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Fry's English Delight: Series Two

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#2710333 in Books AudioGO Ltd. 2010-06-15PDF of discs: 2Formats: Audiobook, CDOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 2 .40 x 5.50 x 4.90l, Running time: 7200 secondsBinding: Audio CD2 pages | File size: 48.Mb

From Brand: AudioGO Ltd. : Fry's English Delight: Series Two before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fry's English Delight: Series Two:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Unsurpassed Audio EntertainmentBy Magic LemurI can see it now - the reviews for this CD are mostly going to say something to the effect of 'Good, but doesn't live up to its predecessor'. Having listened to the previous one, I wholeheartedly agree: this isn't as good as the previous one.....But then there's the competition. There are many fine audio CD's out there, but few so engaging, entertaining enlightening (in equal measure). And none have the poise and balance of Stephen Fry who seems to be a master of Taoist principles (i.e. never being too much of any one thing).To give you an idea of what you'll get, here are the sections in order:1) So Wrong It's Right.This is an interesting section on the evolution of language and how 'wrong' use of language can often become right as people start using the mistakes (e.g. the split-infinitive on Star Trek: 'To Boldly Go'). Somehow not quite up to the peerless brilliance of the first Series, this section still has a lot of interesting material, such as Buffalo buffalo buffalo buffalo buffalo (a complete, grammatical English sentence for reasons detailed on the CD).On top of this, this episode also explores how English is different depending on situation (e.g. Courtroom or Boardroom). Curiously, it further includes an interview with an Academie Francaise rebel, who has chosen to put English words and different spelling of French words in a French language dictionary since "A dictionary is an observatory, not a conservatory".2) Speaking Proper.I found this one better than the first as it explores a vital subject in English: how to communicate effectively. In my humble opinion it should be played to every schoolchild and migrant to our shores as

it details how to clearly transmit ideas, without mispronunciation and sloppy use of language. This episode covers elocution, accents, voice control and delivery while outlining how to educate yourself in better speech patterns.³) Hello. Like 1), this isn't quite as brilliant as series one, but still interesting. Here the origins of the word 'Hello' are explored, including all the different greetings that can be used in English how they can be used in a myriad of different ways. Naturally it includes Leslie Phillips classic 'Hello' from the Carry On films, as well as Cabin Crew whose job consists of saying 'Hello' approximately 1/2 a million times in their careers!⁴) The Joy of Gibberish. A bonus episode on the end, but actually the best of the bunch as it is a typical Stephen Fry/ QI topic. Gibberish is explored as a concept and Fry shows off his knowledge of comedians who have dabbled in speaking nonsense as a profession. Curiously this includes an eclectic mix of the Irish (James Joyce), A Dadaist 30 minute nonsense poem (Die Sonata in Urlauten), Baby-talk, music and Stanley Unwin (a famous nonsense comedian from the 50's/60's). I was tempted to give this CD only 4 stars, but this last episode really does deliver the goods. Possibly because its from 2006 (as opposed to 2009 for the others), but no matter - it still makes the series live up to Fry's high standards. Oh, and it has one of those delicious QI bits of trivia. 'Dagwood Bumstead' is a phrase that (when repeated enough times) is said to either bring true enlightenment or drive you completely insane. Haven't tried it myself, but interesting to know... So, all in all, I commend this CD as good stuff ideal entertainment for listening to in the Car (I have shared this CD Series 1 with friends and they all agree!) Fry has set high standards for himself (especially with Fry and Laurie Read Daudet and Jerome 'Stephen Fry Presents - Short Stories by Anton Chekhov'*) and although this CD isn't his best, it is still far above the efforts of other entertainers on Radio 4 and is up there in content with his QI work. Here's hoping for a third series!* Sadly only available from .co.uk (but worth it!)

The second series of Stephen Fry's witty and incisive programs looking at the oddities of the English language. The three 30-minute episodes include: So Wrong It's Right Fry examines how "wrong" English can become right English. With help from a lexicographer, an educationalist, a Times Sub Editor, and a judge, Fry examines the way usage changes language. Speaking Proper Fry looks at the changes in what we used to call "elocution." Hello Fry offers a "sweetie" in the form of an investigation into the planet's most universally understood word.

About the Author Stephen Fry is a celebrated British actor, novelist, journalist, presenter, intellectual and wit. He has produced four novels and two volumes of autobiography, and has written for radio shows and TV. His TV credits include Jeeves and Wooster and Blackadder, and he hosted the BBC TV series QI. His readings of the Harry Potter books have won him huge acclaim and several awards.