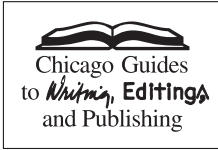


**The Chicago Guide
to Grammar, Usage, and Punctuation**



A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations

Kate L. Turabian

Student's Guide to Writing College Papers

Kate L. Turabian

Writing for Social Scientists

Howard S. Becker

The Craft of Translation

John Biguenet and Rainer Schulte, editors

The Craft of Research

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams

From Dissertation to Book

William Germano

Getting It Published

William Germano

From Notes to Narrative

Kristen Ghodsee

Writing Science in Plain English

Anne E. Greene

Storycraft

Jack Hart

How to Write a BA Thesis

Charles Lipson

Developmental Editing

Scott Norton

The Subversive Copy Editor

Carol Fisher Saller

Legal Writing in Plain English

Bryan A. Garner

The Chicago Guide to Grammar, Usage, and Punctuation

Bryan A. Garner

The University of Chicago Press
CHICAGO AND LONDON

Bryan A. Garner is president of LawProse Inc. and Distinguished Research Professor of Law at Southern Methodist University. He is the author of the grammar and usage chapter of *The Chicago Manual of Style* and editor in chief of *Black's Law Dictionary*. His many books on language and law include *Garner's Modern English Usage* and *Legal Writing in Plain English*, the latter from the University of Chicago Press.

The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 60637

The University of Chicago Press, Ltd., London

© 2016 by Bryan A. Garner

All rights reserved. Published 2016.

Printed in the United States of America

25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 1 2 3 4 5

ISBN-13: 978-0-226-18885-0 (cloth)

ISBN-13: 978-0-226-19129-4 (e-book)

DOI: 10.7208/chicago/9780226191294.001.0001

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Garner, Bryan A., author.

Title: The Chicago guide to grammar, usage, and punctuation / Bryan A. Garner.

Other titles: Chicago guides to writing, editing, and publishing.

Description: Chicago : University of Chicago Press, 2016. | ©2016 | Series: Chicago guides to writing, editing, and publishing | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2015047425 | ISBN 9780226188850 (cloth : alkaline paper) | ISBN 9780226191294 (e-book)

Subjects: LCSH: English language—Grammar—Handbooks, manuals, etc. | English language—Grammar—Study and teaching (Higher)

Classification: LCC PE1106 .G35 2016 | DDC 428.2—dc23 LC record available at <http://lcn.loc.gov/2015047425>

⊗ This paper meets the requirements of ANSI/NISO Z39.48-1992 (Permanence of Paper).

To Karolyne

Other Books Written or Edited by Bryan A. Garner

Garner's Modern English Usage (Oxford Univ. Press, 2016)

"Grammar and Usage," chap. 5 in *The Chicago Manual of Style*
(Univ. of Chicago Press, 16th ed. 2010)

HBR Guide to Better Business Writing (Harvard Business Review Press, 2013)

Quack This Way: David Foster Wallace and Bryan A. Garner Talk Language and Writing
(RosePen, 2013)

Black's Law Dictionary (Thomson Reuters, 10th ed. 2014)

Garner's Dictionary of Legal Usage (Oxford Univ. Press, 3rd ed. 2011)

Guidelines for Drafting and Editing Legislation (RosePen, 2016)

Reading Law: The Interpretation of Legal Texts, with Justice Antonin Scalia
(Thomson/West, 2012)

Making Your Case: The Art of Persuading Judges, with Justice Antonin Scalia
(Thomson/West, 2008)

The Winning Brief (Oxford Univ. Press, 3rd ed. 2014)

The Redbook: A Manual on Legal Style (West, 3rd ed. 2013)

Garner on Language and Writing, with preface by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (ABA, 2009)

Legal Writing in Plain English (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2nd ed. 2013)

The Elements of Legal Style, with preface by Charles Alan Wright
(Oxford Univ. Press, 2nd ed. 2002)

The Winning Oral Argument (West, 2009)

Ethical Communications for Lawyers (LawProse, 2009)

Securities Disclosure in Plain English (CCH, 1999)

The Rules of Golf in Plain English, with Jeffrey Kuhn (Univ. of Chicago Press, 4th ed. 2016)

A New Miscellany-at-Law, by Sir Robert Megarry (Hart, 2005)

Texas, Our Texas: Remembrances of the University (Eakin Press, 1984)

Basic Law Terms (West Group, 1999)

Criminal Law Terms (West Group, 2000)

Family Law Terms (West Group, 2001)

Business Law Terms (West Group, 1999)

Grammar is the cradle of all philosophy.

John of Salisbury (ca. 1120–80)

English is not a subject. *English is everything*. For us who speak English, English is everything. English is what we say and what we think.

L. A. G. Strong, *English for Pleasure* (1941)

Nobody who thinks or writes can be above grammar. It is like saying, “I’m a creative genius, I’m above concepts”—which is the attitude of modern artists. If you are “above” grammar, you are “above” concepts; and if you are “above” concepts, you are “above” thought. The fact is that then you are not above, but far below, thought. Therefore, make a religion of grammar.

Ayn Rand, *The Art of Nonfiction* (1969)

I take the candid approach because it fits my teaching situation. My students understand very well what social status means, so I simply tell them, “If you speak this way, you go in the back door; if you speak *this* way, you go in the front door.” I make it very clear that I neither built the house nor did I designate the doors. In this case, I am merely an agent showing off the real estate. I have the key to the front door, and once the student has the concept of usage levels I have given him the key. The back door is always ajar.

V. Louise Higgins, “Approaching Usage in the Classroom” (1960)

