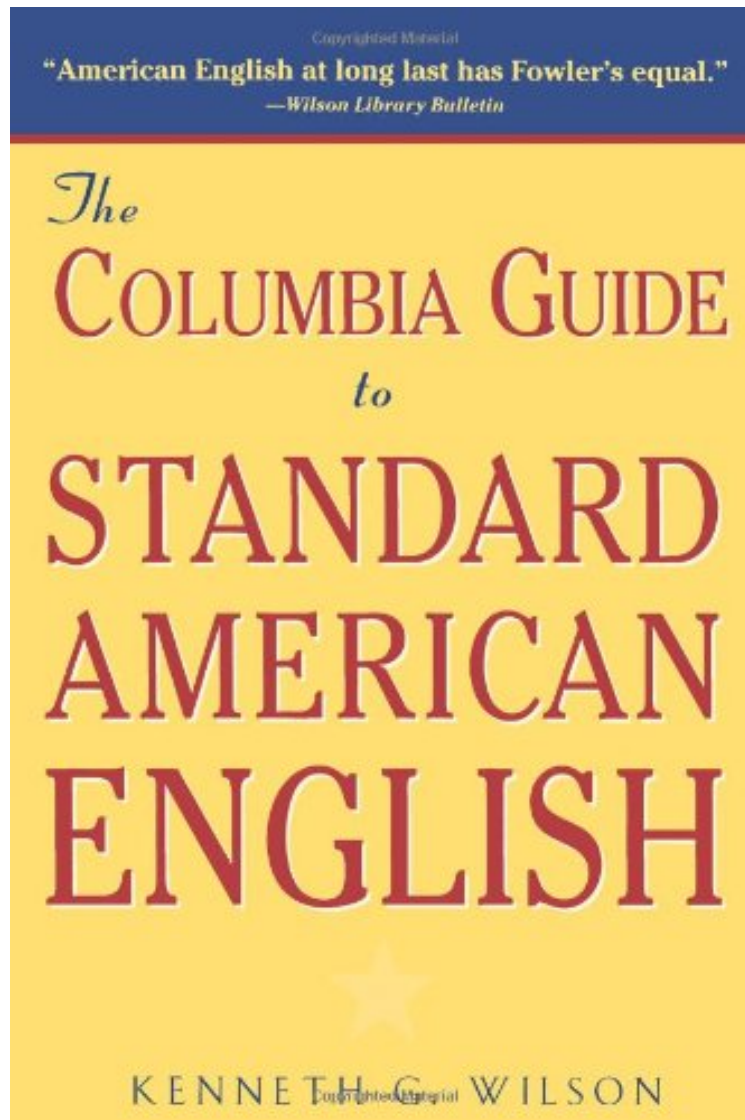


The Columbia Guide to Standard American English

Kenneth Wilson

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Kenneth Wilson : The Columbia Guide to Standard American English before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Columbia Guide to Standard American English:

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utilitarian purposes, as I am a proofreader and my client uses this for a style manual. I did not buy this to be a "coffee table book"! The book is laid out in dictionary format throughout, rather than topical, which surprised me because that's not what I'm used to in a style manual. But it makes it convenient to look up specific topics if you don't know what category that topic might fall under. I found it interesting that they tell what something might be in other English-speaking countries, so you know for sure what is American English and what is not. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Essential reference. By rctbone The best source of "American" standard usage available at this time I think. The coverage is good, and not 'fringe' or 'pop slanguage'.

In the most reliable and readable guide to effective writing for the Americans of today, Wilson answers questions of meaning, grammar, pronunciation, punctuation, and spelling in thousands of clear, concise entries. His guide is unique in presenting a systematic, comprehensive view of language as determined by context. Wilson provides a simple chart of contexts from oratorical speech to intimate, from formal writing to informal and explains in which contexts a particular usage is appropriate, and in which it is not. The Columbia Guide to Standard American English provides the answers to questions about American English the way no other guide can with: * an AZ format for quick reference; * over five thousand entries, more than any other usage book; * sensible and useful advice based on the most current linguistic research; * a convenient chart of levels of speech and writing geared to context; * both descriptive and prescriptive entries for guidance; * guidelines for nonsexist usage; * individual entries for all language terms. A vibrant description of how our language is being spoken and written at the end of the twentieth century and how we ourselves can use it most effectively. The Columbia Guide to Standard American English is the ideal handbook to language etiquette: friendly, sensible, and reliable.

From Library Journal An advocate of "linguistic good manners," Wilson (a consultant for The Standard College Dictionary) has produced a guide of more than 6500 entries, arranged alphabetically, focusing on American (as opposed to British or Canadian) English. Since many appropriate uses of language depend on the context, Wilson diagrams five levels of speech and three levels of writing, ranging from most informal to most formal, and refers to them in many of his explications. He clearly explains the fine distinctions in words often used interchangeably, such as flout and flaunt or infer and imply. Additionally, Wilson suggests what to do about sexist language, what is construed as an ethnic slur, and when a split infinitive is acceptable. Recommended for writers, speakers, editors, and all language lovers. - Cathy Sabol, Northern Virginia Community Coll., Manassas Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. The most reliable and entertaining guide to effective writing and speaking for Americans today. (The Christian Science Monitor) American English at long last has Fowler's equal. (Wilson Library Bulletin) Will act as a handy desk companion to anyone preparing a speech, paper, or presentation, and might be of particular value for nonnative English speakers. (Choice) Recommended for writers, speakers, editors, and all language lovers. (Library Journal) Will act as a handy desk companion to anyone preparing a speech, paper, or presentation. (Choice)