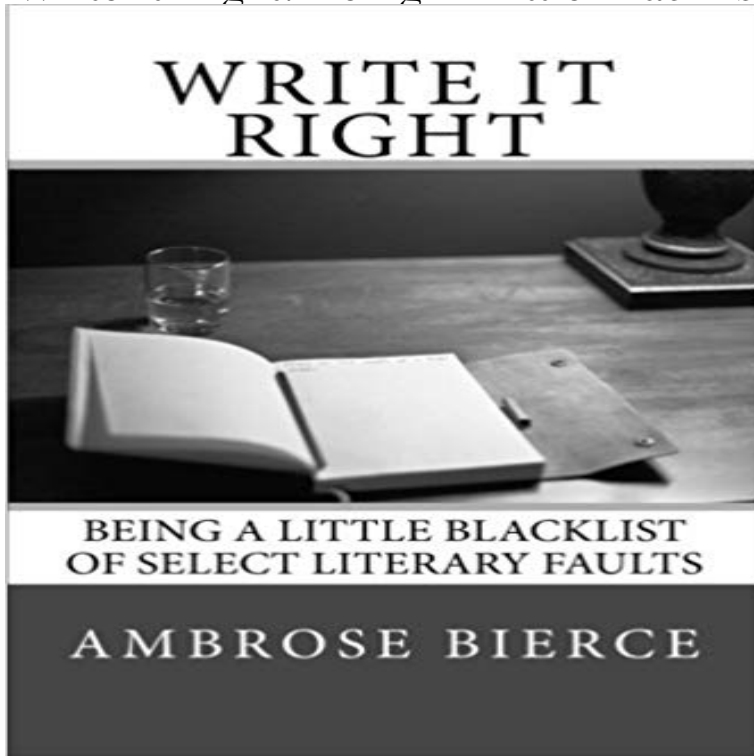


## Write It Right: Being A Little Blacklist of Select Literary Faults



This volume should be in the waist coat pocket of every professional writer. The book is in daily use by the employees of the more important newspapers, some having purchased more than 100 copies each. -The Dial Entertaining and thought-provoking, this A-to-Z compendium maps out common oral and written blunders, improprieties and general indiscretions.. Ambrose Bierce, a celebrated literary wit, assembled his informative compilation in 1909 from many years of observations and notes. He advocates precision in language, offering alternatives to grammatical lapses and inaccurate or poorly thought out word choices. Moneyed for Wealthy: The moneyed men of New York. One might as sensibly say, The cattled men of Texas, or, The lobstered men of the fish market. Name for Title and Name: His name was Mr. Smith. Surely no babe was ever christened Mister. Juncture means a joining, a junction; its use to signify a time, however critical, is absurd. At this juncture the woman screamed. In reading that account of it, we scream, too. Times and usages have changed considerably in the past century. Bierces strict rules remain, however, a timeless source of interest for wordsmiths and lovers of language. Times and usages have changed considerably in the past century. Bierces strict rules remain, however, a timeless source of interest for wordsmiths and lovers of language. The authors main purpose in this book is to teach precision in writing; and of good writing (which, essentially, is clear thinking made visible) precision is the point of capital concern. It is attained by choice of the word that accurately and adequately expresses what the writer has in mind, and by exclusion of that which either denotes or connotes something else. As Quintilian puts it, the writer should so write that his reader not only may, but must, understand.Few words have more than one

literal and serviceable meaning, however many metaphorical, derivative, related, or even unrelated, meanings lexicographers may think it worth while to gather from all sorts and conditions of men, with which to bloat their absurd and misleading dictionaries. This actual and serviceable meaning not always determined by derivation, and seldom by popular usage is the one affirmed, according to his light, by the author of this little manual of solecisms. -Ambrose Bierce

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