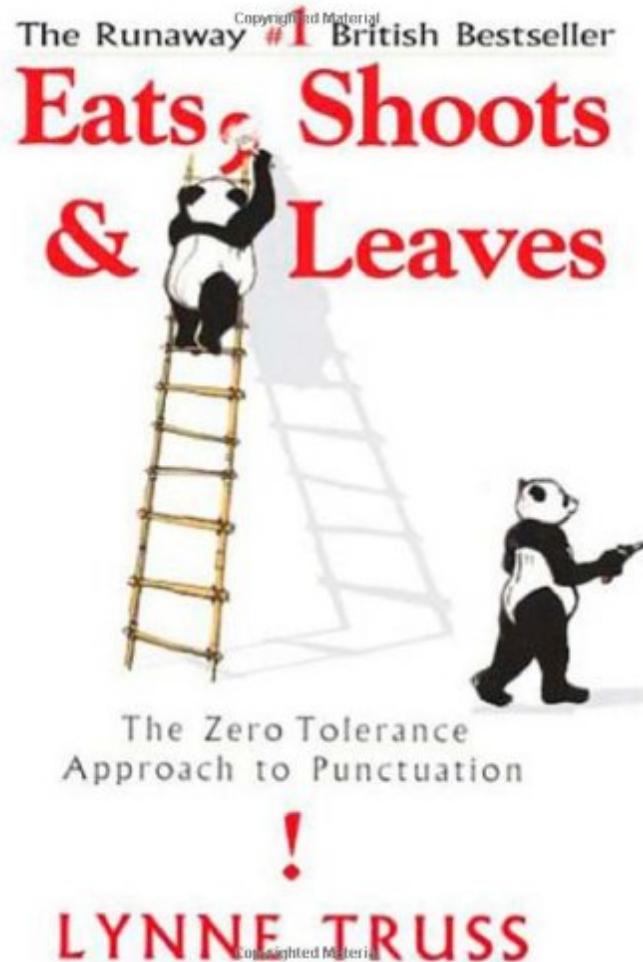


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Eats, Shoots Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation

Lynne Truss

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Lynne Truss : Eats, Shoots Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eats, Shoots Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book on grammar with some instruction, some anecdotes, and plenty of humor. By CorHilarious. Well-written. Instructive at times. I can't remember the last time I laughed so hard at a book. She has some really clever insight into grammar without being overcome by cynicism. It is interesting to read about the state of grammar in the UK as well. It really defies the stereotype that many Americans have about Brits being stuffy and proper all the time. Even though it isn't a grammar guide, she does offer some tips on usage. I was pleased she clarified the semicolon and colon issue and included several examples. At the same time this wasn't a "montage" of real-world grammar blunders with her corrects and/or snide comments, either. But if you enjoy

reading about grammar for fun at all, you'll probably enjoy this book. And even if not, you still might appreciate her witty and sardonic style. And yes, she probably would disapprove of me starting my sentences with "and"...1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A keeperBy marijhuffIt's refreshing to read a book by an author who has such an obvious love of written language and all its nuances. To make it even better, Ms Truss has infused the entire work with wit and humor. I especially liked the way she was able to weave in a sense of the history of punctuation and its impact on written English, and I share her concern for the future of all these points, stops, and marks. This is a book to savor again and again.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Trully Creative, Entertaining and Informative ReadBy shrinkucciIf you have doubts a book about punctuation can be clever, entertaining, funny and educational all at the same time, read this one. I have given it as a gift to many of my reader friends and it has never failed to please. Short example and supposedly true story: A famous writer, on his death bed, uttered the following final six words, "I should have used fewer semi-colons." You gotta love it.

The spirited and scholarly #1 New York Times bestseller combines boisterous history with grammar how-to's to show how important punctuation is in our world—period. In *Eats, Shoots Leaves*, former editor Lynne Truss, gravely concerned about our current grammatical state, boldly defends proper punctuation. She proclaims, in her delightfully urbane, witty, and very English way, that it is time to look at our commas and semicolons and see them as the wonderful and necessary things they are. Using examples from literature, history, neighborhood signage, and her own imagination, Truss shows how meaning is shaped by commas and apostrophes, and the hilarious consequences of punctuation gone awry. Featuring a foreword by Frank McCourt, and interspersed with a lively history of punctuation from the invention of the question mark in the time of Charlemagne to George Orwell shunning the semicolon, *Eats, Shoots Leaves* makes a powerful case for the preservation of proper punctuation.

From Publishers WeeklyWho would have thought a book about punctuation could cause such a sensation? Certainly not its modest if indignant author, who began her surprise hit motivated by "horror" and "despair" at the current state of British usage: ungrammatical signs ("BOB,S PETS"), headlines ("DEAD SONS PHOTOS MAY BE RELEASED") and band names ("Hear'Say") drove journalist and novelist Truss absolutely batty. But this spirited and wittily instructional little volume, which was a U.K. #1 bestseller, is not a grammar book, Truss insists; like a self-help volume, it "gives you permission to love punctuation." Her approach falls between the descriptive and prescriptive schools of grammar study, but is closer, perhaps, to the latter. (A self-professed "stickler," Truss recommends that anyone putting an apostrophe in a possessive "its"-as in "the dog chewed it's bone"-should be struck by lightning and chopped to bits.) Employing a chatty tone that ranges from pleasant rant to gentle lecture to bemused dismay, Truss dissects common errors that grammar mavens have long deplored (often, as she readily points out, in isolation) and makes elegant arguments for increased attention to punctuation correctness: "without it there is no reliable way of communicating meaning." Interspersing her lessons with bits of history (the apostrophe dates from the 16th century; the first semicolon appeared in 1494) and plenty of wit, Truss serves up delightful, unabashedly strict and sometimes snobby little book, with cheery Britishisms ("Lawks-a-mussy!") dotting pages that express a more international righteous indignation. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistThis impassioned manifesto on punctuation made the best-seller lists in Britain and has followed suit here. Journalist Truss gives full rein to her "inner stickler" in lambasting common grammatical mistakes. Asserting that punctuation "directs you how to read in the way musical notation directs a musician how to play," Truss argues wittily and with gusto for the merits of preserving the apostrophe, using commas correctly, and resurrecting the proper use of the lowly semicolon. Filled with dread at the sight of ubiquitous mistakes in store signs and headlines, Truss eloquently speaks to the value of punctuation in preserving the nuances of language. Liberally sprinkling the pages with Briticisms ("Lawks-a-mussy") and moving from outright indignation to sarcasm to bone-dry humor, Truss turns the finer points of punctuation into spirited reading. Joanne WilkinsonCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved *Eats, Shoots Leaves* "makes correct usage so cool that you have to admire Ms. Truss."—Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* "Witty, smart, passionate."—*Los Angeles Times* Book , Best Books Of 2004: Nonfiction "This book changed my life in small, perfect ways like learning how to make better coffee or fold an omelet. It's the perfect gift for anyone who cares about grammar and a gentle introduction for those who don't care enough."—*The Boston Sunday Globe*