



# Spoken Soul: The Story of Black English

*John Russell Rickford, Russell John Rickford*

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Claude Brown called Black English "Spoken Soul." Toni Morrison said, "It's a love, a passion. Its function is like a preacher's: to make you stand out of your seat, make you lose yourself and hear yourself. The worst of all possible things that could happen would be to lose that language."

Now renowned linguist John R. Rickford and journalist Russell J. Rickford provide the definitive guide to African American vernacular English—from its origins and features to its powerful fascination for society at large.

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