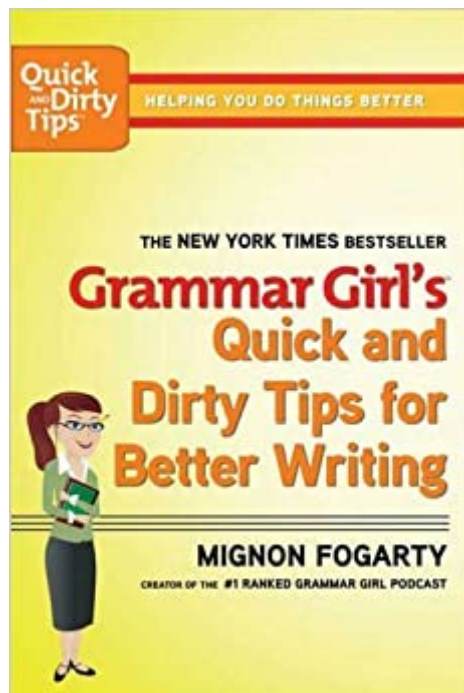




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# Grammar Girl's Quick And Dirty Tips For Better Writing (Quick & Dirty Tips)



## Synopsis

Online sensation Grammar Girl makes grammar fun and easy in this New York Times bestseller. Are you stumped by split infinitives? Terrified of using "who" when a "whom" is called for? Do you avoid the words "affect" and "effect" altogether? Grammar Girl is here to help! Mignon Fogarty, a.k.a. Grammar Girl, is determined to wipe out bad grammar—but she's also determined to make the process as painless as possible. A couple of years ago, she created a weekly podcast to tackle some of the most common mistakes people make while communicating. The podcasts have now been downloaded more than twenty million times, and Mignon has dispensed grammar tips on Oprah and appeared on the pages of The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and USA Today. Written with the wit, warmth, and accessibility that the podcasts are known for, Grammar Girl's Quick and Dirty Tips for Better Writing covers the grammar rules and word-choice guidelines that can confound even the best writers. From "between vs. among" and "although vs. while" to comma splices and misplaced modifiers, Mignon offers memory tricks and clear explanations that will help readers recall and apply those troublesome grammar rules. Chock-full of tips on style, business writing, and effective e-mailing, Grammar Girl's print debut deserves a spot on every communicator's desk.

## Book Information

Series: Quick & Dirty Tips

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin; 1 edition (July 8, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805088318

ISBN-13: 978-0805088311

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.7 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 298 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #18,359 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in [Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Grammar](#) #79 in [Books > Textbooks > Reference > Writing Skills](#) #131 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Writing Skills](#)

## Customer Reviews

Are you a fool for mnemonics? If so, you'll fall head over nubucks for Mignon Fogarty--a.k.a. the

Grammar Girl--and her handy new audio guide to writing and speaking well. It's chock-full of smart little anecdotes and memory tricks for felling the most common grammatical foes (who can ever remember the difference between "nauseous" and "nauseated" anyway?) and at just an hour long it's the perfect turn-to resource for students and professionals alike. I didn't try too hard to stump Grammar Girl in our Q&A, but with her eagle eyes she spotted my grammatical (typographical?) misstep without missing a beat! --Anne Bartholomew

Questions for the Grammar Girl .com: Now that we communicate so often via e-mail and text messaging, do you think that people have become more desensitized to poor grammar, or in your experience is awareness more heightened as a result?

Grammar Girl: The average person seems to have become more desensitized to poor grammar, but language lovers seem to be tormented by the flood of mutilated e-mail and text messages; at least a lot of the people I hear from seem to be tormented. It might be a self-selecting group. To use one of my father's favorite phrases, language lovers seem to feel as though they are "being pecked to death by a duck."

.com: Your weekly podcast helps millions of listeners use good grammar and write more effectively. Do you think there is more value in learning by listening, as compared to reading and practical exercise?

Grammar Girl: Perhaps it's ironic, but I have a hard time learning by just listening. I need to read things, which is one of the reasons why I provide full transcripts for all my audio podcasts on the Grammar Girl Web site. People learn in different ways, so those who want to listen can listen, and those who want to read can read. In my experience, nothing beats practical exercise. I often have to look up grammar rules over and over again because I can't remember them, but once I've written a show about a rule, I always remember it.

.com: Have the grammar mnemonics you've developed come easily to you? Which ones were the toughest to capture in an easy-to-remember tip?

Grammar Girl: Some mnemonics come easily and some don't. I had a hard time coming up with a way for people to remember the difference between "its" and "it's," and I ended up using a really complicated story about a dream I had involving the eBay "it" advertising campaign. I think the best mnemonics are the simple ones. Remembering that you should say "different from" instead of "different than" because "different" has two f's and "from" starts with an f isn't awfully creative, but it's easy to remember.

.com: Is there a grammar rule that even Grammar Girl finds it hard to remember?

Grammar Girl: There are so many that it's hard to pick just one! I have a notoriously terrible memory, which is why I'm always making up mnemonics. Often I find that when I can't remember something it's because it is a style issue instead of a hard-and-fast rule, so different people do it differently and there is no "right" answer. For example, I always have to look up the rules about whether the verb should be singular or plural after collective nouns like "team" and phrases like "the

couple" and "one of the people who." But when I look up the rule for collective nouns, I am reminded that the "rule" is that you have to just decide whether your collective noun has a sense of being a group or a sense of being many individuals. (And then there are also differences between British and American English.) It's even worse with a phrase like "one of the people who": experts are split over whether the verb should be singular or plural. There really isn't an answer; you just have to pick a side. I have a hard time making a mnemonic for something like that!

.com: It used to be that proper grammar and thoughtful wording were the defining factors of a good piece of writing. Increasingly, however, writing is prized for the speed with which it is produced and not necessarily the craft. How can conscientious writers find the happy medium between form and efficiency?

Grammar Girl: What, didn't I answer your questions fast enough? But seriously, I don't think I've come in contact with the people who value speed. As a Web editor, I certainly wasn't happy when people turned in bad writing, even if they turned it in early. And when I was writing magazine articles or corporate materials for a living I never felt rushed (except when I waited too long to get started). The places where I do feel a sense of urgency are in e-mail and messaging; people seem to expect immediate responses. But writing a high-quality message doesn't take much more time than writing a careless message; it just takes more focus.

.com: Bonus question: I wrote all these questions with no more than a cursory grammar and spelling check. How did I do? Grammar Girl: I found only one major error, and I changed the text to bold. It looked like a typo rather than an error in your understanding of the rules. Good job!

“Reminds me of when I first read Strunk and White. I will use it in my classroom.”  
 Fourth Grade Teacher, Las Vegas Public School System  
 “Whether you are a grammar-phobe seeking guidance, a parent looking for a tutorial that your kids will enjoy (and therefore use) or a writer seeking a fun reference manual for frustrating recurring questions, Grammar Girl’s Quick and Dirty Tips for Better Writing will likely satisfy.”  
 Bill Reagan, PopMatters  
 “Fogarty walks her listeners through the sometimes-tricky subjects with a voice that is authoritative but warm. Kind of like the sixth-grade teacher you wish you had.”  
 USA Today on the Grammar Girl Podcast  
 “Delightfully droll . . . Grammar Girl gives clear explanations with helpful examples.”  
 The Los Angeles Times on the Grammar Girl Podcast  
 “Fogarty . . . sparked what you might call a worldwide, syntax-driven fiesta.”  
 Newsday on the Grammar Girl Podcast  
 “At the root of all her success, of course, is a true love of language and grammar.”  
 The Arizona Republic on the Grammar Girl Podcast  
 “Fogarty . . . has become the country’s go-to gal on

grammar . . . Helpful. Smart. Funny. Fans find Grammar Girl to be all those things. —  
The Seattle Times on the Grammar Girl Podcast

Where do I start. First, I like grammar. Who likes grammar? I imagine, anyone reading the reviews of this delightful book. I said, I "like" and not "love" grammar, which allows one's interest to remain a fascination, and not evolve into a fetish. Secondly, it is written by ... THE GRAMMAR GIRL! Yes, I am aware I wrote that loudly (Sorry) However, can one whisper when speaking about the goddess of linguistics? Perhaps some, or many can ... but NOT ME! (Sorry again) You may be wondering, does he like grammar or love the grammar girl? No need exhausting weary synapses firing those inquisitive neurons; just buy the book! You will be a better writer, if you write, and you will speak better, especially if you speak formally. If you do neither, you will still benefit. For example, you will know when to use "affect" or "effect", "me" or "myself" and that you never, absolutely and unequivocally never, write, or say, "anyways". ALSO! (dagnabbit ... sorry), the Grammar Girl has a weekly podcast, that discusses similar topics, and keeps current with the ever-evolving world of language and grammar. And ... she does it with such a pleasant voice. (That would be euphemistic, lest my bias be obvious.) So, fire up your mobile device, select podcast, and subscribe to the Grammar Girl. Should you decide to purchase this book, (I have all her books.) navigate to [quickanddirtytips.com/offers](http://quickanddirtytips.com/offers) and link to from that page. It helps support her site. If this sounds like an advertisement, let me assure you I have no affiliation with or the Grammar Girl. I'm just a subservient branch living amid the regal pines of Virginia held captive by my fascination for grammar and her queen.

This book is really good. I am more of a math and science nerd than a grammar nerd. I ordered this book and others from her collection to increase my grammar skills. I may broke some of the rules in the post but plan on rereading and learning more from her other books. I was able to get by in high school and college with just average grammar but in my profession and in my personal life I would like to achieve mire than just average. I hope this helps those you are interested in this book. She breaks down the material in the simplest form. For ultimate grammar book I would recommend her book for college students. This still covers a lot of grammar materials that is in that book. This book is excellent for editors. She gives a lot if advice in a easy to read and helpful tone.

Good grammar is not dull and Fogarty proves it. She has a breezy style, yet she sets forth her grammatical principles clearly. Naturally, I disagree with her on a few points. Those who read

grammar books for fun are probably inclined to have strong opinions. My only complaint with the book is the appendix does not have hyperlinks or page numbers to the relevant section in the body of the text. Useless! (I felt obliged to take away one star.)

I first discovered Mignon Fogarty by listening to her free Podcasts, that I found on i-Tunes. I liked her immediately! The sound of her voice & diction make her a star performer of the English language. I was eager to buy her book for this reason alone. I am so satisfied with her teaching style! I love the way she uses her imaginary friends, Aardvark & Squiggly, to illustrate her point. She gives ways to remember the rules of grammar, whenever she can. Her style is so un-starched. I am a retired engineer, who now has the time to do some serious writing, which I enjoy. I needed to find a way to learn correct grammar to improve my writing. "Quick & Dirty Tips For Better Writing", was the answer for me. I find this book & Mignon Fogarty, an excellent teacher of English Grammar. I'm so happy with my choice! I bought the Kindle version. It is very easy to find my way around the book by going to the Table Of Contents & clicking on the subject I'm looking for. It is fast & so easy to get to what I need. I also bought her book on "Punctuation"--excellent!

I love this book. It's very well organized and concise. Some of the contents Of the book I already knew, but some of the finer points were elucidated quite well and were made very accessible by the author. It makes a great refresher to grammar all of us should know. If you are coming to English from another language, the mnemonics that the book provides will help you with the conventions and exceptions. This is a recommended purchase.

A good reference and informative, lighthearted read for writers. I recommend it for anyone who needs to write papers (or other things) and for high-school students even if they passed English.

I keep this book near me at all times. Love the presentation and the fact that the author is not condescending to the grammar-challenged! K. Kris Loomis is the author of How to Sneak More Yoga Into Your Life and several short fiction collections.

I didn't think I would enjoy reading about grammar (or, well, usage) - but oh, how I did! I'm not a native English-speaker, so naturally I learned a lot from this book (in all fairness to my highschool English teacher, I do recall a lot of the topics brought up in this book came up in her teaching; in fairness to me, that was a while ago - and I had more pressing rules to master than the proper

use of an ellipsis). And it was fun! Indeed, although the book is structured in a way that makes it easy to use it mostly as resource to occasionally look up things, reading it front-to-back was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. That said, I don't claim to have absorbed everything (if only!), and will definitely keep this title close by for future reference.

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