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

**BRYAN A. GARNER**

## The Chicago Guide to Grammar, Usage, and Punctuation



## Synopsis

Few people can write on the English language with the authority of Bryan A. Garner. The author of *The Chicago Manual of Style*'s popular "Grammar and Usage" 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 English—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 Garner'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

Garner's usage guides are invaluable, but it'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 "a grammatical unit that contains a subject, a finite verb, and any complements that the verb requires," he presents as an example of a subordinate clause the word-group "despite my father's warning not to" (which is a phrase, not a clause, because it lacks a finite verb). Discussing the bracketed word-group "we're making progress slowly but surely" on page 146, he claims that "but joins two adverbs within an adverbial clause," but that word-group is an independent clause, not an adverbial dependent clause. Garner doesn't always have a sure grasp of the parts of speech, either. He classifies "through" in the sentence "I'd like to see the problem through" as a preposition (page 139), but "through" is an adverb in that instance. For Garner, terms change meaning from page to page. On page 127, he defines an adverb as a "word"; on page 85, he illustrates his statement that "it is now widely acknowledged that adverbs sometimes justifiably separate the to from the principal verb" with the sentence "[T]hey expect to more than double their income next year." "More than" doesn't satisfy his definition of an adverb as a single word; it's a phrasal adverb, which he defines elsewhere. Explanations are opaque (from page 143: "The conjunction joins a clause. . . Hunh?"). Examples don't always relate to the rules they are intended to illustrate.

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