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Title: The new Fowler's modern English usage

Authors: Fowle, Henry Watson  
Burchfield, Robert William

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Issue Date: 2000

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Abstract: "Fowlers" has sold over a million copies over seven decades. For this new revision, eminent lexicographer Robert Burchfield has rewritten or otherwise enhanced hundreds of entries and has added twenty-four new entries in a special supplement. The volume remains the classic guide to English usage worldwide. Users will find practical help with grammar, syntax, style, and choice of words; clear guidance on usage offered in light of the language of the 1990s, with many new insights into how English is used today; in-depth coverage of both British and American English, together with aspects of the English of Australia; and wide-ranging illustrative examples, including samples from an international selection of newspapers, journals, and periodicals, as well as from well-known authors such as Martin Amis, Anita Brookner, Ruth Rendell, and John Updike. Whether you have a question about split infinitives, unattached participles, political correctness, or so on, you will find a clear and reliable answer here. A charming blend of information and good humor, The New Fowler's Modern English Usage offers advice and background information on all aspects of English language, from grammar to spelling to literary style. It is a godsend for writers, broadcasters, journalists, and anyone else who wants to write and speak well

Description: 899 pages

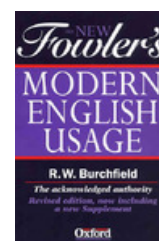
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As in "Fowler," the new edition is a cornucopia of information on such troublesome areas as the plural form of foreign words (adagio, curriculum, memorandum, virus); related or like-sounding words (affect/effect, continual/continuous); rarely encountered literary terms (alcaics, alexandrine, arsis); and unusual inflected forms (for instance, taxi, taxis, taxiing). But there are also many innovations. Fowler's "Modern English Usage" is one of those books that really has no business existing: a reference guide that's fun to read. You could spend hours flipping from entry to entry -- especially since many of the entries make reference to others -- discovering all the mistakes you've been making in your writing over the years. First published in 1926, Fowler's Modern Usage was revised in 1965 by Ernest Gowers. Now Robert Burchfield, the editor of the Oxford English Dictionary for almost 30 years, has undertaken a thorough rewriting of what he has termed "a fossil." Fowler still gives advice on choosing the right word, word formation, pronunciation, and punctuation. However, now there are lots of examples from the 1980s and 1990s. Burchfield has gotten rid of Fowler's amusing but often useless headwords ("Between Two Stools"). William Safire has remarked that "Fowler wrote the Bible on usage, but Modern English Usage needs revision every generation to stay modern." Robert Burchfield . . . has produced a totally new edition. . . . The changes are vast. . . . "Fowlers" has sold over a million copies over seven decades. For this new revision, eminent lexicographer Robert Burchfield has rewritten or otherwise enhanced hundreds of entries and has added twenty-four new entries in a special supplement. The volume remains the classic guide to English usage worldwide. A charming blend of information and good humor, The New Fowler's Modern English Usage offers advice and background information on all aspects of English language, from grammar to spelling to literary style. It is a godsend for writers, broadcasters, journalists, and anyone else who wants to write and speak well.