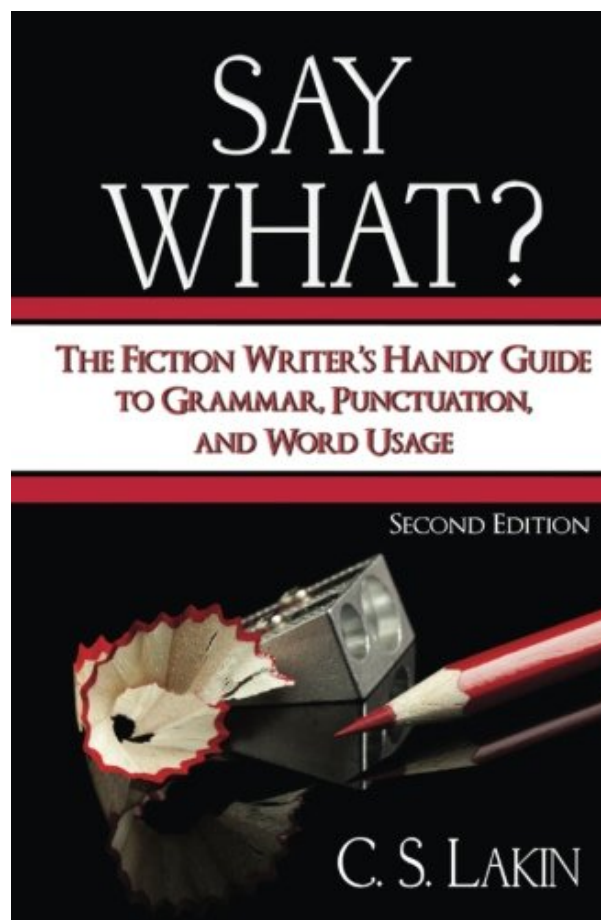


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## About the Author

C. S. Lakin is a professional copyeditor, writing coach, and novelist. She's the author of books in The Writer's Toolbox series, and does more than two hundred manuscript critiques a year. In addition to critiquing and editing for authors, she also provides these services for literary agents and publishers. Her award-winning blog Live Write Thrive helps writers learn to write well, and shares tips and advice for the writing journey. Check out [www.livewritethrive.com](http://www.livewritethrive.com). Her critique site gives detailed insight into why writers needs critiques and what elements are examined in a critique.

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Finally! A grammar guide specifically designed for fiction writers! Introducing the second edition, with more than fifty new entries!

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- Short, concise, and often humorous explanations of important grammar, punctuation, and word usage rules as featured on the award-winning blog Live Write Thrive.
- Bonus fiction-writing tips to help you tighten your prose and say what you mean in fewer, more appropriate words.
- Easy-to-navigate sections and a comprehensive index so you can find the answer to your grammar question right away.

Whether you're a novice or experienced writer, you'll benefit from these clear and helpful explanations of grammar and usage based on The Chicago Manual of Style—the US book publishing industry's authoritative reference guide. You no longer need to search the web or thumb through a stack of grammar books to find simple answers to your grammar questions. With Say What? at your fingertips, you'll spend less time fretting over grammar and more time writing. And you'll become a better writer in the process!

Here's what writing instructors say about this handy grammar book: “Good, concise and easily accessible reference books on grammar and usage is hard to find. I mean, are hard to find. This is one of them.” —James Scott Bell, bestselling novelist, writing coach, and author of *Revision and Self-Editing for Publication*

“This handy, user-friendly reference book, presented with style and humor, is a must for any writer serious about honing their craft and garnering respect for their works. An essential resource, the e-book will save you time with all its quick links to the short, snappy topics, and the print version is small enough to stay within reach beside your computer, so I highly recommend getting both. Respected editor and writer Susanne Lakin succeeds in making a dry topic interesting and meaningful! And using this book will also help you reduce your editing costs.” —Jodie Renner, editor and author of *Style That Sizzles*

“As a self-professed grammar nerd, let me just say this: The world needs more grammar nerds. Editor Lakin

is doing her part to make this happen with her pithy, fun, and supremely useful guide to the everyday writing mistakes most of us don't even realize we're making. Her book is conversational and approachable enough to make for enjoyable reading. But its true value is in its 'lookupability.' This is the perfect guide to keep on your desk, next to your computer, for those moments when you're just not sure which word is right." —K. M. Weiland, author of *Structuring Your Novel* and *Outlining Your Novel*

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#### About the Author

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Put It on Your Desk!

By K.M. Weiland, Author of *Historical and Speculative Fiction*

As a self-professed grammar nerd, let me just say this: The world needs more grammar nerds. Editor Lakin is doing her part to make this happen with her pithy, fun, and supremely useful guide to the everyday writing mistakes most of us don't even realize we're making. Her book is conversational and approachable enough to make for enjoyable reading. But its true value is in its 'lookupability.' This is the perfect guide to keep on your desk, next to your computer, for those moments when you're just not sure which word is right.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

A handy, readable guide

By Creator5

I don't know C.S. Lakin, but I've used her editing services once (and plan to again--she's a dream work with). As soon as I learned she was writing a usage guide, I decided to buy it. I received mine today and have already read through several chapters. I love the "Tips for Fiction Writers" on nearly every page and the chapter on Fiction Rules--partly because I've run into fiction-specific issues (writing numbers, for instance) that require a quick refresh. But everyone, even students, can benefit from the book. As an accomplished writer and editor, Ms. Lakin's skills and knowledge will allow me to reach for one volume for most of my questions instead of thumbing through various style guides. What a relief! And, yes, I may update this review once I've read every page, but I have a feeling I'll simply make this my well-worn, go-to writer's companion. (Note: I received a free Kindle download upon buying the paperback, but I'm not sure how long the offer lasts.)

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Good book, but needs improvement.

By Destination Infinity

Suggested Areas for improvement:

- \* Basic sentence structure and common mistakes made by writers.
- \* When to use 'the' and when not to.
- \* When to use a/an (this is covered, but not sufficiently).
- \* Punctuation (also covered, but insufficient).
- \* Singular/plural & tense mistakes made by writers.
- \* POV issues.
- \* The right ways of using punctuation around a dialogue (I found it elsewhere, but this should have been covered by this author). For the benefit of others, I will include the three common ways of writing dialogue/speech tags -

- Mary said, "It sounds like fun. I want to go with you."

- "It sounds like fun," Mary said. "I want to go with you."

- "It sounds like fun. I want to go with you," Mary said.

Please note: Punctuation needs to be within the quotes (in US English). The second sentence should be written like below, if the two sentences were separated by a comma, instead of a period:

- "It sounds like fun," Mary said, "I want to go with you." (Note the period and comma after "Mary said" in each sentence.)

{Quote from: Strategic Rewriting: Includes Critique Group Guide by Anna Qvesterly}

- \* "'She followed the man into the store with determination.' These are easy to fix, of course, just by rewording" - How? Rerword it and show it to us. A few sections are left incomplete (like this), especially near the beginning.

In general, I learned many new things from this book. I have been using many incorrect words in my writing, and I hope I will remember what I learned from this book. This is not a general grammar book - it shows many mistakes made by authors, especially with (incorrect) usage of words. This book also includes many general tips for fiction writers.

If you have decided to self-edit your book, you can buy this book. Even if you intend to send it to an editor, the first few rounds of editing should be done by you, the author (IMO). With editors billing by the hour, I guess this will save you some money, as well.

Don't forget to follow the blog of this author. I asked a question in the comments section, and I got a reply. I hope this will continue in the future, as well :)

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