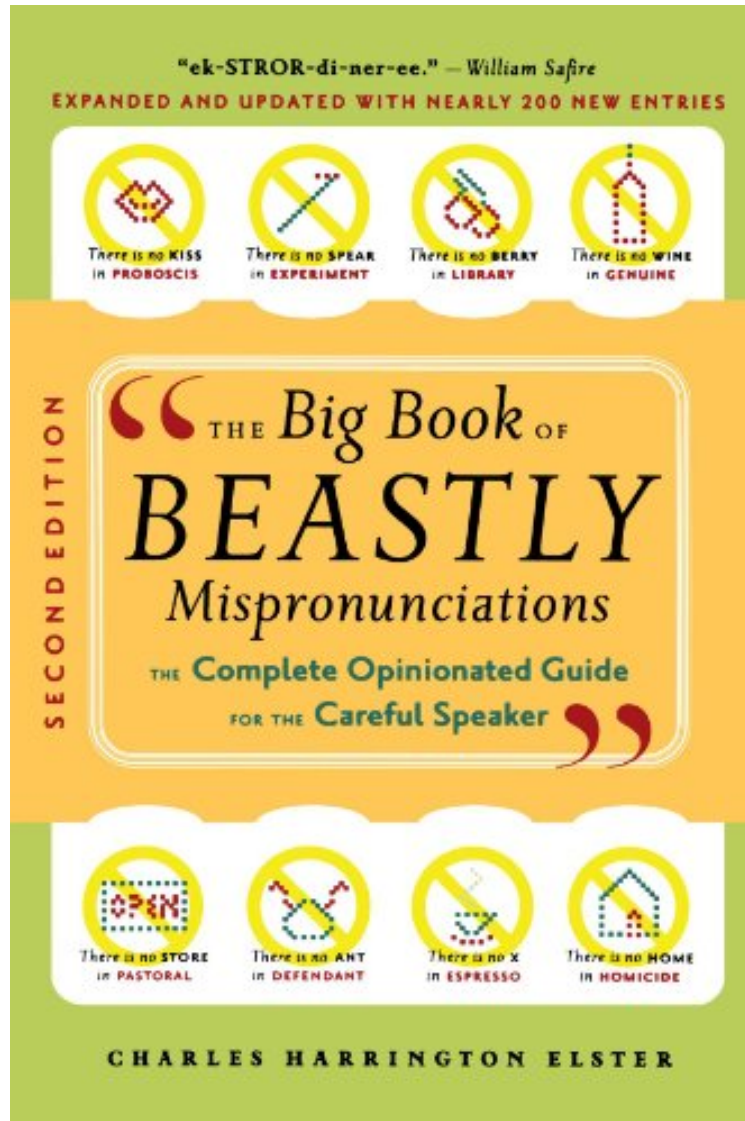


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The Big Book of Beastly Mispronunciations: The Complete Opinionated Guide for the Careful Speaker

Charles Harrington Elster

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The definitive pronouncement on more than 1,500 of our most commonly mispronounced words.From the language maven Charles Harrington Elster comes an authoritative and unapologetically opinionated look at American speech. As Elster points out, there is no sewer in connoisseur, no dip in diphthong, and no pronoun in pronunciation. The culmination of twenty years of observation and study, *The Big Book of Beastly Mispronunciations* is more than just a pronunciation guide. Elster discusses past and present usage, alternatives, analogies, and tendencies and offers plenty of advice, none of it objective. Whether you are adamant or ambivalent about the spoken word, Elster arms you with the information you need to decide what is acceptable for you.*The Big Book of Beastly Mispronunciations* has now been expanded and revised and features nearly 200 new words, including:al-Qaeda bruschetta commensurate coup de grace curriculum vita exacerbate gigabyte hara-kiri machismo Muslim Niger Pinochet Pulitzer sorbet tinnitus w (as in www-dot)and many, many more.Charles Harrington Elster is the pronunciation editor of *Blacks Law Dictionary* and the author of various books about language, including *Verbal Advantage*, *There's a Word for It*, and *What in the Word?* He has been a guest columnist on language for the *Boston Globe* and the *New York Times Magazine* and a commentator on NPR and hundreds of radio shows around the country.

.com "When it comes to pronunciation," says Charles Harrington Elster, "there are two types of people: Those who don't give the subject a second thought and those who do. This book is for those who do." Those who don't will likely dismiss it as a conglomeration of minutiae (mi-N[Y]oo-shee-ee). Elster's *Big Book of Beastly Mispronunciations* combines and expands upon his two previous books on the subject, offering historical pronunciations, authoritative opinions (his own and others'), and meandering explanations. This book is more entertaining than a game of badminton (don't say, "BAD-mitten," which Elster considers sloppy) and more lasting than a daiquiri (that's "DY-kuh-ree"). And best of all, you'll tighten up that flaccid ("FLAK-sid") pronunciation. Kudos ("KOO-dahs") to Elster for setting us straight. For now, anyway--there's a neologism ("nee-AHL-uh-jiz'm") born every day. --Jane SteinbergFrom *Library Journal*Contending that a laissez-faire ("rhymes with guess way there") approach to English language pronunciation is not acceptable, this appealing guide awakens readers to the sad truth that "lots of people mispronounce words every day and plenty of people notice." Host of National Public Radio's *A Way with Words*, Elster has expanded and extensively revised his three previous books--including *There's No Zoo in Zoology*--into one delightful pronunciation guide that is not just for the cognoscenti ("KAHN-yuh-SHEN-tee"). The list of words ranges from "a"--"uh (as in ago)" or "ay (as in ate)"--to "zydeco"("rhymes with try to go"), but Elster goes way beyond a simple list of correct pronunciations. His explanatory essays refer to a wide array of research and reference tools, including dictionaries, etymologies, and such guides as the *NBC Handbook of Pronunciation*. Some may dismiss Elster's efforts as Sisyphean ("SIS-uh-FEE-in") or his compilation too anal ("AY-nal"). But he presents his entries with such aplomb (the second syllable "rhymes with Tom or bomb") and affection for the double entendre ("DUHB'L ahn-THAN-druh") that one cannot demur ("Pronounce mur as in murder not mural"). Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.About the AuthorCHARLES HARRINGTON ELSTERis the author of numerousbooks on language, most recently*THE ACCIDENTS OF STYLE: Good Advice on How Not to Write Badly*. His articles have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and other publications. Find out more at charlesharringtonelster.com.