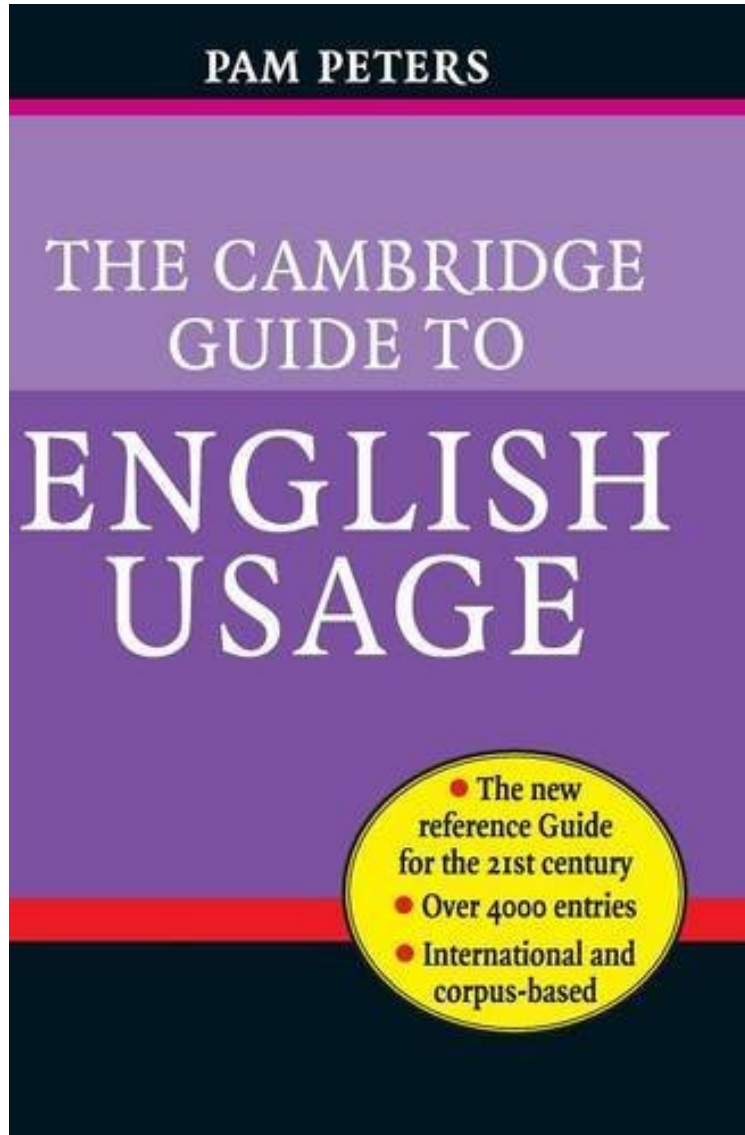


[Free] The Cambridge Guide to English Usage

The Cambridge Guide to English Usage

Pam Peters

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Pam Peters : The Cambridge Guide to English Usage before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cambridge Guide to English Usage:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Often more useful than Fowler By Khalid Ikram This book addresses much the same audience as Fowler's "Modern English Usage". It may be sacrilegious, but it is nevertheless true, to say that in many ways it is more useful than Fowler. This book takes a somewhat more liberal view of "correct" usage, pointing out how varied are the opinions of different authorities and good writers. In numerous instances it backs up its

opinions by providing data from the 100 million word British National Corpus and of American usage from a subset of 140 million words of American usage from the Cambridge International Corpus. It can thus reliably point out which spellings or usages are more frequent in British or American English, and thus guide the writer addressing a particular audience. It is, of course, unlikely that any single guide to usage will be able to answer every question that may arise in a writer's mind, but this volume should take its place on the shelf beside Fowler, Garner's "Modern American Usage," and "Webster's Dictionary of English Usage." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An entertaining guide to a dry subject By Kenneth R Grieves Not only is this book comprehensive, fair and accurate, it's also an entertaining guide to a dry subject and provides a fascinating historical perspective 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Good

Providing an indispensable new A-Z reference to English usage for the twenty-first century, this guide covers more than 3000 points of word meaning, spelling, punctuation, grammar and style on which students, teachers, writers and editors regularly require guidance. It also addresses larger issues of inclusive language, and effective writing and argument, and provides guidance on grammatical terminology. Based on large international corpora, it differentiates clearly between U.S., U.K., Canadian and Australian usage and offers up-to-date, objective advice presented in readable, accessible terms. Pam Peters is a Professor of Linguistics at Macquarie University where she also serves as Director of Macquarie University's Dictionary Research Center. She is the author of several books on English usage, including Cambridge Australian English Style Guide (Cambridge, 1995).

From Booklist The wry observation attributed to George Bernard Shaw that "England and America are two countries divided by a common language" finds support in *The Cambridge Guide to English Usage*. Author Peters, of Macquarie University in Australia, provides evidence that their common language also divides Canada and Australia from the other countries. Within the A-Z arrangement of brief, to-the-point articles, entries on catalogue and catalog, dived and dove, fitted and fit, freshman and fresher, titbit and tidbit celebrate transatlantic differences, some rather subtle, others more pointed. Peters draws on a range of authorities for her judgments on usage. Those include large databases, such as the 140-million-word Cambridge International Corpus of American English, and other usage guides from throughout the English-speaking world. In line with the most recent of these other handbooks, as well as the irrefutable evidence of present usage, Peters takes a descriptive rather than prescriptive approach. Her analytical discussions of parts of speech, grammatical concepts and constructs, and the like explain the origins of rules but also provide contemporary and historical examples of how usage tempers some rules. Like other manuals that explain the difference between a monologue and a soliloquy, the lack of meaningful difference between further and farther, the confused state between inquire and enquire, the divergence of salutary and salutatory from their common root, and recent introductions such as emoticons, Cambridge provides sound advice for those who want to understand the English language and use it effectively. More than other manuals, it describes the way in which some usages have a local habitation rather than global recognition. Considering the abundance of peculiarities and challenges in English usage, Cambridge will strengthen even a library well stocked with other guides. It is a serious book for those serious about language. Those who also enjoy the playfulness of English will continue to appreciate the complementary Penguin Dictionary of American English Usage and Style (Penguin, 2000) and its sometimes witty examples. REVWR Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "This should be on every library's reference desk. This is a most invaluable work, indeed." GEOLINGUISTICS Vol. 30, Leonard R. N. Ashley About the Author Pam Peters is the Director of Macquarie University's Dictionary Research Centre. Her publications include *The Cambridge Australian English Style Guide*.