

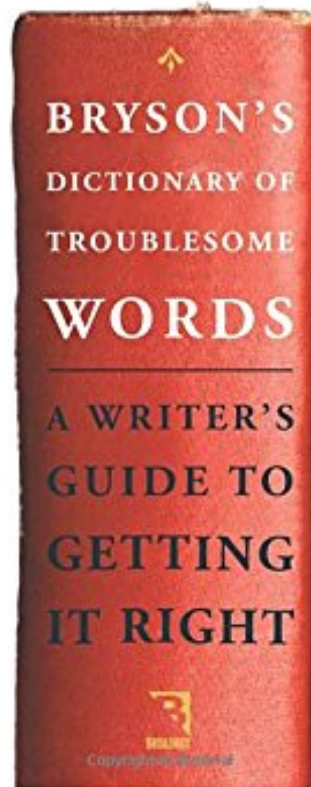
Bryson's Dictionary of Troublesome Words: A Writer's Guide to Getting It Right

Bill Bryson

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"One of the best guides to usage there is. I cannot imagine an English-speaking person [who] would not rejoice in [it]." —Katherine A. Powers, *Boston Globe*

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#196853 in Books Bill Bryson 2004-09-14 2004-09-14 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .60 x 5.201, .45 #File Name: 0767910435256 pages Bryson's Dictionary of Troublesome Words A Writer's Guide to Getting It Right | File size: 51.Mb

Bill Bryson : Bryson's Dictionary of Troublesome Words: A Writer's Guide to Getting It Right before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bryson's Dictionary of Troublesome Words: A Writer's Guide to Getting It Right:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Perfect companion for word lovers
By GHBRN
On the same day, I ordered two used copies from 2 different sellers. They both arrived as promised...and in near "Bookstore" condition. BONUS...one of them was signed by Mr. Bryson. I had just become acquainted with Bill Bryson months before when I was given his audiobook of "At Home"...which I have in my car and listen to when on the road. I listen to it in short segments as he offers so much information...my mind goes in to overload. I then ordered his "In the Woods" in audio which was delightful and a fairly "quick listen!" He has a huge store of information and a delightful way of sharing it. Even the Dictionary of Troublesome Words will make you smile. I love grammar so I love this book, "albeit" it did not have two of my favorite words included..."ergo" I should only give it 4 stars...but I acquiesced and give it a 5!! I have enjoyed all of his works to this point and hope to add more to my library. If you like words...this is a fun read!
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This was a gift. Im a writer/editor and already ...
By TQSA
This was a gift. Im a writer/editor and already have many of Bill Brysons books.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun, fascinating
By JHeckel
Fun to read, this is a great primer on the often subtle distinctions between words such as "gantlet" and "gauntlet." Set up dictionary-style, each word is presented concisely and authoritatively. If you want to hone your writing skills or just like to browse the endlessly fascinating words that make up the English language, you need this.

One of the English languages most skilled and beloved writers guides us all toward precise, mistake-free usage. As usual Bill Bryson says it best: English is a dazzlingly idiosyncratic tongue, full of quirks and irregularities that often seem willfully at odds with logic and common sense. This is a language where cleave can mean to cut in half or to hold two halves together; where the simple word set has 126 different meanings as a verb, 58 as a noun, and 10 as a participial adjective; where if you can run fast you are moving swiftly, but if you are stuck fast you are not moving at all; [and] where colonel, freight, once, and ache are strikingly at odds with their spellings. As a copy editor for the London Times in the early 1980s, Bill Bryson felt keenly the lack of an easy-to-consult, authoritative guide to avoiding the traps and snares in English, and so he brashly suggested to a publisher that he should write one. Surprisingly, the proposition was accepted, and for a sum of money carefully gauged not to cause embarrassment or feelings of overworth, he proceeded to write that book his first, inaugurating his stellar career. Now, a decade and a half later, revised, updated, and thoroughly (but not overly) Americanized, it has become Brysons Dictionary of Troublesome Words, more than ever an essential guide to the wonderfully disordered thing that is the English language. With some one thousand entries, from a, an to zoom, that feature real-world examples of questionable usage from an international array of publications, and with a helpful glossary and guide to pronunciation, this precise, prescriptive, and because it is written by Bill Bryson often witty book belongs on the desk of every person who cares enough about the language not to maul or misuse or distort it. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers Weekly
Bestselling author Bryson's latest book is really his first: this guide to usage, spelling and grammar was first published in 1983 when Bryson (In a Sunburned Country, etc.) was an unknown copyeditor at the London Times, and has now been revised and updated for use in the U.S. Alphabetically arranged entries include commonly misspelled and misused words. He also includes common problems with grammar, as well as an appendix on punctuation. Bryson often cites the 1983 edition of H.W. Fowler's A Dictionary of Modern English Usage as an authority, though he also makes a handful of references to recent texts, such as the Encarta World English Dictionary and Atlantic Monthly columnist Barbara Wallraff's "Word Court." Despite the revisions, the book often betrays its origins as a British text, as in citing words in common usage throughout the U.K. and British Commonwealth, but rarely used by American writers, such as Taoiseach, the Prime Minister of Ireland or City of London vs. city of London. In addition, Bryson avoids taking on computer lingo, such as distinguishing between the Internet and the World Wide Web. Despite these shortcomings, Bryson's erudition is evident and refreshing. His passage on split infinitives, for example, asserts that it is "a rhetorical fault a question of style and not a grammatical one." Readers looking for the author's trademark humor will not find it here. Instead they will find a straightforward, concise, utilitarian guide, albeit one listing Bryson's "suggestions, observations, and even treasured prejudices" on newspaper writing primarily in Britain, circa 1983. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal
Offering "some 60 percent" new material, Bryson author of A Walk in the Woods, among other titles, and a former London Times copy editor has updated his 1984 work, The Facts On File Dictionary of Troublesome Words. He maintains a broad audience appeal by humorously addressing topics ranging from easily confused place names to geology's stalactite and stalagmite. The 1000 alphabetically arranged entries are often of the gantlet/gauntlet type, which offers clarification of definitions, spelling, and differences between U.S. and British English. Redundant wording is the other usage error most frequently mentioned, as seen in the entry "complete and unabridged." Prominent usage questions, e.g., dangling modifiers and the word hopeful, receive full-page or longer entries. Most notable among the entries are examples of erroneous usage quoted from prestigious publications, particularly newspapers. As in the first edition, Bryson presents an appendix and a glossary covering punctuation and grammatical terms. His work can be compared with William Strunk and E.B. White's Elements of Style in its concision but focuses

more on usage errors, while Strunk and White's work expands to general guidance on good writing. Recommended for public and academic libraries.- Marianne Orme, Des Plaines P.L., IL Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistThis is a new edition of a book previously titled *The Penguin Dictionary of Troublesome Words* (1983), now out of print. Primarily known for his hilarious travel writing, Bryson once worked as a copy editor at the *London Times*. There he was daily faced with vexing language problems but found traditional reference works to be of no use because they often assumed readers were familiar with the intricacies of grammar. Sensing a need for a simple, concise guide to the more problematic aspects of the English language, he has compiled this alphabetical list of words and phrases that are often misused, accompanied by straightforward, often funny explanations of their correct usage. Just to keep things interesting, he quotes errors made by major publications, such as the *New Yorker* and the *Washington Post*. Admittedly narrow in range, this pithy guide will work fine in conjunction with a full-blown style manual. Want to read the latest condemnations of the word hopefully? Should you use more than or over? Professional wordsmiths will want to know. Joanne WilkinsonCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved