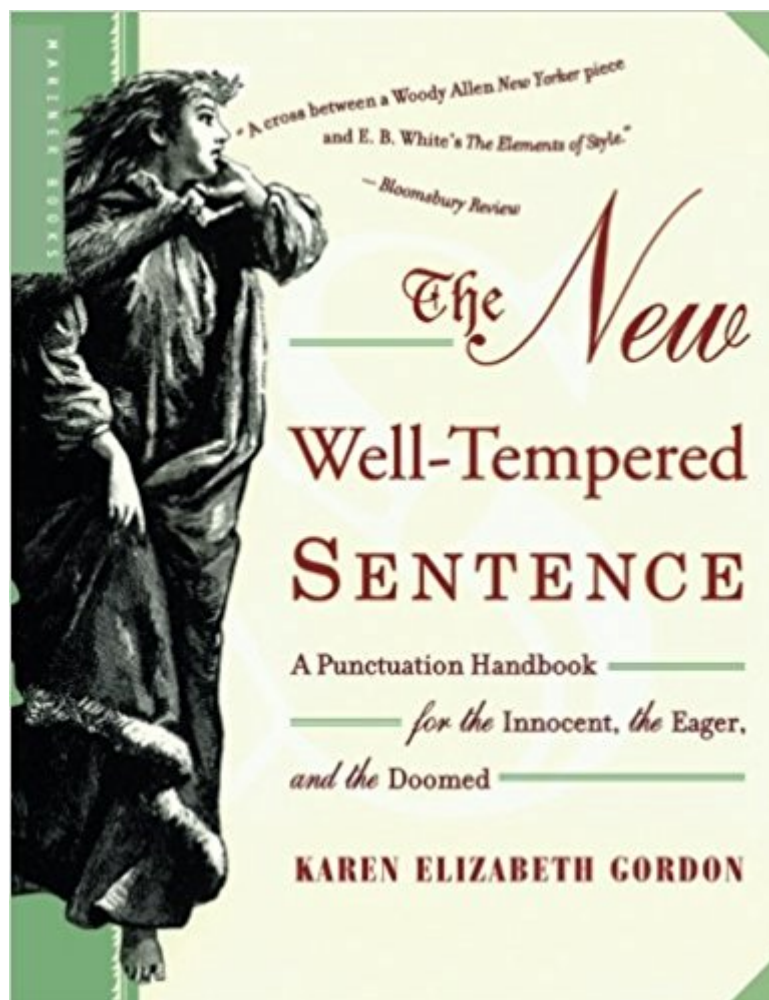




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The New Well-Tempered Sentence: A Punctuation Handbook For The Innocent, The Eager, And The Doomed



Synopsis

At long last, *The New Well-Tempered Sentence* rescues punctuation from the perils of boredom, with wholly original explanations of the rules of punctuation, whimsical graphics, and utterly unforgettable characters (yes, characters in a grammar book). Gordon teaches you clearly and simply where to place a comma and how to use an apostrophe. Gradually, as you master the elusive slashes, dots, and dashes that give expression to our most perplexing thoughts, you will find yourself in the grip of a bizarre and bemusing comedy of manners. Witty, saucy, and utterly unforgettable, *The New Well-Tempered Sentence* is a must-have for anyone who has ever despaired of opening a punctuation handbook but whose sentences despair without one.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Gordon manages to make the period, question mark, exclamation point, comma, and semicolon sound friendly instead of forbidding."

Karen Elizabeth Gordon is the author of the classic and comic reference books *The Deluxe Transitive Vampire*, *The New Well-Tempered Sentence*, and *Torn Wings and Faux Pas*. Her wanderlusting fiction includes *The Ravenous Muse*, *The Red Shoes and Other Tattered Tales*, and *Paris Out of Hand*. She lives in Berkeley, California and Paris.

I love this book. It covers the rules of punctuation in a simple and clear style with charming, often

amusing examples. It's a great book for adults who need help with their grammar but don't want to wade through something that looks like a school textbook, and I've given it to younger students as well. As a side note, I don't see any reason why you need the new edition, as the old one works fine if you have it; that review is for the book as whole, not just the rewrite

This book was recommended by a friend who's an editor. She guaranteed I'd enjoy it, and I certainly do. Punctuation and other writing rules can be oh so tedious, but not so for Ms. Gordon's manual. I find myself laughing frequently while reading it. The sentences are constructed in such a way as to chisel themselves in one's mind, simply because of their enjoyable wording. Two of my favorites: for exclamation points, "How exciting to see you in traction again!"; and when demonstrating the use of the comma for salutation and serial items, "Dear Rosie and Nimrod, Thank you for the hospitality, the cold bath water, the stale beer, and everything." Don't even get me started on the wardrobe composed in part of water moccasins and a spring-loaded girdle.

I find that most grammar books fail to give complete coverage to punctuation thus leaving writers repeatedly stranded in situations that are not touched on in the text. This is a whole book dedicated to nothing but punctuation. It gives the most extensive coverage that I have found to the subject, and it has the added benefit of not being boring. It's not a joke book. Don't expect deep belly laughs, and the style is occasionally a little silly. I don't care. For me, the most important things are that the information it provides is extensive and its style is imaginative and pleasant to read.

Fun read. Karen Elizabeth Gordon makes grammar and syntax interesting stuff and easy to learn. I find the way she writes in a light banter attractively fresh and thus I remember it. She helps me cover a lot of ideas quickly.

When I wanted to immerse myself in different style guides and discussions of the language, I cherry-picked several of the best books I'd come across, this one included. Check it out at the library, get your own copy if it pleases you as much as it did me.

Excellent outcome

This book offers one of the most provocative, entertaining, and memorable experiences I've ever had in revisiting the 'rules & rationale' behind English sentence structure. I bought it for a friend who

is bi-lingual and wants to strengthen her English writing skills. The author makes learning this potentially boring subject matter delightful and absolute fun! That is, of course, unless you are extremely formal and not prone to being either "innocent, eager or doomed".

I bought extra copies of this book for Christmas gifts. We are a family of writers, and one seldom (or never) finds a useful punctuation guide that is funny. Before I gave it away, I read this book at night just before falling asleep--to help bring good dreams.

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