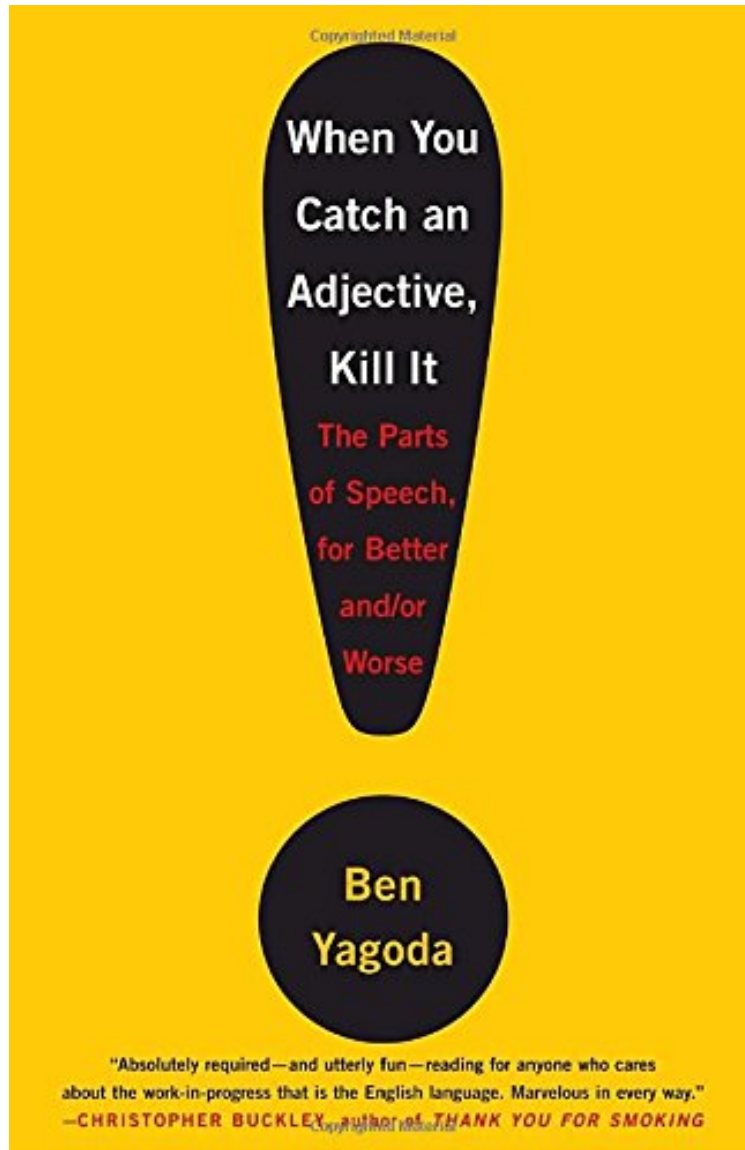


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# When You Catch an Adjective, Kill It: The Parts of Speech, for Better and/or Worse

Ben Yagoda

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**Ben Yagoda : When You Catch an Adjective, Kill It: The Parts of Speech, for Better and/or Worse** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When You Catch an Adjective, Kill It: The Parts of Speech, for Better and/or Worse:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the book is a lot of fun and very entertainingBy Barrie S. GauthierYagoda, a writer, in a book named the "When You Catch an Adjective, Kill It", took a whole chapter of some 6000 words to explain the articles. I did it in a single limerick. (Note that every word in the title is capitalized except the article!)But really folks, the book is a lot of fun and very entertaining; although, I still don't know what a 'pluperfect subjunctive' is. If I would have known, beforehand, what it was, I may have gotten the opening joke in the 'Verb' chapter.By the way, he didn't mention it, but I believe (at least here in Arkansas) that 'all y'all' is the plural of 'y'all'.I could go on and on.Enjoyed it very much. Thanks.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... to write a sentence and identify words that are unnecessary in a sentenceBy CustomerHelping me to identify how to write a sentence and identify words that are unnecessary in a sentence.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nice reading for lovers of EnglishBy Jaylia123I enjoyed reading Mr. Yagoda's viewpoint on the English language. He provides not only insight but humor along with it for anyone wanting a better understanding of how to use the parts of speech. This book doesn't only tell you why some words are necessary or not, but does so with wit. My own writing improved because of this book and I recommend it for anyone wanting a better understanding of grammar, especially adjectives.

What do you get when you mix nine parts of speech, one great writer, and generous dashes of insight, humor, and irreverence? One phenomenally entertaining language book.In his waggish yet authoritative book, Ben Yagoda has managed to undo the dark work of legions of English teachers and libraries of dusty grammar texts. Not since School House Rock have adjectives, adverbs, articles, conjunctions, interjections, nouns, prepositions, pronouns, and verbs been explored with such infectious exuberance. Read If You Catch an Adjective, Kill It and:Learn how to write better with classic advice from writers such as Mark Twain (If you catch an adjective, kill it), Stephen King (I believe the road to hell is paved with adverbs), and Gertrude Stein (Nouns . . . are completely not interesting). Marvel at how a single word can shift from adverb (I did okay), to adjective (It was an okay movie), to interjection (Okay!), to noun (I gave my okay), to verb (Who okayed this?), depending on its use. Avoid the pretentious preposition at, a favorite of real estate developers (e.g., The Shoppes at White Plains). Laugh when Yagoda says he shall call anyone a dork to the end of his days who insists on maintaining the distinction between shall and will. Read, and discover a book whose pop culture references, humorous asides, and bracing doses of discernment and common sense convey Yagodas unique sense of the beauty, the joy, the artistry, and the fun of language.

From Publishers WeeklyYagoda (The Sound on the Page) isn't trying to reinvent the style guide, just offering his personal tour of some of the English language's idiosyncrasies. Using the parts of speech as signposts, he charts an amiable path between those critics for whom any alterations to established grammar are hateful and those who believe whatever people use in speech is by default acceptable. Where many writing instructors rail against the use of adverbs, for example, he points out that they can be quite useful for conveying subtle relationships ordinary verbs can't describe. Some of this territory is familiarYagoda even boils down the debate over "hopefully" to outline formbut every chapter has gems tucked inside, like the section in pronouns on the "third-person athletic," the voice celebrity ballplayers use to refer to themselves in interviews. And he's definitely in love with his one-liners, such as the quip that the only acceptable use of "really" is "in imitations of Katharine Hepburn, Ed Sullivan and Elmer Fudd." Readers won't toss their copies of Strunk White off the shelf, but Yagoda's witty grammar will rest comfortably next to the masters. (Feb. 13) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Advance praise for If You Catch an Adjective, Kill It:Absolutely requiredand utterly funreading for anyone who cares about the work-in-progress that is the English language. Marvelous in every way. Christopher BuckleyAll hail to Ben Yagoda! Not only has he publicly rescued mother from the ubiquitous debasement of mom, and consigned shall to the schoolmarms dead-rules inferno, butebullientlyhe dresses Fowler, his eminent usage-predecessor, in relaxed American shoes. Yagodas invigorating interrogation of our language will excite every syntax-obsessed reader and writer. (And there are more of us than you might think.)Cynthia OzickAbout the AuthorBEN YAGODA teaches English at the University of Delaware, and is the author of four books, including The Sound on the Page and About Town: The New Yorker and the World It Made. He has contributed to Slate.com, the New York Times Book , the American Scholar, Rolling Stone and Esquire, and writes an occasional column on language for the Chronicle of Higher Education. He lives in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.