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Damp Squid The English Language Laid Bare Jeremy Butterfield

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A damp squid? Some kind of wet cephalopod? If you are familiar with the phrase, you might be British, and if you are British, you might expect the book to be a disappointment, for such is the meaning of "damp squid."

Damp Squid: The English Language Laid Bare by Jeremy

Today, linguists use massive computer power--including the world's largest language databank, the Oxford Corpus, which contains more than two billion words--to determine for the first time definitively how the English language is used.

Damp Squid - Jeremy Butterfield - Oxford University Press

If it is a damp squib along the lines that have been referred to, there will be much frustration, annoyance and condemnation.

damp squib Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary

Definition of damp squib - a situation or event which is much less impressive than expected. ... Definition of damp squib in English: damp squib. noun British . A situation or event which is much less impressive than expected. "My moment of power was a damp squib" ...

damp squib | Definition of damp squib in English by Oxford

A squib is a miniature explosive device used in a wide range of industries, from special effects to military applications. It resembles a tiny stick of dynamite , both in appearance and construction, although with considerably less explosive power.

Squib (explosive) - Wikipedia

Jeremy Butterfield's "Damp Squid: The English Language Laid Bare" is an entertaining look at the origins of modern English, the history of the dictionary, the sources of new words taken into the language, English grammar, and why so many English speakers are "wobbly" about spelling even some of the words they use every day (among other assorted topics).

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Times, Sunday Times (2013) His show was a damp squib. The Sun (2012) The opening in 1959 was a damp squib. Times, Sunday Times (2009) She admits the best man's speech was a damp squib.

Damp squib definition and meaning | Collins English Dictionary

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damp squid May 25, 2016 yanira.vargas Squid are indeed usually damp in their natural environment, but the popular British expression describing a less than spectacular explosion is a "œdamp squib" (soggy firecracker).

damp squid | Common Errors in English Usage and More

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The usage of a language is the manner in which the written and spoken language is used, the "points of grammar, syntax, style, and the choice of words", and "the way in which a word or phrase is normally and correctly used". The usage of a language can mean the way people actually use the language, or prescriptively the way one group feels that people ought to use it.

Usage (language) - Wikipedia

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A squid is a marine animal with long tentacles that is delicious fried, and which is usually damp as it lives in the sea. A squib, on the other hand, is a type of old-fashioned cylindrically-shaped firework which looks a bit like a stick of dynamite and which, like for most incendiary devices, would not work if it gets wet.

A Damp Squib Idiom Origin and Meaning - Bloomsbury

(British English, informal) an event, experience, etc. that is expected to be interesting or exciting, but is in fact boring or ordinary: In the end, the party turned out to be rather a damp squib. A squib is a type of small firework.

A damp squib - Idioms by The Free Dictionary

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Reference Guide for the History of English - uni-due.de

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The first thing to say about the expression 'damp squib' is that is is 'squib', not 'squid'. Squid are a species of cephalopod. In their natural environment squid are usually damp but that's as near to this phrase as they are likely to get.

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