

jamaican creole dictionary

jamaican creole dictionary is an essential resource for anyone interested in the vibrant language and culture of Jamaica. This article provides a comprehensive guide to understanding Jamaican Creole, also known as Patwa or Patois, and the importance of dictionaries in preserving and interpreting this unique language. You will learn about the origins of Jamaican Creole, the structure and features of Jamaican Creole dictionaries, their role in education and cultural identity, and how to use them effectively. Whether you're a linguist, educator, traveler, or someone fascinated by Jamaican heritage, this article will equip you with valuable insights and practical tips for navigating the world of Jamaican Creole dictionaries. Continue reading to explore the rich linguistic tapestry of Jamaica and the tools that make learning Patwa accessible and enjoyable.

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Understanding Jamaican Creole

Jamaican Creole, often referred to as Jamaican Patwa or Patois, is a dynamic language spoken by millions in Jamaica and its diaspora. Its vocabulary and syntax are rooted in English, West African languages, and influences from Spanish, Portuguese, and indigenous languages. Jamaican Creole is widely used in everyday conversation, music, literature, and media, making it a vital part of Jamaica's national identity. A jamaican creole dictionary serves as a bridge between Jamaican Creole and Standard English, offering translations, explanations, and usage examples that promote understanding and appreciation of this rich language.

Origins and Development of Jamaican Creole

The formation of Jamaican Creole dates back to the 17th century, during the colonial era when enslaved Africans and European settlers interacted. Linguistic features from English and West African languages merged, resulting in a creolized language that was both expressive and practical. Over time, Jamaican Creole evolved, incorporating new words and expressions from various cultures. Today, Patwa continues to develop, reflecting Jamaica's dynamic social landscape. The jamaican creole dictionary plays a key role in documenting these changes and preserving the language for future generations.

Features of Jamaican Creole Dictionaries

Jamaican Creole dictionaries are specialized tools designed for bilingual communication and language learning. They offer clear definitions, pronunciation guides, usage notes, and cultural context for words and phrases. Modern dictionaries may include audio pronunciations, idiomatic expressions, and grammar explanations, making them accessible for learners of all levels. Some dictionaries focus on academic research, while others are tailored for travelers, educators, or students. The diversity of jamaican creole dictionary formats reflects the language's versatility and widespread appeal.

Common Elements Found in Jamaican Creole Dictionaries

- Word-to-word translations between Jamaican Creole and English
- Pronunciation guides using phonetic symbols
- Sample sentences and conversational examples
- Idiomatic expressions and slang definitions
- Grammar and usage notes
- Cultural references and historical background

How to Use a Jamaican Creole Dictionary

Using a jamaican creole dictionary effectively requires understanding its

structure and features. Start by identifying the word or phrase you want to translate or learn. Check the pronunciation guide to master the sound of the word, then review the definition and sample sentences for context. Pay attention to idiomatic expressions, as these often carry meanings beyond their literal translation. For learners, practicing with real-life dialogues and listening to audio samples enhances comprehension and fluency. A jamaican creole dictionary is not just a reference book—it is a gateway to authentic Jamaican communication.

Benefits of Jamaican Creole Dictionaries

Jamaican Creole dictionaries offer numerous advantages for both native speakers and learners. They foster accurate translation, preserve linguistic heritage, and support education. Dictionaries also facilitate cultural exchange and mutual understanding, helping non-native speakers appreciate Jamaican humor, proverbs, and everyday speech. For researchers and linguists, a jamaican creole dictionary provides valuable data on language evolution and regional variations. The widespread use of dictionaries in classrooms, literature, and media underscores their importance in modern Jamaican society.

Key Benefits of Using a Jamaican Creole Dictionary

1. Improves bilingual communication skills
2. Supports language learning and literacy
3. Preserves and documents Jamaican culture
4. Assists travelers and expatriates
5. Enhances appreciation of Jamaican music and literature

Popular Jamaican Creole Dictionary Examples

Several jamaican creole dictionaries are widely recognized for their accuracy, depth, and user-friendly design. Some focus on comprehensive vocabulary, while others highlight slang, idioms, or regional dialects. Printed dictionaries remain popular, but digital and online resources offer additional features such as audio, interactive quizzes, and mobile accessibility. These dictionaries are used by schools, universities, and community organizations to promote Jamaican language learning and pride.

Notable Jamaican Creole Dictionaries

- “Dictionary of Jamaican English” (Cassidy & Le Page) – A classic academic reference
- “Jamaican Patwa: Phrasebook & Dictionary” – Practical for travelers and learners
- Mobile apps and online platforms with search and audio functions
- Community-driven glossaries for slang and new expressions

The Role of Jamaican Creole Dictionaries in Education and Culture

Jamaican Creole dictionaries are instrumental in formal and informal education across Jamaica and abroad. They enable teachers to integrate Patwa into classrooms, supporting bilingual literacy and cultural inclusion. Dictionaries also play a role in creative industries, helping writers, musicians, and filmmakers accurately represent Jamaican speech and identity. In cultural preservation, dictionaries serve as archives of historical and contemporary language usage, ensuring that future generations can study and celebrate Jamaica’s linguistic heritage. The jamaican creole dictionary is, therefore, a tool of empowerment, knowledge, and pride in the Jamaican community.

Tips for Learning Jamaican Creole

Learning Jamaican Creole can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience, especially with the right resources. Start by using a jamaican creole dictionary to build your vocabulary and practice pronunciation. Focus on common phrases, greetings, and expressions used in everyday conversations. Listening to Jamaican music, watching local films, and engaging with native speakers can accelerate your learning process. Joining language classes or online forums also provides interactive opportunities to practice Patwa in real-life scenarios. Consistency, curiosity, and cultural appreciation are key to mastering Jamaican Creole.

Recommended Steps for Beginners

1. Familiarize yourself with basic Patwa phrases

2. Use a jamaican creole dictionary regularly
3. Listen to native speakers in music and media
4. Practice speaking with friends or language partners
5. Explore Jamaican literature and folklore

Frequently Asked Questions about Jamaican Creole Dictionary

Q: What is a jamaican creole dictionary?

A: A jamaican creole dictionary is a reference tool that provides translations, definitions, and usage examples for words and phrases in Jamaican Creole (Patwa), typically with English equivalents.

Q: Why is Jamaican Creole sometimes called Patwa or Patois?

A: Jamaican Creole is commonly called Patwa or Patois due to its origins as a creolized language developed from English and West African influences, with "Patwa" being a local term for the language.

Q: How accurate are jamaican creole dictionaries?

A: The accuracy of jamaican creole dictionaries depends on their source, research, and updates. Academic and community-driven dictionaries tend to provide reliable definitions and usage.

Q: Can I use a jamaican creole dictionary to learn to speak Patwa fluently?

A: While a jamaican creole dictionary is a valuable tool for building vocabulary and understanding grammar, fluency requires practice with native speakers and immersion in Jamaican culture.

Q: Are there digital or online versions of jamaican

creole dictionaries?

A: Yes, digital and online jamaican creole dictionaries are widely available, offering features like audio pronunciation, interactive quizzes, and mobile access.

Q: What types of words are included in a jamaican creole dictionary?

A: Jamaican Creole dictionaries typically include common vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, slang, proverbs, and cultural references relevant to Jamaican society.

Q: How do Jamaican Creole dictionaries help preserve the language?

A: By documenting words, phrases, and usage, jamaican creole dictionaries serve as archives that protect and promote the ongoing evolution of Jamaican Creole for future generations.

Q: Can jamaican creole dictionaries be used in schools?

A: Yes, many schools in Jamaica and abroad use jamaican creole dictionaries to support bilingual education and foster cultural pride among students.

Q: What is the difference between Jamaican Creole and Standard English?

A: Jamaican Creole differs from Standard English in pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary, blending elements from various languages and reflecting Jamaica's unique cultural history.

Q: Where can I find a reliable jamaican creole dictionary?

A: Reliable jamaican creole dictionaries are available in bookstores, libraries, academic institutions, and online platforms dedicated to Jamaican language and culture.

Jamaican Creole Dictionary

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Jamaican Creole Dictionary: Your Guide to Understanding Patwa

Unlocking the vibrant rhythm and rich culture of Jamaica often means understanding Jamaican Creole, affectionately known as Patwa. This language, a blend of West African languages and English, is a vital part of Jamaican identity. But navigating its nuances can be tricky for those unfamiliar with its unique vocabulary and grammar. This comprehensive guide serves as your introduction to the world of Jamaican Creole dictionaries, exploring their importance, different resources available, and how best to utilize them to enhance your understanding and appreciation of this captivating language.

Why Use a Jamaican Creole Dictionary?

Understanding Jamaican Creole opens doors to a deeper connection with Jamaican culture, music, literature, and everyday life. A Jamaican Creole dictionary acts as your key to this world, providing translations and context for words and phrases you might encounter in various settings. Beyond simple translation, a good dictionary will offer insights into the history, evolution, and cultural significance of specific words and expressions. This can significantly enrich your experience when interacting with Jamaican people, consuming Jamaican media, or exploring Jamaican literature.

Types of Jamaican Creole Dictionaries: Finding the Right Resource

Navigating the world of Jamaican Creole dictionaries requires understanding the different types available. Not all dictionaries are created equal, and choosing the right one depends on your specific needs and proficiency level.

1. Print Dictionaries: The Traditional Approach

Traditional print dictionaries offer a tangible, readily accessible resource. They often provide detailed etymologies (word origins) and nuanced explanations, ideal for in-depth study. However, they might lack the immediacy of digital resources and may not be as easily updated.

2. Online Jamaican Creole Dictionaries: Instant Access

Online dictionaries provide instant access and often incorporate audio pronunciations, a crucial feature for mastering the sounds of Patwa. Many online resources offer search functionality, making it easy to look up specific words quickly. The downside is reliance on internet access and potential variations in quality and accuracy between different websites.

3. App-Based Dictionaries: Convenience on the Go

Mobile app dictionaries offer the convenience of offline access, making them perfect for travel or situations with limited internet connectivity. Many apps offer features like word-of-the-day sections and pronunciation guides, enhancing the learning experience. However, the app's functionality and the quality of its database are crucial considerations.

4. Specialized Dictionaries: Catering to Specific Needs

Some dictionaries specialize in particular aspects of Jamaican Creole, such as slang, proverbs, or regional variations. These focused resources are ideal for those seeking deeper knowledge of a specific area of the language.

How to Effectively Use a Jamaican Creole Dictionary

Using a dictionary effectively requires more than just looking up words.

1. Understand Context: The Key to Accurate Interpretation

Jamaican Creole, like any language, is rich in context. A word's meaning can shift significantly depending on the surrounding words and the situation. Always consider the sentence or phrase in which a word appears to get the most accurate interpretation.

2. Pay Attention to Pronunciation: Mastering the Sounds of Patwa

Many dictionaries include audio pronunciations, making it easier to master the often unique sounds of Jamaican Creole. Listening to the pronunciation helps you avoid misinterpretations and contributes to fluent understanding.

3. Explore Etymology: Understanding Word Origins

Many dictionaries include etymological information, tracing the origins of words. Understanding these origins provides insights into the cultural influences shaping the language.

4. Learn Grammatical Structures: Beyond Single Words

While a dictionary focuses on individual words, understanding the grammatical structures of Jamaican Creole is equally important. Look for resources that explain the sentence structures and grammatical rules of the language.

5. Engage with the Culture: Immersion for Deeper Understanding

Using a dictionary is just one step. Immerse yourself in Jamaican culture through music, films, literature, and interactions with native speakers. This immersion will significantly enhance your understanding and appreciation of the language.

Conclusion

A Jamaican Creole dictionary is an invaluable tool for anyone seeking to understand and appreciate the vibrant culture of Jamaica. Choosing the right dictionary—print, online, app-based, or specialized—depends on your learning style and needs. By utilizing the dictionary effectively and

immersing yourself in the culture, you'll unlock a deeper understanding and appreciation of this rich and dynamic language. Use it as a stepping stone towards a more authentic connection with Jamaican culture and its people.

FAQs

1. Are there any free Jamaican Creole dictionaries online? Yes, several free online Jamaican Creole dictionaries are available, though their comprehensiveness and accuracy might vary. Be sure to check reviews before relying on a specific resource.
2. What's the difference between Jamaican Creole and Jamaican Patois? The terms "Jamaican Creole" and "Jamaican Patois" are often used interchangeably. However, "Creole" is generally preferred in academic settings, emphasizing its linguistic structure. "Patois" is a more informal term.
3. Is it difficult to learn Jamaican Creole? The difficulty level depends on your linguistic background and learning style. However, with consistent effort and the right resources, many find learning Jamaican Creole rewarding and accessible.
4. Are there any Jamaican Creole dictionaries specifically for learners? While many dictionaries aren't specifically labeled "for learners," those with clear definitions, pronunciation guides, and examples are particularly helpful for beginners.
5. Can I use a Jamaican Creole dictionary to translate English to Jamaican Creole? While many dictionaries facilitate this, it's crucial to remember the nuances of the language and context. A direct word-for-word translation may not always capture the intended meaning. Consider the cultural context and use the dictionary as a guide, not a strict rulebook.

jamaican creole 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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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.

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jamaican creole dictionary: Jamaicasaurus Eric Rose, 2018-07-04 With 3,278 entries and over 13,500 translations and synonyms, the *Jamaicasaurus* functions as both the only thesaurus of the Jamaican dialect (Patois, Patwa) and the only translation dictionary to go from English to Jamaican. As such, it is an essential resource for anyone interested in Jamaican culture and language, local or foreigner, as it marks a new milestone for Jamaican Patois as a language of increasing global interest while also serving native speakers searching for alternate words and expressions, recent slang, and older terms. For each entry, as many Jamaican translations as possible are given. 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 there you will see listed all the Jamaican synonyms for that Jamaican word or phrase. The appendix at the back of the book additionally features extensive lists of Patwa expletives and exclamations; odd curiosities; and the Jamaican names for 278 important species of plants and trees used in Jamaica for food, medicine, etc (listed by scientific name first).

Finally, and quite importantly, *Jamaicasaurus* bridges the gap between the common English-based way of spelling Jamaican words and the increasingly popular Cassidy-JLU system preferred by linguists. This edition of the book (the *Jamiekan Spellings Edition*) displays Jamaican words in that latter format in order to more consistently represent their true pronunciation. A Common Jamaican Spellings Edition favoring the type of English-based spelling still used by most Jamaicans is also available.

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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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and letters written by enslaved African Americans. The end of the volume includes a bibliographic essay and a 40-page bibliography, making this an indispensable book for the study of slavery.

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jamaican creole dictionary: *The Mouton World Atlas of Variation in English* Bernd Kortmann, Kerstin Lunkenheimer, 2012 *The Mouton World Atlas of Variation in English (WAVE)* presents grammatical variation in spontaneous spoken English, mapping 235 features in 48 varieties of English (traditional dialects, high-contact mother tongue Englishes, and indigenized second-language Englishes) and 26 English-based Pidgins and Creoles in eight Anglophone world regions (Africa, Asia, Australia, British Isles, the Caribbean, North America, the Pacific, and the South Atlantic). The analyses of the 74 varieties are based on descriptive materials, naturalistic corpus data, and native speaker knowledge.

jamaican creole dictionary: *Urban Jamaican Creole* Peter L. Patrick, 1999-01-01 A synchronic sociolinguistic study of Jamaican Creole (JC) as spoken in urban Kingston, this work uses variationist methods to closely investigate two key concepts of Atlantic Creole studies: the mesolect, and the creole continuum. One major concern is to describe how linguistic variation patterns with social influences. Is there a linguistic continuum? How does it correlate with social factors? The complex

organization of an urbanizing Caribbean society and the highly variable nature of mesolectal speech norms and behavior present a challenge to sociolinguistic variation theory. The second chief aim is to elucidate the nature of mesolectal grammar. Creole studies have emphasized the structural integrity of basilectal varieties, leaving the status of intermediate mesolectal speech in doubt. How systematic is urban JC grammar? What patterns occur when basilectal creole constructions alternate with acrolectal English elements? Contextual constraints on choice of forms support a picture of the mesolect as a single grammar, variable yet internally-ordered, which has evolved a fine capacity to serve social functions. Drawing on a year's fieldwork in a mixed-class neighborhood of the capital city, the author (a speaker of JC) describes the speech community's history, demographics, and social geography, locating speakers in terms of their social class, occupation, education, age, sex, residence, and urban orientation. The later chapters examine a recorded corpus for linguistic variables that are phono-lexical (palatal glides), phonological (consonant cluster simplification), morphological (past-tense inflection), and syntactic (pre-verbal tense and aspect marking), using quantitative methods of analysis (including Varbrul). The Jamaican urban mesolect is portrayed as a coherent system showing stratified yet regular linguistic behavior, embedded in a well-defined speech community; despite the incorporation of forms and constraints from English, it is quintessentially creole in character.

jamaican creole dictionary: Coptic Etymological Dictionary Jaroslav Černý, 2010-10-31 Coptic was the language spoken in Egypt from late ancient times to the seventeenth century, when it was overtaken by Arabic as the national language. Derived from ancient Egyptian, the language of the hieroglyphs, it was written in an adapted form of Greek script. This dictionary lists about 2,000 Coptic words whose etymology has been established from ancient Egyptian and Greek sources, covering two-thirds of the known Coptic vocabulary and complementing W. E. Crum's 1939 Coptic Dictionary, still the standard in the field. The Egyptian forms are quoted in hieroglyphic and/or demotic forms. An appendix lists the etymologies of Coptic place-names. The final work of Czech Egyptologist Jaroslav Černý (1898-1970), Professor of Egyptology at Oxford, the Dictionary was brought through to publication by colleagues after his death.

jamaican creole dictionary: *London Jamaican* Mark Sebba, 2014-06-03 London Jamaican provides the reader with a new perspective on African descent in London. Based on research carried out in the early 1980s, the author examines the linguistic background of the community, with special emphasis on young people of the first and second British-born generations.

jamaican creole dictionary: *English After RP* Geoff Lindsey, 2019-02-26 This book concisely describes ways in which today's standard British English speech differs from the upper-class accent of the last century, Received Pronunciation, which many now find old-fashioned or even comic. In doing so it provides a much-needed update to the existing RP-based descriptions by which the sound system of British English is still known to many around the world. The book opens with an account of the rise and fall of RP, before turning to a systematic analysis of the phonetic developments between RP and contemporary Standard Southern British (SSB) in vowels, consonants, stress, connected speech and intonation. Topics covered include the anti-clockwise vowel shift, the use of glottal stops, 'intrusive r', vocal fry and Uptalk. It concludes with a Mini Dictionary of well over 100 words illustrating the changes described throughout the book, and provides a chart of updated IPA vowel symbols. This book is an essential resource for anyone interested in British pronunciation and sound change, including academics in phonetics, phonology, applied linguistics and English language; trainers of English teachers; English teachers themselves; teachers of voice and accent coaches; and students in those areas.

jamaican creole dictionary: The Syntax of Jamaican Creole Stephanie Durrleman, 2008 This book offers an in-depth study of the overall syntax of (basilectal) Jamaican Creole, the first since Bailey (1966). The author, a Jamaican linguist, meticulously examines distributional and interpretative properties of functional morphology in Jamaican Creole (JC) from a cartographic perspective (Cinque 1999, 2002; Rizzi 1997, 2004), thus exploring to what extent the grammar of JC provides morphological manifestations of an articulate IP, CP and DP. The data considered in this

work offers new evidence in favour of these enriched structural analyses, and the instances where surface orders differ from the underlying functional skeleton are accounted for in terms of movement operations. This investigation of Jamaican syntax therefore allows us to conclude that the 'poor' inflectional morphology typical of Creole languages in general and of (basilectal) Jamaican Creole in particular does not correlate with poor structural architecture. Indeed the free morphemes discussed, as well as the word order considerations that indicate syntactic movement to designated projections, serve as arguments in favour of a rich underlying functional map.

jamaican creole dictionary: Acquisition of Jamaican Phonology Rocky Ricardo Meade, 2001

jamaican creole dictionary: *How to Love a Jamaican* Alexia Arthurs, 2018-07-24 "In these kaleidoscopic stories of Jamaica and its diaspora we hear many voices at once. All of them convince and sing. All of them shine."—Zadie Smith *An O: The Oprah Magazine* "Top 15 Best of the Year" • A Well-Read Black Girl Pick Tenderness and cruelty, loyalty and betrayal, ambition and regret—Alexia Arthurs navigates these tensions to extraordinary effect in her debut collection about Jamaican immigrants and their families back home. Sweeping from close-knit island communities to the streets of New York City and midwestern university towns, these eleven stories form a portrait of a nation, a people, and a way of life. In "Light-Skinned Girls and Kelly Rowlands," an NYU student befriends a fellow Jamaican whose privileged West Coast upbringing has blinded her to the hard realities of race. In "Mash Up Love," a twin's chance sighting of his estranged brother—the prodigal son of the family—stirs up unresolved feelings of resentment. In "Bad Behavior," a couple leave their wild teenage daughter with her grandmother in Jamaica, hoping the old ways will straighten her out. In "Mermaid River," a Jamaican teenage boy is reunited with his mother in New York after eight years apart. In "The Ghost of Jia Yi," a recently murdered student haunts a despairing Jamaican athlete recruited to an Iowa college. And in "Shirley from a Small Place," a world-famous pop star retreats to her mother's big new house in Jamaica, which still holds the power to restore something vital. Alexia Arthurs emerges in this vibrant, lyrical, intimate collection as one of fiction's most dynamic and essential authors. Praise for *How to Love a Jamaican* "A sublime short-story collection from newcomer Alexia Arthurs that explores, through various characters, a specific strand of the immigrant experience."—*Entertainment Weekly* "With its singular mix of psychological precision and sun-kissed lyricism, this dazzling debut marks the emergence of a knockout new voice."—*O: The Oprah Magazine* "Gorgeous, tender, heartbreaking stories . . . Arthurs is a witty, perceptive, and generous writer, and this is a book that will last."—Carmen Maria Machado, author of *Her Body and Other Parties* "Vivid and exciting . . . every story rings beautifully true."—Marie Claire

jamaican creole dictionary: *The Cambridge Dictionary of Linguistics* Keith Brown, Jim Miller, 2013-12-05 The Cambridge Dictionary of Linguistics provides concise and clear definitions of all the terms any undergraduate or graduate student is likely to encounter in the study of linguistics and English language or in other degrees involving linguistics, such as modern languages, media studies and translation. It covers the key areas of syntax, morphology, phonology, phonetics, semantics and pragmatics but also contains terms from discourse analysis, stylistics, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, computational linguistics and corpus linguistics. It provides entries for 246 languages, including 'major' languages and languages regularly mentioned in research papers and textbooks. Features include cross-referencing between entries and extended entries on some terms. Where appropriate, entries contain illustrative examples from English and other languages and many provide etymologies bringing out the metaphors lying behind the technical terms. Also available is an electronic version of the dictionary which includes 'clickable' cross-referencing.

jamaican creole dictionary: The Slang Dictionary: Etymological, Historical, and Anecdotal John Camden Hotten, 1874

jamaican creole dictionary: *The Maroons of Jamaica* Mavis C. Campbell, 1988-07-30 A careful and thorough study of the Jamaican Maroons from the British conquest to the late 18th century. Choice This richly textured study of the struggles of the Maroons of Jamaica against the British

colonial authorities, their subsequent collaboration with and betrayal by them, will be of great interest to historians of Africa. . . . Elegantly written . . . the author . . . makes her own contribution to current debates on resistance and collaboration. Michael Crowder, Institute of Commonwealth Studies

jamaican creole dictionary: Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language Thomas Burns McArthur, Roshan McArthur, 2005 From Sanskrit to Scouse, this book provides a single-volume source of information about the English language. The guide is intended both for reference and for browsing. The international perspective takes in language from Cockney to Creole, Aboriginal English to Zunderburg, Estuary English to Caribbean English and a historical range from Beowulf to Ebonics, Chaucer to Chomsky, Latin to the World Wide Web. There is coverage of a wide range of topics from abbreviation to Zeugma, Shakespeare to split infinitive and substantial entries on key subjects such as African English, etymology, imperialism, pidgin, poetry, psycholinguistics and slang. Box features include pieces on place-names, the evolution of the alphabet, the story of OK, borrowings into English, and the Internet. Invaluable reference for English Language students, and fascinating reading for the general reader with an interest in language.

jamaican creole 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 / Whenever 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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