



# Codswallop, Crumpet and Caper.

Words and where they  
came from

By Edward Allhusen

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**Most words in the English language are foreigners! This book reveals how 1300 everyday words started life in over 100 other languages.**

**Here are 5 with some surprising origins:**

**Amok** – from the Malay *Amok* which means frenzied, the original adjective referred to frenzied combat.

**Cash** – from the Tamil *Kasu* and Sanskrit *Karsa* meaning a weight of gold or silver, originates from the south of India with a variety of meanings.

**Litter** – from Anglo-French *Litere* meaning a portable bed. Travellers used to scatter straw or other soft material on the ground to make a comfortable bed. Over time the term lost its association with bedding and now just refers to scattered material.

**Morphine** – named after the Greek God of Dreams *Morpheus*, brother to the God of Sleep and the Goddess of night, Morphine is a pain-relieving drug that lives up to its' etymology and induces sleep and possibly dreams.

**Tabby** – the most English of pets has unexpected Arabic origins. *Attabiya* is the name of a district of Baghdad where silks with striped patterns resembling a tabby cat were woven.

**Codswallop, Crumpet and Caper shows how these and over 1300 other words started life elsewhere. Fascinating origins and definitions that make essential reading for any linguist, academic or polymath and everybody else in between.**

**For further information, review copies and serial requests please contact**

**John Franklin 020 7361 7860 / [John.Franklin@midaspr.co.uk](mailto:John.Franklin@midaspr.co.uk) or**

**Suzanne Sangster 020 7361 7881 / [Margot.weale@midaspr.co.uk](mailto:Margot.weale@midaspr.co.uk) at**

**Midas Public Relations.**