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Garner's Modern American Usage

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"Excellent." —William Safire, *The New York Times*

BRYAN A. GARNER

GARNER'S MODERN AMERICAN USAGE

THE AUTHORITY ON GRAMMAR, USAGE, AND STYLE

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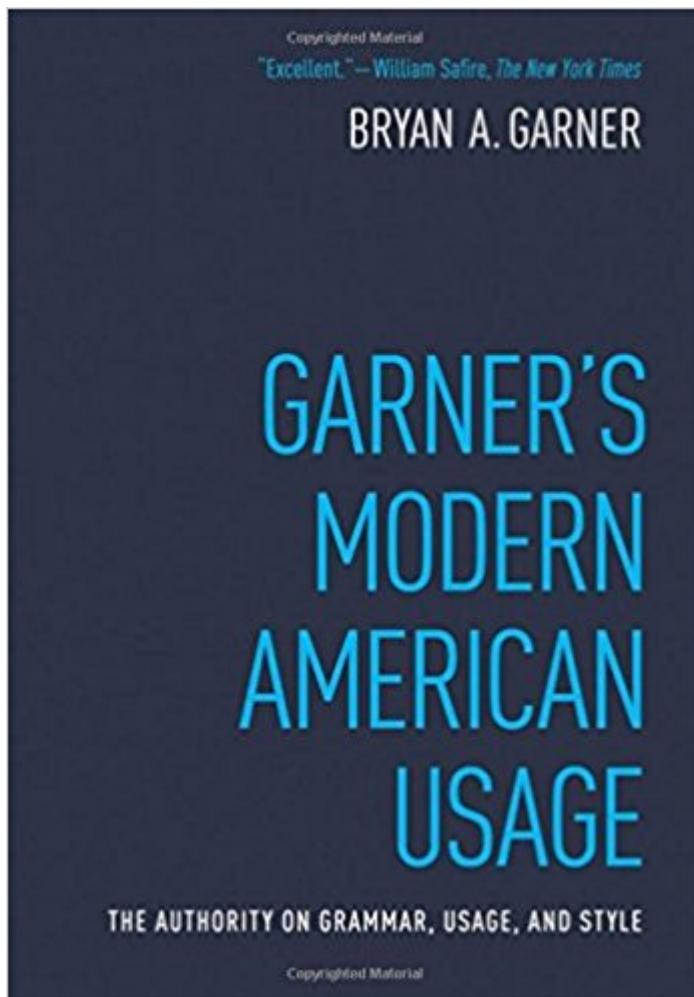
Synopsis

Since first appearing in 1998, Garner's Modern American Usage has established itself as the preeminent guide to the effective use of the English language. Brimming with witty, erudite essays on troublesome words and phrases, this book authoritatively shows how to avoid the countless pitfalls that await unwary writers and speakers whether the issues relate to grammar, punctuation, word choice, or pronunciation. Now in the third edition, readers will find the "Garner's Language-Change Index," which registers where each disputed usage in modern English falls on a five-stage continuum from nonacceptability (to the language community as a whole) to acceptability, giving the book a consistent standard throughout. Garner's Modern American Usage, 3e is the first usage guide ever to incorporate such a language-change index, and the judgments are based both on Garner's own original research in linguistic corpora and on his analysis of hundreds of earlier studies. Another first in this edition is the panel of critical readers: 120-plus commentators who have helped Garner reassess and update the text, so that every page has been improved.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 9 UpÃ¢â ¬â •Garner makes grammar fun, and readers will not only find elucidation but also moments of pure delight while browsing these pages. This edition includes more than 10,500 entries (an increase of approximately 1500 over the 2003 volume). There are preface statements from all three editions as well as new, worthwhile introductory essays: "Making Peace in the Language Wars" and "Ongoing Struggles of Garlic-Hangers" (a consideration of the descriptive vs. proscriptive

debate). As always, the entries are not only filled with clear lessons about language usage, trends, and problems inherent in misuse, but they are also peppered with cleverly chosen examples of both usage and misusage. Entries run anywhere from a line or two about spelling ("espresso" not "expresso") to a full column (see "effete") or more (see "irregular verbs" and the table following). Added to this edition is a language-change index that rates where a disputed usage falls on a scale of 1-5 (with 1 being "widely rejected" and 5 being "universally accepted") so that readers can gauge the correctness of a phrase such as "Hopefully, it won't rain tomorrow." Garner isn't a snob, though. His book is the best of its kind in that it simply reports the facts in an engaging way; language evolves and usage changes. The book ends with a 46-page glossary of grammatical, rhetorical, and other language-related terms, and a 10-page time line of books on usage. An invaluable ready-reference tool.Ã¢â ¬â •Herman Sutter, Saint Agnes Academy, Houston, TX (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Starred Review The Ã¢â ¬Å"prescriptive/descriptiveÃ¢â ¬Â• debate in usage is alive and well with this newest edition of GarnerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s readable work. Featuring more than 10,500 entries (up from 9,000), this edition features several enhancements. They include identifying poor usage with an asterisk before the terms and ranking certain entries with a Ã¢â ¬Å"Language Change Index,Ã¢â ¬Â• which measures Ã¢â ¬Å"how widely accepted various linguistic innovations have become.Ã¢â ¬Â• The scale is from 1 to 5, with 1 being rejected and 5 being fully accepted. For example, coupon being mispronounced Ã¢â ¬Å"kyooÃ¢â ¬Â• instead of Ã¢â ¬Å"kooÃ¢â ¬Â• is given stage 4 (Ã¢â ¬Å"the form is virtually universal but is opposed on cogent grounds by a few linguistic stalwartsÃ¢â ¬Â•). More than 2,000 usages are ranked. Extras in the volume include a new essay from Garner (Ã¢â ¬Å"The Ongoing Struggles of Garlic-HangersÃ¢â ¬Â•) as well as the essay that appeared in the previous edition (Ã¢â ¬Å"Making Peace in the Language Wars,Ã¢â ¬Â• in which Garner describes himself as being Ã¢â ¬Å"a kind of descriptive prescriberÃ¢â ¬Â•) and a concluding 47-page glossary of grammatical terms and a time line of books on usage. The main focus remains GarnerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s entries and usage notes. They range from word entries that simply verify the spelling (mayonnaise), to those clarifying two terms (sight, site), to those where he offers his never dull opinions (such as holocaust, which he calls Ã¢â ¬Å"one of our most hyperbolic words, beloved of jargonmongers and second-rate journalistsÃ¢â ¬Â•). But the longer essay entries on usage, ranging from the half-page Officialese to the 9-page Punctuation, are GarnerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s bread and butter. One would be tempted to say that this is clearly one of the best works on the

topic, but doing so would be using one of GarnerÃ¢â¬â„¢s weasel words (intensives such as clearly that Ã¢â¬Å"actually have the effect of weakening a statementÃ¢â¬Â•). Suffice it to say that it is highly recommended for most libraries. --Ken Black

this book is not intended for everyone; but, if you seriously seek to use American English well,this book deserves to stand beside your favorite American English dictionary, on your handiest bookshelf.and this is more than a reference book; this can be opened at random and read for pleasure.Ãƒâ Ã Â¶ for detailed evaluations, please read the lengthier five-star reviews exhibited here; all are insightful.Ãƒâ Ã Â¶ almost all of the fewer-than-five-star reviews exhibited here are predicated on dissatisfactionwith the Kindle version: excluding those, and excluding bald ratings pro or con,this is among the highest-rated of books reviewed by more than a few.

As a young lawyer who does a lot of writing, this book is one of my absolute favorites. It's structured like a dictionary, but each entry includes advice on how to use certain words, phrases, etc. For example, last week I had a question about when to use numerals versus when to write out the number. I'd always known you use numerals in the double-digits, but couldn't remember if you should use "10" or "ten." I flipped the book open looking for the entry for "numbers" and, *voila,* instant answer! (In case you were wondering, use the numeral for 10+, inclusive.)I keep this book on my shelf in the office, and it's never disappointed. Highest recommendation for any lawyer who writes often.

Witty and pedantic at the same time, this reference text is the sophisticated grammar nitpicker's dream come true. I gave it to my mother (an English teacher and college writing center director) for Christmas, and she's probably going to read it cover-to-cover. All of her favorite usage slip-ups are there, and according to her, he got them all right.

There are three books I use virtually every day: Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), and Garner's Modern American Usage. I originally purchased this as simply and additional resource, especially because Garner is the author of the grammar and usage chapter of CMOS. What I've discovered over time, however, is that when I come upon a particularly vexing question about a word or phrase and how it should (or should not) be used, this has become my go-to resource. Garner is often called a prescriptivist, but I think that is a simplistic and incorrect way of viewing his approach to language. Much like the dictionaries do, Garner gives

more credence to usage that has a long history and that has the weight of extensive usage among speakers and writers. Unlike the dictionaries, however, Garner actually puts considerable analysis behind whether such usage actually makes sense rather than simply saying "Well, a bunch of people have decided to call cars 'irregardless roadcrawlers,' so it must be correct even if no one knows what those people are saying. He also surrenders to usage that is idiomatic and makes the best sense when trying to communicate ideas, even when he is unlikely to use the term in question himself. He peppers his writing with funny examples, especially those from the most educated and famous quarters just to let us know that anyone can err at times (or perhaps there is a positive correlation to those events). Everyone who cares about the English language should own this book.

Are you a professional that has to write or otherwise communicate in text? Do you ever struggle with what the proper term is for odd groups of people you find the need to refer to as a group, like people from "pembina" county North Dakota? Well this book contains a comprehensive collection of every correct odd-ball term you have ever wanted to know.In addition, the book contains a super useful index of frequently misused words and terms that I am about halfway done reading through and already feeling totally ashamed.If you are like me and you find yourself in law school or in some other professional world and you have no idea how to do any of the following but would like to, this is the book for you:1.) How to offset sections of text in a sentence correctly using Hyphens to present a counterargument.2.) How to correctly write complicated sentences without using passive voice. (and when to use passive voice)3.) Which version of tricky words to use that are a step trickier than your usual "there, their, and they're"4.) If you never had any formal grammar training in school and did proofreading by "intuition" instead.5.) When to use numbers and when to use the words for numbers for different situations.And COUNTLESS others.In short, if your goal is to be well spoken, well written, and to do so at the highest professional levels... I would suggest taking tips from the guy that Justice Scalia talks grammar with. Brian Garner makes absolutely the finest writing texts.

This is the bible when it comes to contemporary American usage. That's all there is to it.While Garner may lean a bit to the prescriptive side, his advice is always logical and clear..If you need to justify holding a contrary opinion, you can always resort to "Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage," a copy of which you should also own. It takes a decidedly more descriptive approach to usage.

Garner's Modern American Usage Garner's Modern English Usage Garner's Dictionary of Legal Usage A Dictionary of Modern American Usage Driven toward Madness: The Fugitive Slave Margaret Garner and Tragedy on the Ohio (New Approaches to Midwestern History) Scalia and Garner's Reading Law: The Interpretation of Legal Texts Scalia and Garner's Making Your Case: The Art of Persuading Judges Quack This Way: David Foster Wallace & Bryan A. Garner Talk Language and Writing Raleigh, North Carolina: Includes: Auburn, Bayleaf, Falls, Garner, Lake Wheeler, Leesville, Neuse, Wake Forest, NC State University, Raleigh-Du A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage A Dictionary of Modern English Usage A Dictionary of Modern English Usage (Oxford Language Classics Series) Oxford Fowler's Modern English Usage Dictionary McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions: The Most Up-to-Date Reference for the Nonstandard Usage, Popular Jargon, and Vulgarisms of Contempos (McGraw-Hill ESL References) Modern Essentials Bundle 6th - Modern Essentials 6th Edition a Contemporary Guide to the Therapeutic Use of Essential Oils, An Introduction to Modern Essentials, and Modern Essentials Reference Card The Book of Common Prayer: The Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church in the English Parochial Tradition, According to Orthodox Catholic Usage McGraw-Hill Handbook of English Grammar and Usage, 2nd Edition (NTC Reference) Random House Webster's Pocket Grammar, Usage, and Punctuation: Second Edition (Pocket Reference Guides) Petit guide pratique de la famille recomposÃƒÂ©e: A usage des parents et des beaux-parents dÃƒÂ©terminÃƒÂ©s ÃƒÂ comprendre ce "truc" qui change tout et rend l'harmonie possible ! (French Edition) Group Theory in Chemistry and Spectroscopy: A Simple Guide to Advanced Usage (Dover Books on Chemistry)