



# A Dictionary of Modern American Usage

*Bryan A. Garner*

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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.

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