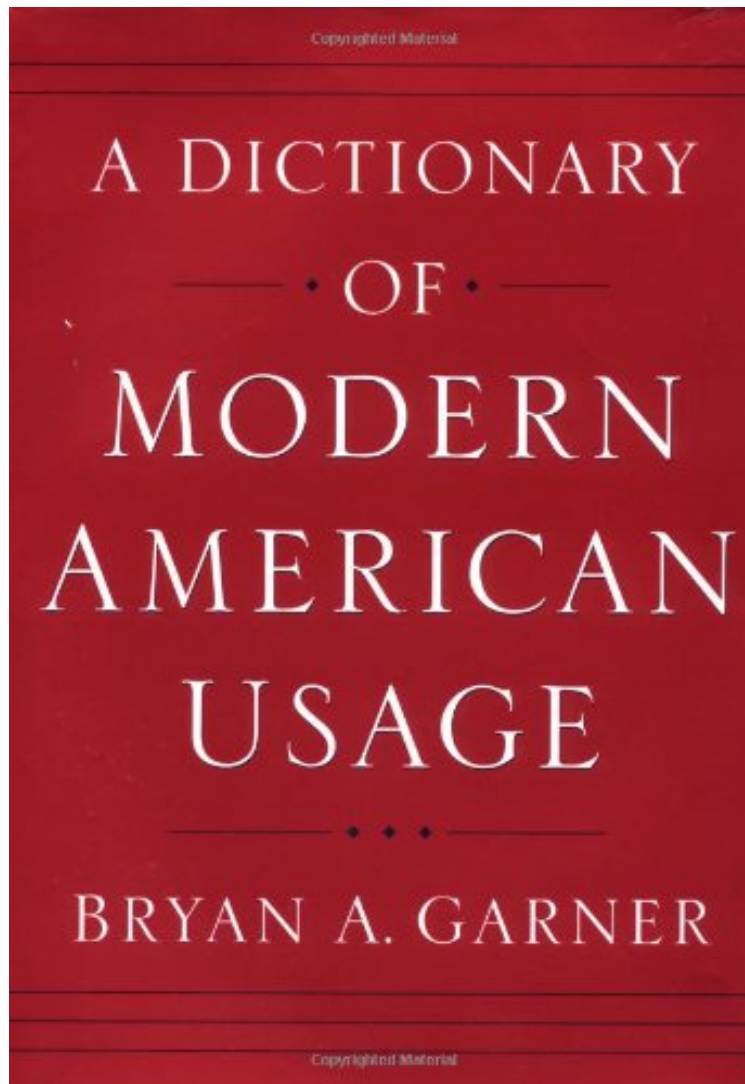


(Download) A Dictionary of Modern American Usage

A Dictionary of Modern American Usage

Bryan A. Garner

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Bryan A. Garner : A Dictionary of Modern American Usage before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Dictionary of Modern American Usage:

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. A worthy heir to Fowler By Brian Melendez For three generations, a single book dominated the market as the authoritative reference in matters of grammar, style, and usage in the English language: "A Dictionary of Modern English Usage" by H.W. Fowler, first published in 1926, ably revised by Sir Ernest Gowers in 1965, and now in its third edition (published 1996). But by the century's last quarter, the modern English language -- particularly its American dialect -- had begun outgrowing Fowler, and several newer guides began

competing with it. The third (1996) edition of Fowler was a disappointment, and left the field without a clear leading authority. That gap was filled in 1998, when Bryan A. Garner wrote "A Dictionary of Modern American Usage" (published by the Oxford University Press, which also published Fowler). Finally, someone had written a book that matched Fowler -- not only in its erudition, but also in its accessible style, and even its wry sense of humor. And Garner's book had the advantages of being written both in modern times for a modern audience, and in the United States by an American author about American English. The book is a gem, and as authoritative a reference as you will find in this field in the last several decades (and probably the next several too). "DMAU" went into a second edition in 2003, under the title "Garner's Modern American Usage," renamed after its author in view of the acclaim that the first edition earned. A new edition was appearing after only five years because, as Garner explains in the second edition, "changing usage isn't really the primary basis for a new edition of a usage guide: it's really a question of having had five more years for research." The second edition builds upon the first: the first edition was a dictionary of words in usage, rather than words about usage, and therefore assumed that the reader possessed a certain working knowledge of basic grammatical terms and concepts. For example, the first edition didn't define such basic terms as "sentence," "phrase," "clause," "word," or "part of speech." The second edition appends a glossary that defines many such basic concepts, in addition to many new or expanded entries in the dictionary itself. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Who bought all this stuff? Delightful. The consummate zen master of American legalese/0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Essential! By joshrae Essential!

In every age, writers and editors need guidance through the thickets of English usage. Although some language issues are perennial (infer vs. imply), many others spring anew from the well of English: * Is it all right to say alums instead of alumni or alumnae? And should it be spelled alums or alumns? * Should I say empathic or empathetic? Do you home in or hone in? Is it a couple of dozen or a couple dozen? * What's the singular of paparazzi? Is paparazzis an acceptable plural? What about graffiti--singular or plural? And what about kudos? * What's the correct pronunciation of concierge? Or schism? Or flaccid? This book will tell you. In 750 pages of crisp, precise, and often witty pronouncements on modern American English, Bryan Garner authoritatively answers these and thousands of other questions that bedevil those who care about the language. Garner draws on massive evidence to support his judgments, citing more than 5,000 examples--good, bad, and ugly--from sources such as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and Newsweek. Here is a usage guide that, whether you're a language connoisseur or just a dabbler, you can savor in a leisurely way, a few paragraphs at a time. No one can browse through the book without sharing the author's spirited awareness of how words work and his relish for exposing the affectations that bloat our language. Yet if you don't have the time for browsing, but simply want a quick answer to an editorial riddle, this book is your best bet. DMAU can justifiably lay claim to being the most comprehensive treatment of how American English is used--and abused--as we enter the 21st century.

.com If they had to state a preference, surely all individuals who ever had occasion to write (be it a memo, love letter, quick e-mail, college essay, or novel) would opt for using appropriate, grammatically correct English. The problem isn't in the intent, it's in the availability and accessibility of clear, understandable answers. Most writers (professional and amateur) get by on what sounds right, their memory of compound predicates and serial commas being a little fuzzy. They might turn to a dictionary or even a thesaurus (or, more likely, depend on the convenience of the computer spell-checker and thesaurus functions), but grammar books are rarely cracked outside of high school English classes. But what if there were a book that explained the rules of grammar and usage and that was precise yet easy to understand? A book that was useful, and didn't make you feel like a dunce for not knowing where to put the period when you use quotation marks? A Dictionary of Modern American Usage, written by Bryan Garner and published by Oxford University Press, could be the start of a new movement, a brave new world in which people cheerfully polish their prose, where participles rarely dangle and "less" was not substituted incorrectly for "fewer." Garner, a lawyer and lexicographer, has created a scholarly and readable masterpiece. He clarifies the dos and don'ts of commas and quotation marks, explains why it's not so awful to end sentences with prepositions, and tackles common confusions, such as lay and lie, flaunt and flout, and assure, insure, and ensure. Erudite and dryly witty, spectacularly organized and up to date, and attentive to both basic usage and advanced nuances, A Dictionary of Modern American Usage is destined to become the reference of choice for students, scribes, editors, executives, and language devotees. -- Stephanie Gold "Containing roughly 7000 main entries and many cross references, the dictionary offers intelligent, sensible, readable advice concerning usage demons involving problems of grammar, spelling, homonyms, variants, cliches, skunked words, redundancies, phrasal adjectives and verbs, and more. Garner's long entries on split infinitives and when to us that or which are worth the price of the book. More 5500 illustrative quotations buttress and clarify the author's opinions, and an appended time line listing hundreds of usage guides from 1786 to date is another plus... Garner is a prescriptivist in the common-sense tradition of Fowler. His new dictionary, meant to be an equivalent of Fowler's famous work, deserves a place in every library of substance."--Library Journal "A Dictionary of Modern American Usage is a worthwhile supplement for guidance on terms that have troubled editors and writers..."--Copy

Editor "The prose in this work is readable, interesting, witty, and lively...it will be very helpful for modern writers who desire to write correctly but unpretentiously. This resource is highly recommended for public and academic libraries."--
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About the Author Bryan A. Garner, a lawyer and lexicographer, has written extensively on the English language. His earlier books include A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage and The Elements of Legal Style, and he is editor-in-chief of Black's Law Dictionary. He is president of LawProse, Inc., a Dallas-based company that provides continuing-legal-education seminars to lawyers throughout the United States.