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Charles Barber, Joan Beal, Philip Shaw
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Charles Barber, Joan Beal, Philip Shaw : The English Language (Canto Classics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The English Language (Canto Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I found this book fascinating, as it brought together ...By Murt O'Seaghdha I found this book fascinating, as it brought together so much information on topics that I'd previously skimmed over or touched on tangentially. For example, the introductory section on phonetics was just what I needed as a solid foundation for all the references I'd come across randomly before. Each of the following sections were both

enlightening in a general way and full of interesting little nuggets that explained the general development of the English language and especially all the curious little quirks of pronunciation and spelling that occurred along the way. I found it especially interesting because of my knowledge of other languages, with all sorts of connections and contrasts jumping out at me in relation to German, French and even Gaelic. For example the fact that "adder" in English evolved from OE "naedre" ("a nadder" becoming "an adder") made me think of the Gaelic "nathair" for snake. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. so it was difficult to gauge what was important and what was a fun fact. By seltzer Interesting and well presented. About half way through they stopped holding terms, so it was difficult to gauge what was important and what was a fun fact. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Vito Vitale Great Product Great Seller

This bestselling text by Charles Barber, with updating contributions from Joan C. Beal and Philip A. Shaw, recounts the history of the English language from its remote ancestry to the present day. Using dozens of familiar texts, including the English of King Alfred, Shakespeare and Chaucer, the English language is explored in terms of where it came from, where it is going, and the global impact it has had, taking into account the many varieties of English that now exist. Stimulating and interesting, it is not only written for specialists on language and linguistics, but also for general readers who take an interest in the subject.

'A clear, readable introduction to language ... the layers of vocabulary are dealt with brilliantly ...' Good Book Guide About the Author Charles Barber was formerly Reader in English Language and Literature at the University of Leeds. He died in 2000. Joan C. Beal is Professor of English Language in the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics at the University of Sheffield. Philip A. Shaw is Lecturer in Old and Middle English in the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics at the University of Sheffield.