## Foreword by Victoria Coren 9

PART 1 Introduction 17

One Our Mongrel Tongue 41 Two Dr Johnson's Big Idea 67

Three From 0800 Number to Zyxt 89

Four Desert Island Texts 113

Five Local Lingo 135 Six Global Lingo 157

Seven That's Entertainment 177

Eight The Appliance of Science 199

Nine Mind Your Language 219
Ten To Er ... is Human 245

Eleven Changing Times, Changing Terms 253

Twelve Origin Unknown 269

## PART 2

Thirteen One Sandwich Short 285

Fourteen Fashionistas 305 Fifteen Who Were They? 329

Sixteen Man's Best Friend 351 Seventeen Dodgy Dealings 371

Eighteen Put-downs and Insults 395

Nineteen Spend a Penny 415

Twenty X-rated 439

## Wordhunt Results 461

Further reading 505
Useful addresses and websites 511
Acknowledgements 512
Index 513