

The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins



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More than 15,000 entries over 2,000 of which are new to this edition provide information and anecdotes on the origin and development of a wide range of words and phrases, including:

Fellini named the hyperactive photographer in *La Dolce Vita* Signor Paparazzo, after the Italian slang for mosquito, which led to the popularity of the term, paparazzi.

Argentina takes its name from the Latin *argentum* meaning silver. Legend says that llamas grazing on Mount Posi in 1545 uprooted some shrubbery, beneath which was a vein of silver ore.

Conjuror's assistants in the 17th century would eat toads so the magicians could demonstrate their miraculous healing powers. The assistants came to be known as "toad eaters," which became our modern insult, "toady."

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