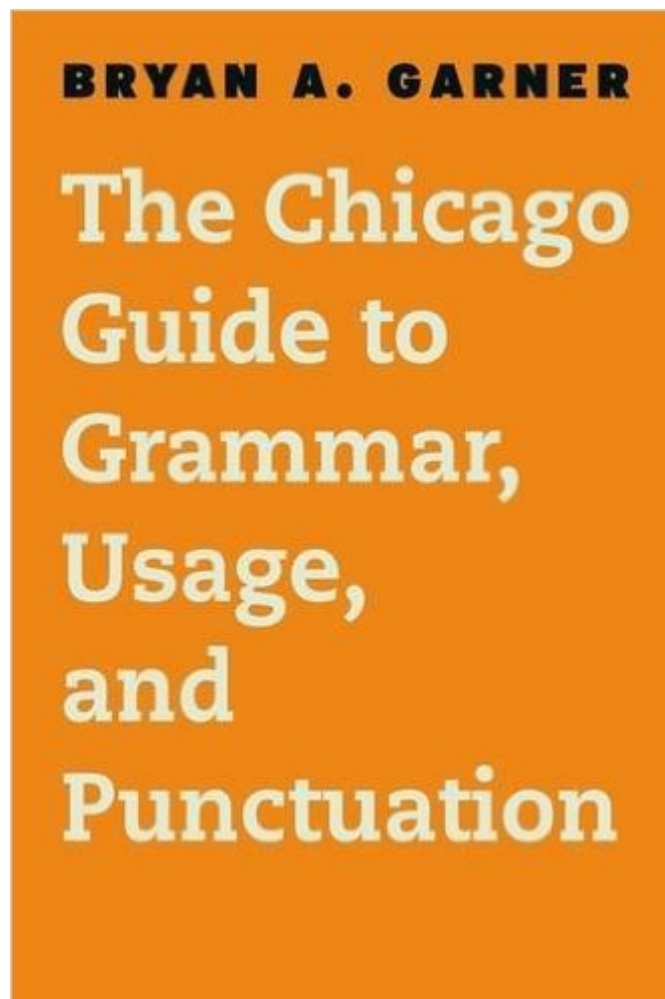# The Chicago Guide To Grammar, Usage, And Punctuation (Chicago Guides To Writing, Editing, And Publishing)

# Synopsis

Few people can write on the English language with the authority of Bryan A. Garner. The author of The Chicago Manual of Styleâ ™s popular â œGrammar and Usageâ • chapter, Garner explains the vagaries of English with absolute precision and utmost clarity. With The Chicago Guide to Grammar, Usage, and Punctuation, he has written the definitive guide for writers who want their prose to be both memorable and correct. Throughout the book Garner describes standard literary Englishâ ”the forms that mark writers and speakers as educated users of the language. He also offers historical context for understanding the development of these forms. The section on grammar explains how the canonical parts of speech came to be identified, while the section on syntax covers the nuances of sentence patterns as well as both traditional sentence diagramming and transformational grammar. The usage section provides an unprecedented trove of empirical evidence in the form of Google Ngrams, diagrams that illustrate the changing prevalence of specific terms over decades and even centuries of English literature. Garner also treats punctuation and word formation, and concludes the book with an exhaustive glossary of grammatical terms and a bibliography of suggested further reading and references. The Chicago Guide to Grammar, Usage, and Punctuation is a magisterial work, the culmination of Garnerâ ™s lifelong study of the English language. The result is a landmark resource that will offer clear guidelines to students, writers, and editors alike.

# Book Information

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# Customer Reviews

Garnerâ ™s usage guides are invaluable, but itâ ™s difficult to figure out who would want this book. Lovers of grammar will be frustrated, and anyone trying to learn the complexities of grammar and punctuation will be misled. For one thing, Garner muddles the terminology. On the very page (165) on which he defines a clause as â œa grammatical unit that contains a subject, a finite verb, and any complements that the verb requires,â • he presents as an example of a subordinate clause the word-group â œdespite my fatherâ ™s warning not toâ • (which is a phrase, not a clause, because it lacks a finite verb). Discussing the bracketed word-group â œweâ ™re making progress slowly but surelyâ • on page 146, he claims that â œbut joins two adverbs within an adverbial clause,â • but that word-group is an independent clause, not an adverbial dependent clause. Garner doesnâ ™t always have a sure grasp of the parts of speech, either. He classifies â œthroughâ • in the sentence â œIâ ™d like to see the problem throughâ • as a preposition (page 139), but â œthroughâ • is an adverb in that instance. For Garner, terms change meaning from page to page. On page 127, he defines an adverb as a â œwordâ •; on page 85, he illustrates his statement that â œit is now widely acknowledged that adverbs sometimes justifiably separate the to from the principal verbâ • with the sentence â œ[T]hey expect to more than double their income next year.â • â œMore thanâ • doesnâ ™t satisfy his definition of an adverb as a single word; itâ ™s a phrasal adverb, which he defines elsewhere. Explanations are opaque (from page 143: â œThe conjunction joins a clause. . . .â • Hunh?). Examples donâ ™t always relate to the rules they are intended to illustrate.

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