creole, and can be heard wherever Jamaican natives reside.

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jamaican dictionary: Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage Richard Allsopp, Jeannette Allsopp, 2003 This remarkable new dictionary represents the first attempt in some four centuries to record the state of development of English as used across the entire Caribbean region.

jamaican dictionary: The Jamaican Dictionary Ray Chen, 1994

jamaican dictionary: The Official Dancehall Dictionary Chester Francis-Jackson, 2002 With the emergence of Dancehall music on the world,scene, the language which accompanies it has,gained wide exposure. Many who hear and sometimes,use these words may not be fully aware of their,meanings. Now, a learned source records his deep,understanding of the expressions, providing their,English equivalents and very often their usage in,context. Including a history of the Dancehall,scene and a brief guide to Jamaican patois, this,dictionary will prove a revelation of Dancehall,culture for the uninitiated. Illustrated.

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jamaican dictionary: Understanding Jamaican Patois L. Emilie Adams, Llewelyn Adams, 1991

jamaican dictionary: Collins Jamaican School Dictionary Collins Dictionaries, 2017-04-20 The home of trusted Jamaican dictionaries and thesauruses for school use. Collins Jamaican School Dictionary has been specially developed in association with teachers in Jamaica to ensure it meets the needs of students in Jamaican schools. This dictionary - which is fully up to date - provides coverage of vocabulary from all curriculum subjects to ensure students have the language they need at their fingertips. It provides guidance on grammar and punctuation, and includes a guide to spelling that covers key spelling rules, guidance on commonly confused and misspelled words and help with learning how to spell. The social studies section provides essential information on the world around us, with key facts and maps.

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jamaican dictionary: Jamaicasaurus Eric Rose, 2018-06-19 With 3,278 entries and over 13,500 translations and synonyms, the *Jamaicasaurus* functions as both the only thesaurus of the Jamaican Patois dialect and also as the only English-to-Jamaican translation dictionary. It is thus an essential resource for anyone interested in Jamaican culture and language, whether local or

foreigner, as it marks a new milestone for Jamaican as a language of increasing global interest while also serving native speakers searching for alternate words and expressions, recent slang, and older terms. Each English entry in the *Jamaicasaurus* gives as many Jamaican translations as possible. Therefore, to use this book as a thesaurus, simply look up the English equivalent of the Jamaican word or phrase you have in mind and you will see the various Jamaican synonyms for it listed there. The appendix at the back of the book additionally features extensive lists of Jamaican expletives and exclamations; odd curiosities; and the Jamaican names for 278 important species of plants and trees used in Jamaica for food, medicine, and cultural purposes (listed by scientific name first). Also quite importantly, *Jamaicasaurus* bridges the gap between the common English-based way of spelling Jamaican words and the Cassidy-JLU system being preferred by linguists and many others. This edition of the book displays Jamaican words in the common English-based spelling format, but it also incorporates the Cassidy-JLU format for sample sentences where they occur. A Jamaican Edition featuring exclusively the Cassidy-JLU spelling format is also available.

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jamaican dictionary: Original Jamaican) Dancehall Dictionary Joan Williams, Shawn Grant, 2014-02-02 As Jamaican reggae/dancehall music has become very dominant in our culture, artists play a huge role in the development of our language, known as patois, as they are constantly coining words and phrases that baffle even older Jamaicans and certainly foreigners. So as people worldwide swing to our music and Jamaica is a well-known tourism destination in the Caribbean, since most Jamaicans do not automatically speak English but only when required, this dictionary is critical to travellers as well music lovers. This is 6th edition of the Original Dancehall Dictionary, a publication which since 1993, has been doing an invaluable job in helping the world understand our language and the cartoons not only assist in the translation but also they add to the hilarity of the publication.

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served as the principal way of communication between the slaves. This communication was very essential as the islands had many small plantations, and the slaves were from different parts of Africa with multiple tribal languages. However, even before the Africans were brought to the islands, there were English, Irish, Spanish and Dutch slaves who became slave-drivers of the Africans and taught them enough of their respective languages to enable some form of communication.

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jamaican dictionary: LMH Official Dictionary of Popular Jamaican Phrases L. Mike Henry, 2002 As Jamaica expands its reach into the world and the interest into its culture and history grows, more and more people have asked for a series of titles that are a quick capsule of Jamaica's everyday lifestyle. Here then are a series of dictionaries that capture the colour and style of everyday Jamaican life. Following in the footsteps of the popular and fun Jamaican Dancehall Dictionary, this is a humorous, illustrated guide to popular Jamaican phrases.

jamaican dictionary: Jamaican Patois Cuffe, 2022-01-31 It's been said that Jamaica is the heartbeat of the world. How can such a tiny island in the Caribbean give the world some of the best music, the best food, amazing beaches and some of the fastest athletes humanity has ever seen? Not to mention our accent and the way we talk, that everyone loves, but few understand. In this book lies the key to learning the language of Jamaica in easy to understand stories and instruction for the average lay person. Here's the best part, if you're fluent in the English language, you're more than halfway there. The experienced author brings a different spin on learning Jamaican Patois that gets you understanding the language extremely fast without the need for memorization and repetitious drills. Inside you'll find all the tools to have you speaking Jamaican Patois in record speed. Unlock the entire experience that is the Jamaican Culture.

jamaican dictionary: Songs of Jamaica Claude McKay, 2021-05-28 Songs of Jamaica (1912) is a poetry collection by Claude McKay. Published before the poet left Jamaica for the United States, Songs of Jamaica is a pioneering collection of verse written in Jamaican Patois, the first of its kind. As a committed leftist, McKay was a keen observer of the Black experience in the Caribbean, the American South, and later in New York, where he gained a reputation during the Harlem Renaissance for celebrating the resilience and cultural achievement of the African American

community while lamenting the poverty and violence they faced every day. "Quashie to Buccra," the opening poem, frames this schism in terms of labor, as one class labors to fulfill the desires of another: "You tas'e petater an' you say it sweet, / But you no know how hard we wuk fe it; / You want a basketful fe quattiewut, / 'Cause you no know how 'tiff de bush fe cut." Addressing himself to a white audience, he exposes the schism inherent to colonial society between white and black, rich and poor. Advising his white reader to question their privileged consumption, dependent as it is on the subjugation of Jamaica's black community, McKay warns that "hardship always melt away / Wheneber it comes roun' to reapin' day." This revolutionary sentiment carries throughout *Songs of Jamaica*, finding an echo in the brilliant poem "Whe' fe do?" Addressed to his own people, McKay offers hope for a brighter future to come: "We needn' fold we han' an' cry, / Nor vex we heart wid groan and sigh; / De best we can do is fe try / To fight de despair drawin' night: / Den we might conquer by an' by— / Dat we might do." With a beautifully designed cover and professionally typeset manuscript, this edition of Claude McKay's *Songs of Jamaica* is a classic of Jamaican literature reimagined for modern readers.

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jamaican dictionary: *The African-Jamaican Aesthetic* Lisa Tomlinson, 2017-01-23 The African- Jamaican Aesthetics Cultural Retention and Transformation Across Borders centres on the use of African Jamaican Aesthetics in Jamaica's literary traditions and its transformation and transmission in the diaspora.

jamaican dictionary: *Speak Jamaican* I'Heshia Handy, 2019-10 *Speak Jamaican* is a comprehensive instructional tool that outlines the grammar of Jamaican Creole. The course is designed to facilitate fluency in speech. It delineates the pronunciation and grammar of the Jamaican Creole language, and it includes lessons outlining the formation of tenses, irregular verbs, adjectives, adverbs, questions, commands, pluralization, the passive voice, making a sentence negative, showing ownership, structures unique to Jamaican Creole, and additional tenets. Each lesson consists of practice exercises and a vocabulary list to familiarize the reader with Jamaican Creole grammar. If the reader is looking to do more than just 'parrot' Jamaican words and phrases, this work is a vital instrument to achieving that goal.

jamaican dictionary: *African American, Creole, and Other Vernacular Englishes in Education* John R. Rickford, 2013 This comprehensive bibliography provides more than 1600 references to publications from the past half century on education in relation to African American Vernacular English, English-based pidgins and creoles and other vernacular Englishes, with accompanying abstracts for many.

jamaican dictionary: *Pidgin and Creole Languages* Glenn Gilbert, 2019-03-31 This book is for the memory of John E. Reinecke, a man whose humanistic activism and sharp-hewn scholarship helped to shape the scientific study of pidgin and creole languages throughout much of the twentieth century. Reinecke was both a social reformer and a leading sociolinguistic researcher working with creole languages and societies that derive from diverse groups of people thrown into close social contact. Most notably, Reinecke's keen sense of social justice has had a telling effect on the social history of Hawaii. Along with his persistent efforts to obtain a fair and equal share for wage earners in sharply stratified societies, his attention early became focused on their language. By encouraging others to study what he called marginal languages, he was able to bring to them (and to the extraordinary issues—theoretical and practical—which they raise) a measure of prestige, both in the eyes of their speakers and in the increased attention accorded them by students of language and society. The book presents a description of Reinecke's life and work, the text of his own last paper on creolistics, and seventeen papers which reflect the range and vitality of the field that he did so much to open. Some of the papers reflect the issue which has come to dominate creole studies—the debate over the role of universals and of specific substrata as competing explanations of the amazing similarities that creoles, and perhaps pidgins also, exhibit across the world. Many describe the intense language contact within which language contraction and expansion occur (they do this either directly, or by supplying new data which will eventually feed such descriptions), and and some are

our belated response to calls which Reinecke made in the 1930s. Fifty years ago, he saw the need for the kind of comparative studies which are only now under way—in, for example, Hazel Carter's paper, which represents a pioneering attempt to compare the suprasegmentals of English-based Creoles on both sides of the Atlantic. In his last years, Reinecke strongly supported research on contact languages with non-European lexical bases. He thought this was the area from which future creole studies would derive the greatest theoretical and practical gain, and in this volume six papers answer his call by analyzing such pidgins and creoles.

jamaican dictionary: Yesterday's Words Marijke Mooijaart, Marijke van der Wal, 2021-02-03 Yesterday's Words: Contemporary, Current and Future Lexicography reflects the main issues of scholarly discussion in the fields of historical lexicography and lexicology including the historiography of lexicography. The state-of-the-art volume offers a wide range of contributions in five chapters. After the editors' introduction to Yesterday's Words, the chapter Dictionaries and Dictionary-Makers of Former Ages concentrates on historical lexicography, including both the main lexicographical works in English and German and dictionaries of minority languages such as Frisian, Welsh, Irish and Scots. The Vocabulary of the Past discusses historical lexicological and etymological issues such as the results of early language contact in the West-Germanic area and in Jamaica in more recent times. Researchers involved in ongoing lexicographical projects, such as the first dictionary of Old Dutch, report on their practice and methodological approach in Current and Future Lexicography and Lexicology. Many dictionaries or dictionary research projects discussed in the volume have been or are being carried out in a digital environment. In the final chapter, Technology of Today for Yesterday's Words, special attention is paid to projects in which computer techniques and the development of new applications have been essential. The volume is an essential text for lexicographers, historiographers and historical linguists.

jamaican dictionary: Yawd Lenford Thompson, 2022-06-16 There's no available information at this time. Author will provide once information is available.

jamaican dictionary: The Oxford History of English Lexicography A. P. Cowie, 2008-12-04 These substantial volumes present the fullest account yet published of the lexicography of English from its origins in medieval glosses, through its rapid development in the eighteenth century, to a fully-established high-tech industry that is as reliant as ever on learning and scholarship. The history covers dictionaries of English and its national varieties, including American English, with numerous references to developments in Europe and elsewhere which have influenced the course of English lexicography. Part one of Volume I explores the early development of glosses and bilingual and multilingual dictionaries and examines their influence on lexicographical methods and ideas. Part two presents a systematic history of monolingual dictionaries of English and includes extensive chapters on Johnson, Webster and his successors in the USA, and the OED. It also contains descriptions of the development of dictionaries of national and regional varieties, and of Old and Middle English, and concludes with an account of the computerization of the OED. The specialized dictionaries described in Volume II include dictionaries of science, dialects, synonyms, etymology, pronunciation, slang and cant, quotations, phraseology, and personal and place names. This volume also includes an account of the inception and development of dictionaries developed for particular users, especially foreign learners of English. The Oxford History of English Lexicography unites scholarship with readability. It provides a unique and accessible reference for scholars and professional lexicographers and offers a series of fascinating encounters with the men and women involved over the centuries in the making of works of profound national and linguistic importance.

jamaican dictionary: Jamaican Creole Goes Web Andrea Moll, 2015-07-15 Large-scale migration after WWII and the prominence of Jamaican Creole in the media have promoted its use all around the globe. Deterritorialisation has entailed the contact-induced transformation of Jamaican Creole in diaspora communities and its adoption by 'crossers'. Taking sociolinguistic globalisation yet a step further, this monograph investigates the use of Jamaican Creole in a web discussion forum by combining quantitative and qualitative methodology in a sociolinguistic 'third wave' approach. In the absence of standardised orthography, one of the central aims of this study is to document the

sociolinguistic styling and grassroots (anti-) standardisation of spelling norms for Jamaican Creole in the web forum as a virtual community of practice. An analysis of individual repertoire portraits demonstrates that conventionalised spelling variants co-occur with basilectal Jamaican Creole morphosyntax in 'Cyber-Jamaican' as the digital ethnolinguistic repertoire of the discussion forum. The enregisterment of this ethnolinguistic repertoire is closely tied to staged performance, which establishes the link between 'Cyber-Jamaican' and the negotiation of sociolinguistic identity and authenticity via stance-taking.

jamaican dictionary: *Getting at GET in World Englishes* Elisabeth Bruckmaier, 2017-02-20 Despite its exceptional frequency and versatility, GET has never been a focus of research in its entire variability, which goes from lexical to grammatical uses, nor in large amounts of data from different varieties of English. The present corpus-based study deals with over 11,600 tokens of GET in written and spoken language from three varieties of English and thus provides new insights for variationist linguistics. Firstly, it offers a comprehensive semasiological-syntactic analysis of GET, i.e. an analysis of all its meanings and all the constructions into which it enters, suggesting ten categories as being necessary for its complete description. Secondly, it contributes to the understanding of factors that are at work in variation in World Englishes and lead to quantitative differences between regional standard varieties. Thus, the present study demonstrates that the use of GET in the New Englishes analysed is less affected by substrate effects than by the effects of Second Language Acquisition and the varying influence of British and American English norms. Moreover, it can be shown that the New Englishes display more grammatical uses of GET than does British English.

jamaican dictionary: *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics* , 2005-11-24 The first edition of ELL (1993, Ron Asher, Editor) was hailed as the field's standard reference work for a generation. Now the all-new second edition matches ELL's comprehensiveness and high quality, expanded for a new generation, while being the first encyclopedia to really exploit the multimedia potential of linguistics. * The most authoritative, up-to-date, comprehensive, and international reference source in its field * An entirely new work, with new editors, new authors, new topics and newly commissioned articles with a handful of classic articles * The first Encyclopedia to exploit the multimedia potential of linguistics through the online edition * Ground-breaking and International in scope and approach * Alphabetically arranged with extensive cross-referencing * Available in print and online, priced separately. The online version will include updates as subjects develop ELL2 includes: * c. 7,500,000 words * c. 11,000 pages * c. 3,000 articles * c. 1,500 figures: 130 halftones and 150 colour * Supplementary audio, video and text files online * c. 3,500 glossary definitions * c. 39,000 references * Extensive list of commonly used abbreviations * List of languages of the world (including information on no. of speakers, language family, etc.) * Approximately 700 biographical entries (now includes contemporary linguists) * 200 language maps in print and online Also available online via ScienceDirect - featuring extensive browsing, searching, and internal cross-referencing between articles in the work, plus dynamic linking to journal articles and abstract databases, making navigation flexible and easy. For more information, pricing options and availability visit www.info.sciencedirect.com. The first Encyclopedia to exploit the multimedia potential of linguistics Ground-breaking in scope - wider than any predecessor An invaluable resource for researchers, academics, students and professionals in the fields of: linguistics, anthropology, education, psychology, language acquisition, language pathology, cognitive science, sociology, the law, the media, medicine & computer science. The most authoritative, up-to-date, comprehensive, and international reference source in its field

jamaican dictionary: *Youth Language Practices in Africa and Beyond* Nico Nassenstein, Andrea Hollington, 2015-09-14 Youth languages have increasingly attracted the attention of scholars and students of various disciplines. African youth languages are a vibrant phenomenon with manifold characteristics involving a range of different languages. This book is a first comprehensive study of African youth languages and presents fresh insights into various youth languages, providing linguistic as well as sociolinguistic data and analyses.

jamaican dictionary: Slavery, Childhood, and Abolition in Jamaica, 1788-1838 Colleen A. Vasconcellos, 2015-05-15 This study examines childhood and slavery in Jamaica from the onset of improved conditions for the island's slaves to the end of all forced or coerced labor throughout the British Caribbean. As Colleen A. Vasconcellos discusses the nature of child development in the plantation complex, she looks at how both colonial Jamaican society and the slave community conceived childhood—and how those ideas changed as the abolitionist movement gained power, the fortunes of planters rose and fell, and the nature of work on Jamaica's estates evolved from slavery to apprenticeship to free labor. Vasconcellos explores the experiences of enslaved children through the lenses of family, resistance, race, status, culture, education, and freedom. In the half-century covered by her study, Jamaican planters alternately saw enslaved children as burdens or investments. At the same time, the childhood experience was shaped by the ethnically, linguistically, and culturally diverse slave community. Vasconcellos adds detail and meaning to these tensions by looking, for instance, at enslaved children of color, legally termed mulattos, who had unique ties to both slave and planter families. In addition, she shows how traditions, beliefs, and practices within the slave community undermined planters' efforts to ensure a compliant workforce by instilling Christian values in enslaved children. These are just a few of the ways that Vasconcellos reveals an overlooked childhood—one that was often defined by Jamaican planters but always contested and redefined by the slaves themselves.

jamaican dictionary: *Living Words* Tom McArthur, 1998 In this collection of articles, the author reflects on the nature of language, the art of lexicography and the developments in communication, the media and information technology in the late 20th century. The three main subjects looked at are: language at large, and particular English, the most widely used language in the history of the world; the art and study of dictionaries and reference science, embracing all past, present and potential reference materials - from the OED to the Yellow Pages; and the processes through which communication, information and knowledge has evolved - from cave art to the personal computer.

jamaican dictionary: *Chronicles of a Hot Stepper* Ras Jabari, 2007

jamaican dictionary: *Jamaican Song and Story* Walter Jekyll, 2005-01-01 The trickster hero is a familiar character in folklore, and Jamaica's national folk hero is Annancy, an animal trickster noted for his unmitigated greed, treachery, and cruelty. A magic spider with a speech defect, Annancy is the perfect picaresque rogue: he is sneaky, lazy, dishonest, and totally without remorse--yet his geniality endears him to friend and foe alike. Annancy stories are an enduringly popular part of Jamaica's cultural heritage, where the spider's knavery finds expression in dance, theatre, and other creative arts. This delightful, compilation features some of the best-known, most-loved Annancy stories--faithfully reproduced, exactly as told to author Walter Jekyll by islanders. In addition to these tales, drawn largely from African sources but occasionally mixed with European strands and local innovations, the book contains digging sings (work songs used to liven up field labor), ring tunes (informal dances), and dancing tunes (mainly the Valse, Polka, Schottische, and Quadrilles). The author's notes explain the dialect, and an extensive introduction discusses African folklore and its connections with Jamaican stories. Brief appendices note African and European musical influences on Jamaican tunes, and three essays appraise the importance of Annancy stories and the significance of this collection. The finest source of Annancy stories and other Jamaican folk tales and songs, this volume is an invaluable resource for anthropologists and a treat for anyone interested in Jamaican cultural history.

jamaican dictionary: *Postcolonial Studies Across the Disciplines* Jana Gohrisch, Ellen Grünkemeier, 2013-11-15 Bringing together contributions from various disciplines and academic fields, this collection engages in interdisciplinary dialogue on postcolonial issues. Covering African, anglophone, Romance, and New-World themes, linguistic, literary, and cultural studies, and historiography, music, art history, and textile studies, the volume raises questions of (inter)disciplinarity, methodology, and entangled histories. The essays focus on the representation of slavery in the transatlantic world (the USA, Jamaica, Haiti, and the wider Caribbean, West Africa,

and the UK). Drawing on a range of historical sources, material objects, and representations, they study Jamaican Creole, African masks, knitted objects, patchwork sculpture, newspapers, films, popular music, and literature of different genres from the Caribbean, West and South Africa, India, and Britain. At the same time, they reflect on theoretical problems such as intertextuality, intermediality, and cultural exchange, and explore intersections – postcolonial literature and transatlantic history; postcolonial and African-American studies; postcolonial literary and cultural studies. The final section keys in with the overall aim of challenging established disciplinary modes of knowledge production: exploring schools and universities as locations of postcolonial studies. Teachers investigate the possibilities and limits of their respective institutions and probe new ways of engaging with postcolonial concerns. With its integrative, interdisciplinary focus, this collection addresses readers interested in understanding how colonization and globalization have influenced societies and cultures around the world. Contributors: Anja Bandau, Sabine Broeck, Sarah Fekadu, Matthias Galler, Janou Glencross, Jana Gohrisch, Ellen Grünkemeier, Jessica Hemmings, Jan Hüsgen, Johannes Salim Ismaiel-Wendt, Ursula Kluwick, Henning Marquardt, Dennis Mischke, Timo Müller, Mala Pandurang, Carl Plasa, Elinor Jane Pohl, Brigitte Reinwald, Steffen Runkel, Andrea Sand, Cecile Sandten, Frank Schulze-Engler, Melanie Ulz, Reinhold Wandel, Tim Watson. Jana Gohrisch and Ellen Grünkemeier are based in the English Department of Leibniz University, Hannover (Germany), where they research and lecture in British studies with a focus on (postcolonial) literatures and cultures.

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