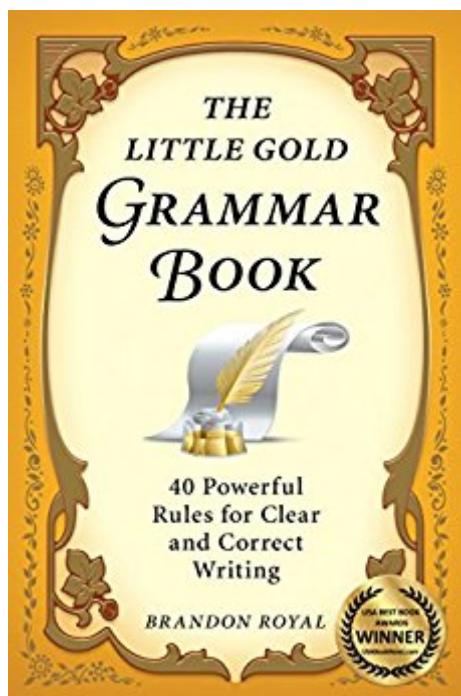


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The Little Gold Grammar Book: 40 Powerful Rules For Clear And Correct Writing



Synopsis

THE LITTLE GOLD GRAMMAR BOOK is based on a simple but powerful observation: Individuals who develop outstanding grammar skills do so primarily by mastering a limited number of the most important grammar rules, which they use over and over again. What are these recurring rules? The answer to this question is the basis of this book. In addition to covering the basics of grammar, diction, and idioms, this book contains a 100-question grammar quiz, a collection of 50-plus word pairings (diction), a compilation of 200 idioms, and 30 multiple-choice problems to integrate key concepts. Special sections cover editing tips and punctuation, American English versus British English, and traditional writing versus digital writing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Luv it; a quick, straightforward guide and reference. Easy-peasy! I have it desk side on my Kindle. I may get a paper copy as I think it would be easier reference format.

Just what I expected; a really good grammar book with excellent examples.

I turned down lots of other grammar books because I did not have time to pore over long, detailed manuals. This book was a fast read but strengthened my grammar skills noticeably. It was actually fun, too. I recommend it highly.

If you need to review your grammar skills, this is the book for you. It's an easy read, which allows one to move through the book quickly.

The Little Gold Grammar Book is simple and concise. I refer to this book to clear up grammar questions and to review for the English classes I teach.

I wish I knew about this book prior to writing my award-winning children's book. I went through many different resources and a total of six different editors to ensure that all the proper tweaking was in place. I noted things in this grammar book that I haven't found in any other book. The entry on how to capitalize titles is excellent and something I had long wondered about. *** Titles and capitalization. With respect to book, magazines, songs, etc., confusion often exists as to when titles are italicized and when they are placed in quotation marks. Note that underlining is no longer used to identify titles (gone are the days of the typewriter). The general rule is that longer works or full works are placed in italics. Partial works or short works are placed in quotation marks, and are not italicized. This means that the titles of books, magazines, newspapers, movies, TV programs, radio programs, plays, and names of albums are italicized. However, the titles of articles, essays, short stories, poems, chapters in a book, episodes in a TV series, and songs are placed in quotation marks. Three rules are always observed with regard to the capitalization of titles: always capitalize the first and last words of a title and never use a period after the last word. Beyond this, the rules for capitalization of titles are somewhat arbitrary. The broad rule is to capitalize all important words and not to capitalize small, unimportant words. Important words include all nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Exceptions may include the verbs "is," "am," and "are" and the word "as," regardless of what part of speech it represents. "Unimportant" words--prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections--may or may not be capitalized. Two-letter prepositions (e.g., at, by, in, of, on, to, up) are seldom capitalized and the articles (i.e., a, an, the) are virtually never capitalized (unless, of course, they're the first word of a title). The coordinating conjunctions "and," "but," "or," "nor," and "for" are seldom capitalized; the

conjunctions "yet" and "so" are almost always capitalized. Some confusion may arise with regard to the words "capitalization" and "fullcaps." Capitalization denotes placing only the first letter of a word incaps (e.g., Great). Full caps refers to placing every letter of a word incaps. (e.g., GREAT).***

This 200-page book provides a very well-rounded review of grammar. The logical organization and the clear explanations make it suitable for anyone wanting to improve his or her knowledge of grammar. The examples are reader-friendly and the approach is reader-engaging. I highly recommend this work.

This grammar text makes a mess of the past perfect. The definition on page 25, "The Past Perfect expresses events or situations in the past, one of which occurred before the other", is not correct. That definition would let us say or write, "Aristotle HAD DIED before Christ was born", which is obviously not correct. It would also let us say or write, "I was born in Nashville and my father HAD BEEN BORN in Amarillo", which is obviously not correct. On the following page he writes, "Larry HAD STUDIED Russian for five years before he went to work in Moscow". In explanation, the author hedges his bet by writing that either 'has studied' or 'had studied' is correct, which is nonsense. He can't make up his mind, so he writes that either will do. The past perfect is a precise device and an important tense and should not be overlooked, but you will have to go elsewhere for enlightenment. If you buy this book, ignore everything that is written regarding the past perfect. The author was given several chances to persuade me to not write my 2010 review but he insisted that his standard of correctness is the way people actually talk and write, BUT THAT IS THE PURVIEW OF LINGUISTS, NOT GRAMMARIANS. (Sorry. I'm still not shouting. won't let us underline.) This is important. Linguists deal with the language of the streets, but demotic English is not what is taught, and not what should be taught, in our schools. Standard American English Grammar is taught in our schools. The author was also given the opportunity to deny that the two "not helpful" votes for my earlier review belonged to him and his editor. He did not deny it. Now, I suppose, he owes me an explanation for why he managed to flush my earlier justifiably-critical review. Does allow an author to flush a review if he doesn't like it? I only used his own words. I didn't make anything up. It IS all there and it WAS all there (pre-flushing), for all to see. Just for fun, keep an eye on this space and see if he flushes me again, leaving only the glowing words of his flacks and friends. Maybe if I give it more stars, he'll leave it, flushing being a cowardly thing to do, here in the Land of the Free and the Home of the First Amendment. Lets see what happens with FOUR stars, three more than it deserves. (If you think this is harsh, remember that 'twas I who was flushed down the drain and into

the sea.)

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