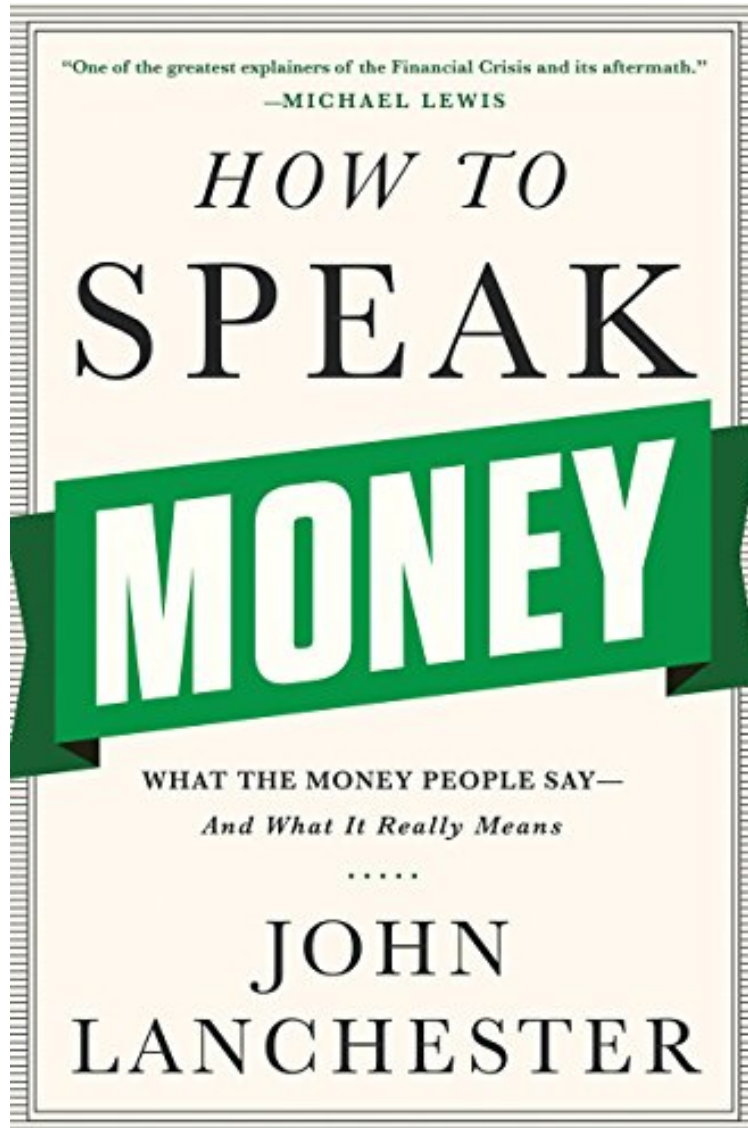


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How to Speak Money: What the Money People Say-And What It Really Means

John Lanchester

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John Lanchester : How to Speak Money: What the Money People Say-And What It Really Means before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Speak Money: What the Money People Say-And What It Really Means:

44 of 44 people found the following review helpful. Demystification of financeBy ContrarianGreat book that explains banking and finance in understandable terms.If you want an idea of what this book is about, you can search for the

author's recent New Yorker article "The Danger of Financial Jargon" The book has clear explanations and examples of how jargon can be used to confuse and intimidate people -- both individuals engaging in financial transactions and regulators trying to oversee the banks. The book is well-written, intelligent and entertaining. The core of the both is a lexicon explaining clearly the meaning of terms such as "Securitization", "QE2", "CDO" or "Credit Default Swaps" that you may have heard in the financial press but never understood. Until 2008, you could make a case that you could just ignore all of this. But since millions of people have been thrown out of their jobs or lost their homes as a result of the financial crisis -- not to mention the enormous amount the government lent to bail out the banks -- all of us should have some understanding of finance that has become so important to the way the economy works. This is a good place to start. Another benefit of reading this is that you may feel less intimidated by the small print in a mortgage or credit card agreement.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I like it. I learned a lot. By Customer This is very interesting and informative. I thought I knew all the terms defined in this book, but Lanchester has a very different view of the matter, and I learned a lot about economics. He's very good at giving a concrete explanation of what seems abstract. FWIW, I also like Lanchester's talk 'Marx at 193' in the London Review of Books, which is what led me to this book in the beginning. Lanchester is not a Marxist, but he is very sympathetic to the central questions of Marx's writing. While he may not agree with Marx's answers, the questions still bear thinking about.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must read for beginner interested in finance By eric A great book that simplifies basic money language. John Lanchester doesn't work in finance but started to have an interest in the terms that he was hearing and reading mainly during the financial crisis which is what makes the book so understandable. Don't expect a story, this book is more like a dictionary full of phrases for people who have an interest in learning finance and financial language.

One of the world's great explainers of the financial crisis and its aftermath. Michael Lewis To those who don't speak it, the language of money can seem impenetrable and its ideas too complex to grasp. In How to Speak Money, John Lanchester author of the New York Times best-selling book on the financial crisis, I.O.U. bridges the gap between the money people and the rest of us. With characteristic wit and candor, Lanchester reveals how the world of finance really works: from the terms and conditions of your personal checking account to the evasions of bankers appearing in front of Congress. As Lanchester writes, we need to understand what the money people are talking about so that those who speak the language don't just write the rules for themselves. Lanchester explains more than 300 words and phrases from AAA rating; and amortization; to yield curve; and zombie bank. He covers things we say or hear every day such as GDP, the IMF, credit, debt, equity, and inflation and explains how hedge funds work, what the World Bank does, and why the language of money has gotten so complicated. Along the way he draws on everything from John Maynard Keynes to the Wu-Tang Clan, Friedrich Hayek to Thomas Piketty, The Wealth of Nations to Game of Thrones. A primer, a polemic, and a reference book, How to Speak Money makes economics understandable to anyone. After all, money, as Lanchester writes, is a lot like babies, and once you know the language, the rule is the same as that put forward by Dr. Spock: Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do.

Mixes the helpful, the sarcastic and the entertaining . . . [with] a touch of Ambrose Biercer's Devil's Dictionary about it. - Jim Higgins, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
An idiosyncratic collection of short, sharp essays translating the jargon of finance with admirable concision and wit. - Peter Sokolowski, New York Times
Insightful and often funny. . . An invaluable primer. - Ian Critchley, Sunday Times
A hugely enjoyable book. . . Lanchester is a kind of brainy Everyman, a brilliant communicator. - Melanie Reid, The Times
An entertaining and informative read. . . Witty, provocative and engaging. - Evening Standard
How to Speak Money is a wonderful and enlightening book. Refreshingly clear, sharp, and funny, it will help you understand not only what the language of finance means but also why it matters. - James Surowiecki, best-selling author of The Wisdom of Crowds
Reading this book is like meeting an easy-going guy at a cocktail party who can explain everything that's always mystified you about high finance. . . inverted yield curve, anyone? with sparkle, wit, and crystal clarity. And if you're already a finance-insider, you'll get a kick out of Lanchester's sly ironies. - Jim Holt, best-selling author of Why Does the World Exist?
A terrific primer on financial jargon. . . Anyone who wants to understand the nightly news should keep this volume at hand. - Publishers Weekly
Lays out the case for financial literacy and then provides an essential glossary of terms for those who would like to achieve this happy state. - Sarah Lyall, New York Times
About the Author John Lanchester is the author of Capital, a novel, How to Speak Money, and I.O.U., a New York Times best-selling book on the financial crisis. A regular contributor to The New Yorker and the New York of Books, he lives in London.