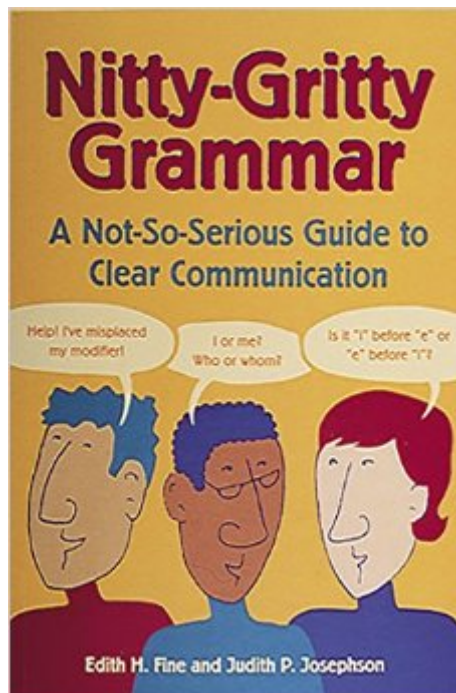


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Nitty-Gritty Grammar: A Not-So-Serious Guide To Clear Communication



Synopsis

An easy-to-follow guide for all of your grammar needs. With clear text, appealing cartoons, and a focus on common grammatical errors and how to correct them, this little volume is a real gem that should find a permanent place with companies, universities, and anyone seeking a user-friendly guide to style and usage. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

"Nitty-Gritty Grammar" is an outstanding book. I read it prior to having its authors Edith Fine and Judith Josephson on my talk radio show on WRKO Radio in Boston. They were informative and funny and the phone lines were full the entire hour they were on my show. The key to this book is that it is both educational and entertaining. In someone else's hands, this book could be a real snoozer. In Judith and Edith's hands, it is a work of art. If you read this book, you will stop making up "irregardless" and other words which don't exist (see page 85.) You will stop mispronouncing words like "asterisk" (it's not asterick-- see page 72.) And you will never again misplace your apostrophes, dangle your participles or commit other high crimes and misdemeanors against grammar, spelling, punctuation and pronunciation (see pages 1-102--the entire book.) The book

includes many cartoons which will teach you while you laugh. The section on "Ways to Tame the Spelling Monster" is indispensable with clever ways to remember the correct spelling of words including "dessert" (it has two s's--think strawberry shortcake). If you only read the "ticker tape" which runs throughout the book at the bottom of each page, you will learn more than you did in twelve years of boring English classes. The amazing part of this book is that it can be used by children, teenagers and adults. I suggest you buy copies for your entire family and all your friends and coworkers. They'll speak properly when they thank you. Bob Katzen, WRKO Radio, Boston, Massachusetts

As a writing teacher and home schooler, I haven't found a more enjoyable grammar reference book. My 11 year old son picked it up one day and read straight through the entire book in one afternoon. The appeal of the cartoons, the easy to understand explanations and the user friendly format make this the grammar reference of choice for all grammar-impaired parents who teach their own kids. I highly recommend it!

My multiple copies of Nitty-Gritty Grammar all remain dust-free. We relish our pleasant explorations into our quirky language as I hand NGG to family and colleagues whenever grammar questions come up. We used to check several grammar books. Now, NGG is all we use. No matter how unique the question, NGG always has the answer-with clear, easy-to-understand examples. We have multiple copies of Nitty-Gritty Grammar in each of our offices at work. At home, we keep one copy in my home office, one in the family room, and one in my daughter's homework area. My friend who teaches English initially bought NGG for each of his ESL students. He now buys a copy for ALL of his students. He tells them they need to all buy their own personal copies to take to college and beyond. Whenever we look something up in NGG at work or home, we "surf" through other pages, sharing other tidbits of not-so-serious grammar. We're not that desperate for entertainment. NGG is just such a delightful and practical resource. A "must-have" that just happens to be very entertaining.

So...last night I read through the vast majority of Nitty-Gritty Grammar and I gotta tell ya (this is a relaxed review), I liked what I read. In fact, I picked it up again tonight and found what I believe to be the best page -- 86! I have often erroneously used et. al., i.e., and e.g. I knew there was a difference and just never took the time. That's why this book is good. It reads like a good trivia book...lots of gems of knowledge packed in a tight, quick reference format. The ticker-tape tips at the bottom of

each page in the shaded section are very handy. The book's organization is strong, as I would expect. For people on the go and who need quick references, such effective organization is crucial. Cartoons are additive, but the book could surely stand on its own. It's a dynamite guide in keeping with the easy-reference approach of the AP Stylebook. Nothin' fancy - "Just the facts ma'am." See page 27 - Sherrie (my wife) and I have a question about a grammar rule and eagerly await guidance. It seems there may be an exception to the who/m rule. For example, if we ask, "Whom shall I say is calling?" It's the rule, right? Well then, if we rephrase it, we would say, "I shall say he is calling," but not, "I shall say 'him' is calling." So, is that an exception to the rule? I wonder...if in the second edition, there might be an "exceptions" page - even if what we ask here is wrong and there's an easy answer...I'm sure there are exceptions to some rules - perhaps it could be set up like a trivia section. Sherrie (my wife), who has her degree in English and is currently an ESL instructor, REALLY liked the book - its whole approach. She wants to keep it on her grammar shelf and I want it for my public relations work. Looks like we may need a second copy!

Over the years I've fallen into poor grammar habits. This little gem of a book has helped me clean up my act--or should I say mouth! Keep it close by so you can consult it often. The fun layout makes it easy to grab a quick lesson here and there.

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