

WRITTEN IN STONE

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE STONE AGE AND
THE ORIGINS OF MODERN LANGUAGE

CHRISTOPHER STEVENS



PEGASUS BOOKS
NEW YORK LONDON

A

Ak, to be sharp or quick

Acute, acid, eager, equine

An, to breathe

Man, animal, animator, sane

Ank, to bend

Ankle, anchor, anguish, England

Ap, to put

Apply, apostrophe, April, inept

Arg, to shine

Argentina, argument, Argonauts, electricity

B

Bha, to speak

Ban, telephone, fate, infantry

Bhal, to blaze

Bleach, blanket, flamingo, flagrant

Bher, to bear

Birth, burden, ferret, hamburger

Bhleu, to blow

Bubble, bless, flow, influenza

Bhrag, to break

Brick, fragile, suffragette, osprey

Bhur, to brew

Burn, brandy, brimstone, fury

D

Dam, to tame

Timber, domestic, damsel, madam

Dha, to suckle

Female, fecund, fennel, daughter

Dhar, to hold

Farm, firmament, infirmary, throne

Dik, to point to

Indicate, digit, judge, teacher

Diw, to be bright as day

Divine, Jupiter, journey, daisies

Do, to give

Donate, dolly, data, treason

Dok, to learn

Doctor, auto-didact, documentary, paradox

Drei, to flow

Dry, dram, drowsy, dreich

E

Em, to buy

Emporium, example, premium, redemption

Es, to exist

Essence, present, pride, soothsayer

F

Fri, to love as a friend

Freedom, franchise, France, Friday

G

Gar, to call out noisily

Care, gorge, gargle, German

Gel, to freeze

Cold, glacier, gold, yolk

Ghu, to pour

Gush, ingot, fuse, refund

Gn, to beget

Gene, gentle, nation, knew

Gri, to grind

Grain, grease, grotty, engrossed

I

Ieh, yes ... **Neh**, no

Yeah, OK; nay, negative

Iug, to join

Yoke, yoga, jugular, joust

K

Kad, to fall away

Caddy, catarrh, cataract, catastrophe

Kap, to seize hold

Copper, occupy, deceit, princess

Kar, hard, strong

Carbon, crayfish, chancellor, harsh

Kard, heart

Cardiac, core, courage, quarry

Kas, cut

Castration, chestnut, castle, cheese

Ker, to turn

Circle, carriage, succour, bicycle

Kiv, to lie down among friends

Civil, kip, citadel, home

Kru, gory

Cruel, crucial, crook, lacrosse

Ku, to swell

Cave, curve, succumb, hull

Kwa, interrogative pronoun

Who, what, where, which

Kwi, to live

Quick, viable, viper, hygiene

L

Lab, to hang down

Lip, label, labourer, astrolabe

Lag, to straggle

Linger, delay, leg, slake

Li, shiny and wet

Slick, polite, glue, petrol

Lubh, to love

Love, libido, leave, believe

Luh, to shine

Lunar, lucid, lustre, luxury

M

Ma, mother

Married, mammoth, Amazon, metro

Mag, mighty

Magnificent, maximum, mayor, omega

Mal, dirty

Malign, malaria, melancholy, small

Mei, to smile

Smirk, besmirch, miracle, marvellous

Men, to think

Mental, memory, monster, comment

Mor, to grieve

Mourn, mortal, murder, mortgage

Min, little

Minus, mite, mistake, minstrel

N

Nek, to kill

Night, nocturnal, nectar, pernicious

Nem, to name

Numb, nomad, nimble, ignominy

Numbers

Universe, diploma, triangle, farthing

P

Pa, to feed and protect

Father, patriot, repair, foster

Pe, to open

Petal, penny, fathom, spade

Pel, a hide

Pelt, pallor, full, film

Pend, to hang

Pendant, spend, ponder, pencil

Per, to travel

Far, fare, percentage, experience

Pi, to hate

Fiend, pain, fickle, fake

Plak, to plait

Pliant, simple, complex, flask

Pod, foot

Pedal, foot, pedigree, trapeze

Prei, first

Prize, praise, prime, private

Pu, to stink

Putrid, purge, puff, foul

R

Re, back

Reverse, retro, rear, rescue

Reg, to lead in a straight line

Regular, ruler, right, erect

Ru, to cry out

Roar, rumour, rustic, room

Rud, red

Ruddy, rude, ribbon, robot

S

Sa, to sow

Seed, secular, sapphire, Saturday

Sat, to be full

Sad, satisfy, satirist, insult

Sed, to sit

Settee, sedan, cathedral, resident

Spek, to see

Spectacles, specific, inspector, bishop

Sta, to stand

Stable, stammer, solstice, ecstasy

Streg, to squeeze

Strain, string, strangle, prestige

Swear Words

Punch, skittle, oracle, fizzle

T

Tam, to cut

Atom, anatomy, tonsure, entomology

Teks, to make cloth

Text, textile, technical, tissue

Ten, to stretch

Tent, thin, tender, attention

Ters, dry

Terrain, torrid, toast, Mediterranean

Tor, to twist

Torque, torture, throw, tortoise

Tu, to swell

Tube, total, thumb, trifle

Tup, to strike

Type, typical, tambourine, stupid

U

Us, sunrise

East, aura, virgin, sterling

W

Wa, empty

Vacuum, avoid, waste, avalanche

Wagh, to transport

Wagon, weight, waylay, voyager

Wak, to cry out

Vocal, voucher, vaccine, advocate

War, to guard

Warden, wardrobe, warren, beware

Wid, to see truly

History, interview, wise, dimwit