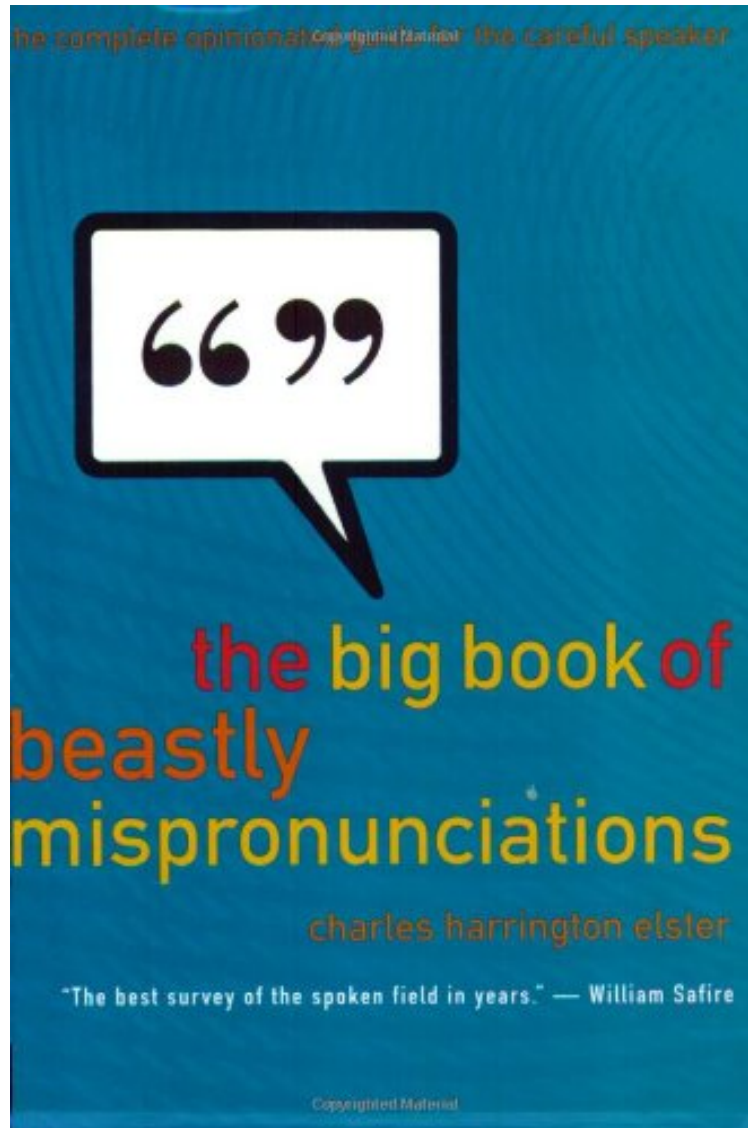


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The Big Book of Beastly Mispronunciations: The Ultimate Opinionated Guide for the Well-Spoken

Charles Harrington Elster

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end an argument about punctuation (or start one) or for some linguistically fascinating reading this book is tops. I would like to give it 5 stars but it just doesn't contain some words that would seem obvious to myself and others. Still a great book to gift certain people.*update*Some people seem to be complaining about the pronunciations he suggests for words that are not American English. Like Newfoundland. He gives the American English pronunciation. In one of his books he explains that his view is when in America, use American pronunciation. He doesn't have a problem with people using other pronunciations this is just his opinion. Like ahn-velope instead of in-velope. One is based on the original French pronunciation. I suppose that it should be expected that pronunciation sticklers would find something to complain about in a book about pronunciation.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. You will learn many things you never knew you were messing upBy tensoritWritten with total snobbery and inconsistency (e.g. arguing for preserving a foreign pronunciation in some places but not in others), but still a fantastic resource. He does an excellent job of offering info from a variety of sources.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really fun book. Filled with lots of informative trivia about ...By APMReally fun book. Filled with lots of informative trivia about the history of some of these words.

How do you pronounce affluent: AF-loo-int or uh-FLOO-int? Does it make a difference? Charles Harrington Elster believes that yes, it does make a difference (and that, for the record, one should pronounce the word AF-loo-int). Elster, the author of *Is There a Cow in Moscow?* and *There Is No Zoo in Zoology*, has chosen more than six hundred of our most commonly mispronounced words, arranged them alphabetically, and written entertaining essays that unapologetically offer his informed opinion as to why a word should be pronounced a particular way. Where pronunciations commonly vary or dictionaries disagree, Elster is an eager arbiter. Easy to use (there aren't any confusing diacritical marks), and with references from Will Shakespeare to Will Smith (for "aunt") and Jerry Seinfeld (for "clitoris"), this is an excellent argument-settler - and debate-starter. A Houghton Mifflin Paperback original.

.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 JournalContending 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 Elster is a guest contributor to the *New York Times Magazine's* "On Language" column and has been a commentator on NPR and hundreds of radio shows around the country. He is the author of numerous books, including *There Is No Zoo in Zoology* and *Is There a Cow in Moscow?*