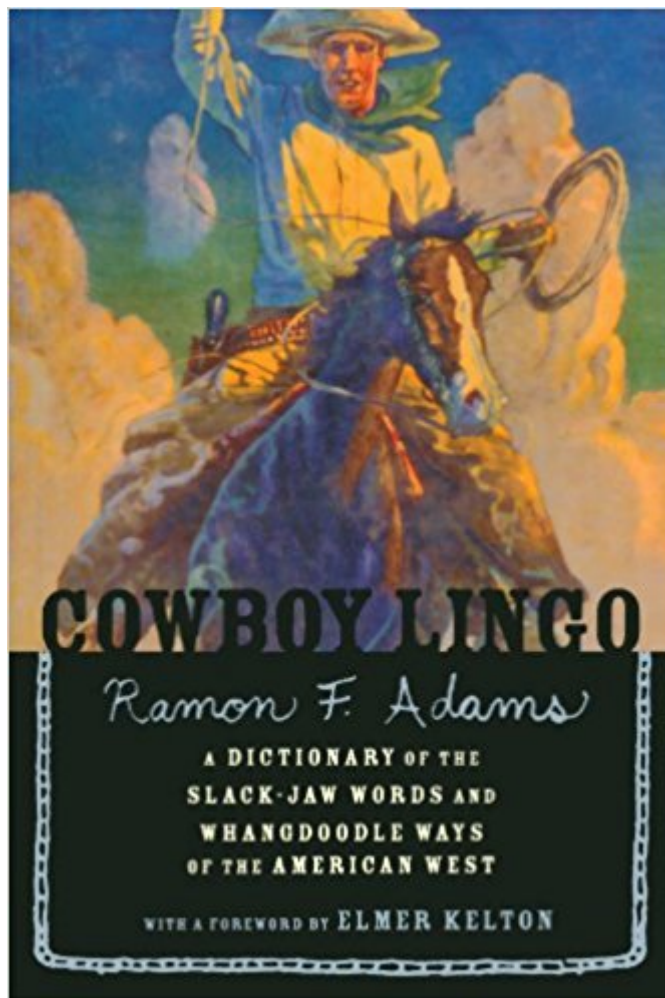


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Cowboy Lingo



Synopsis

The cowboy — that enigmatic, larger-than-life icon of our culture — has long been considered a figure of fast hands, steel nerves, and few words. But according to Ramon Adams, cowboys, once among themselves, enjoyed a vivid, often boisterous repartee. You might say that around a campfire they could make more noise than “a jackass in a tin barn.” Here in one volume is a complete guide to cowboy-speak. Like many of today’s foreign language guides, this handy book is organized not alphabetically but situationally, lest you find yourself in Texas at a loss for words. There are sections on the ranch, the cowboy’s duties, riding equipment, the roundup, roping, branding, even square dancing. There are words and phrases you’ll recognize because they’ve filtered into everyday language — “blue lightnin’,” “star gazin’,” “the whole shebang” — plus countless others that, sadly, are seldom heard in current speech: “lonely as a preacher on pay night,” “restless as a hen on a hot griddle,” “crooked as a snake in a cactus patch.” As entertaining as it is authoritative, COWBOY LINGO captures the living speech of the Great Plains and serves as a window into the soul of the American West.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The cowboy was not a highly educated man as a rule," says Ramon F. Adams in his introduction to Cowboy Lingo, "but he never lacked for expression." After years of keeping his own notes on the

"terse, crisp, clear-cut language of the range," Adams decided that it would be "selfish" not to pass them along. Thus was born Cowboy Lingo, which was first published by Houghton Mifflin in 1936 and appears now after being long out of print. Adams's book is arranged thematically--with chapters on ropes, cattle, brands, the trail, outlaws, and the like--telling as much about the life of the cowboy (or cow-puncher or buckaroo or ranahan or saddle-slicker or waddie) as about his language. As might be expected from a pioneer of the western range, the cowboy "respected neither the dictionary nor usage," says Adams, "but employed his words in the manner that best suited him." And perhaps no other group has come up with a better collection of insults. A bad tracker "couldn't find a calf with a bell on in a corral

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This book is fun. The lingo is grouped by subject, like "cattle", "horses", etc. There's lots of cowboy words explained with an entertaining mix of cowboy aphorisms sprinkled in. Two things stuck out. Almost all the words relating to cows and horses are of Spanish origin, and if you grew up watching Westerns on TV in the 60's you may be surprised at how many words you already know! I guarantee you'll pay closer attention next time Gil Favor talks about the remuda on an episode of "Rawhide".

For anyone with a sense of humor, this book is it. I particularly liked the narratives about breaking horses to ride. Laughter is a great medicine.

I Will try to comment on this very fine gathering of "Cowboy-Words", and how they are used! This is the work of A Mr.- Ramon Adams - his love of the West and the peculiar Cowboy's unique

vernacular, is brought out in this book. If you the reader; want a better in-site on what different sentences really mean, or if you are a Author looking to make your work reflect the cowboys way of life; this is the book for you. I personally use this work of Mr. Adams, in my understanding of just what does this really mean! Like the much used Frazee--I will side you! Or-He has sand! And many other Frazee's like this! This work of words, and how they were used in example form, is quite like the works of another publication of Cowboy Lingo by Houghton Mifflin in The year 1936. Now long out of print. Thank You; Richard, From "the Saddle Bag"

Fun book to read. I had no idea how many different Cowboy terms I would discover. Those folks had a language all their own. Very colorful and informative about Cowboy ethics and values.

Yerp, gotta learn to squawk like them chickens on a hot griddle to pass along a corn dodger after ripping these sheets. Highly recommended saddle company for those lonely nights on the range - If'n I was you, I'd pony-up and ride off with this little ink-spot.

I bought this book to help give me some different authentic words for my western stories. I didn't know I'd derive so much enjoyment from doing research! Cowboy Lingo not only gave me interesting phrases, but it's full of information about their mannerisms, clothing, horses, names, and habits. I know I'm leaving out some things because the book is too full of all the tidbits a good writer needs to know. Plus, Ramon Adams will make you laugh if nothing else. The book is lively unlike a lot of other research books that I find dull. I recommend it for all types of readers whether you're writing your own novel or just want some fun.

I read this quite a while ago and was amused by the "lingo". Lost it, somehow, so re-purchased it as reference material for my own western writing. It is filled with interesting anecdotes and explanations designed to explain cowboy slang and it's context. Highly recommended! 5 stars.

I found better sources for cowboy lingo online. This is interesting in story format to get the atmosphere of those times but not a quick reference.

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