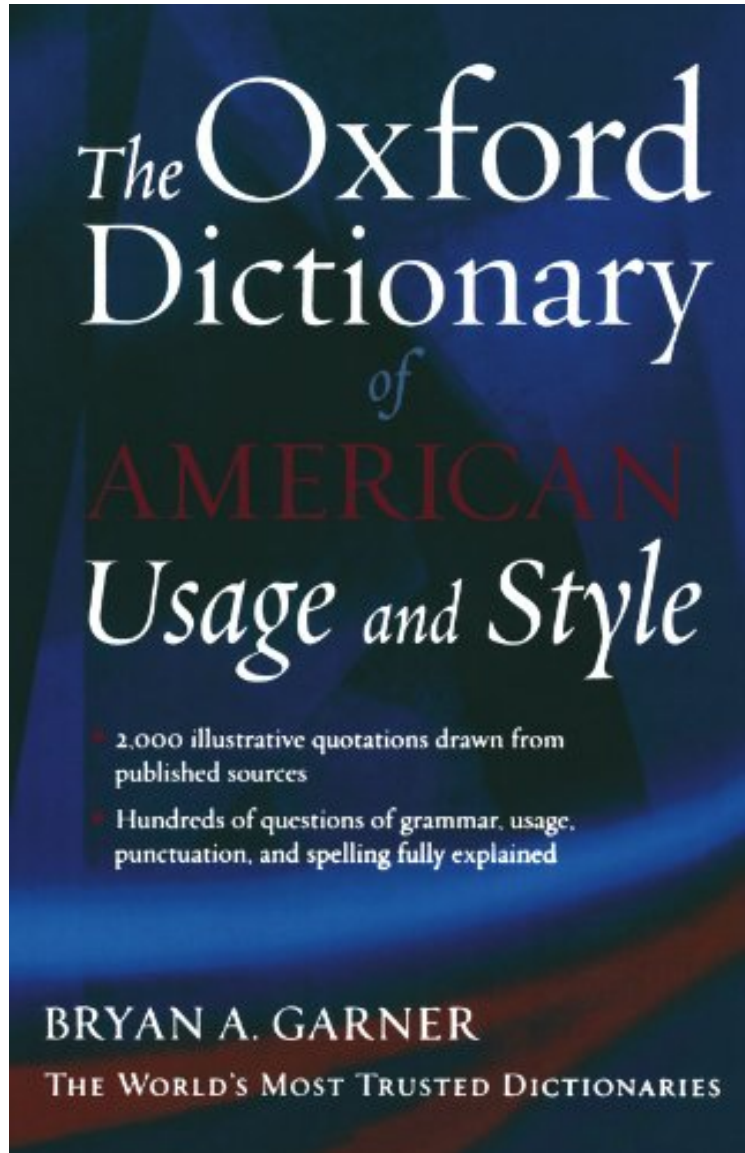


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are many entries. The list of essays takes 7 pages but this excellent list provides no links to them. So, you are left to use search to find an entry, or page forward and backward to locate the desired entry. Linking cross references in entries would be useful... expected! I mean, it is an electronic book. Get the print edition instead... if you actually want to make use of the book. 5 stars for content. 1 star for Kindle edition. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Easy to use, never fussy, balances what's right with what's effective. By Alfred E. Guy Jr. If you're ever afraid that you've mistaken "it's" and "its," or if the sight of everyone reading "Eats, Shoots, and Leaves" makes you terrified to write a note, you'll want a copy of this book on your desk. Although a good usage manual depends on the reader having some sense of style (enough to look up uncertain techniques or phrases), too many treat you either like a child or an English teacher, scolding you or explaining their advice in impenetrable jargon. (Many such books don't seem to have taken their own advice about simplicity and clarity.) "The Oxford Dictionary of American Usage" is the exception, a book about language that's well-written and inviting, one that doesn't make you feel like you're back in your grandmother's parlor having every sentence corrected. As one of the other reviewers notes, the range of sources and examples is phenomenal--one way you can double-check your phrasing is to see if you'd want to sound like the writers in Garner's citations. But I'm even more impressed with the simple organization and headings. I sometimes have trouble finding advice in a writer's reference because I can't recall the technical term for what I'm trying to do, but entries in Garner's book are easy to find and richly cross-referenced. Most important, Garner's ear for English is impeccable, and you'll want it listening (as it were) over your shoulder. He acknowledges long-held rules but--where applicable--demonstrates their obsolescence; he also recognizes new usages and gives fair warning of the connotations you risk if you use them before they've become standard. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Helpful and interesting. By Steven A. Smith. Lovely follow-up to my go-to, Fowler's. Interesting to browse through, as well, if you're a language junkie like me.

What's the singular of paparazzi? Is graffiti singular or plural? What about kudos? Should I say empathic or empathetic? Is it a couple of dozen or a couple dozen? What's the correct pronunciation of concierge? Or schism? Or flaccid? In this book of crisp, precise, and often witty pronouncements on modern American English, Bryan Garner decisively 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 thousands of examples--good, bad, and ugly--from sources such as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and Newsweek. 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. And even 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.

"Excellent. Garner extends the reach of the prescriptive Fowler and the descriptive Merriam-Webster."--William Safire, The New York Times "The most succinct and sensible advice on American usage to come down the pike in a long while."--The San Diego Union-Tribune "Although Garner's manual is full and learned, his entries are quick and get to the point, easy to understand and nicely cross-referenced. He is also fun to read. A number of good books on usage have come out over the years, but I've been unable to say of any of them, 'This is the one'--until now."--Austin American-Statesman (Texas) "More consistently entertaining and approachable than the more formal Merriam Webster and New Fowler's."--The Baltimore Sun "A superlative book."--Arizona Republic About the Author Bryan A. Garner, a noted lawyer and lexicographer, has written extensively on the English language and the language of law. His earlier books include A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage, The Elements of Legal Style, and The Winning Brief. He is Editor-in-Chief of Black's Law Dictionary and President of LawProse, Inc., a Dallas-based company that provides continuing-legal-education seminars to lawyers nationwide.