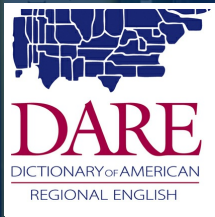


Documenting the Regional and Folk Language of the United States



Dictionary of American Regional English
(DARE)

CURRENT RESEARCH

A dictionary of the words used somewhere—but not everywhere—in the U.S.

The Dictionary of American Regional English (DARE) is a monumental reference work devoted to documenting the regional and folk vocabulary of the United States—words, expressions, pronunciations, and grammatical forms that are limited to particular geographic areas or cultural groups, or to the colloquial language in general as opposed to the standard literary language. No other reference work comes close to DARE in scope and comprehensiveness. The Dictionary (six volumes and an online edition, Harvard University Press, 1985–2013) has garnered high critical praise and is widely regarded as the authority in the field.

DARE comprises more than 40,000 entries with nearly 60,000 distinct senses. The meaning, history, and distribution of every sense are illustrated as fully as possible with more than 230,000 citations from a wide variety of sources, including regional fiction, diaries, letters, memoirs, histories, travel books, newspapers, and journals, as well as the DARE fieldwork carried out in 1965–70 and the scholarly literature on U.S. dialects. Many entries that incorporate data from the DARE fieldwork also include maps that show the distribution of informants graphically. In the online version, users can also create their own maps directly from the fieldwork data and listen to over 5,000 audio clips from the recordings made during the fieldwork. Where appropriate, labels summarize regional and social distribution. Etymologies provide a further historical dimension, often revealing origins in the regional dialects of Britain, the non-English languages of other immigrants, or the indigenous languages with which early settlers came in contact. Variant forms and pronunciations are thoroughly...

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- A New Yorker Best Book of 2012
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RESEARCH AREAS

Education, Linguistics

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will enable DARE to continue collecting material, doing research, and publishing new and revised entries on the DARE website, where they are freely available. About \$250K/year will maintain the project with its current staff of three full-time members and allow it to continue the work that is in progress. Significantly more funding would allow it to increase the staff, transcribe the DARE audio recordings, and take the online survey nationwide.

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