



Woe is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English, 3rd Edition

By Patricia T. O'Conner

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- Avoid the persistent (and persistently embarrassing) grammatical errors that bewilder the best and the brightest
- Pronounce and spell words that even the smartest people mangle
- Correctly use hundreds of woefully abused words and phrases

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- Sales Rank: #23770 in Books
- Brand: Riverhead Books
- Published on: 2010-07-27
- Released on: 2010-07-27
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .70" w x 5.20" l, .50 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Former New York Times Book Review editor and linguistic expert O'Conner (*Words Fail Me, You Send Me*) updates her bestselling guide to grammar, an invigorating and entertaining dissection of our ever-evolving language. In this third edition, O'Conner guides readers through conversational conundrums with aplomb, filling in not only the logic behind the appropriate choice for, say, possessives, but also explaining such oddities as the spelling of restaurateur (instead of a "restauranteur"), the proper pronunciation of prix fix ("pree feeks") and a slew of mnemonic devices to help amateur grammarians keep ifs, ands and buts in check. It's these small digressions that make the book so readable, even for those with a deep-seated hatred for grammatical do-goodery. O'Conner gleefully eviscerates poor sentence construction and dangling participles, soothes verb tension and debunks the frequently intimidating semicolon with finesse. Tempered with a heavy dose of wit (reaching its nadir in her chapter on clichés), O'Conner's lively treatise is as vital as a dictionary for those who wish to be taken seriously in speech, in print or on Facebook.

About the Author

Patricia T. O'Conner, a former editor at the *New York Times Book Review*, has written for many magazines and newspapers. She is the author of two other books on language and writing, *Words Fail Me: What Everyone Who Writes Should Know About Writing* and *You Send Me: Getting It Right When You Write Online*.

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