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WILLIAM  
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A N D  
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*"...still a little book, small enough and important enough  
to carry in your pocket, as I carry mine."*

— *Charles Osgood*

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*The*  
**ELEMENTS**  
*Of*  
**STYLE**

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**FOURTH EDITION**

**FOREWORD BY ROGER ANGELL**

THE  
ELEMENTS  
OF  
*Style*

BY  
WILLIAM STRUNK Jr.

*With Revisions, an Introduction,  
and a Chapter on Writing*

BY  
E. B. WHITE

FOURTH EDITION

PEARSON

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The Introduction originally appeared, in slightly different form, in *The New Yorker*, and was copyrighted in 1957 by The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.

*The Elements of Style*, Revised Edition, by William Strunk Jr. and Edward A. Tenney, copyright 1935 by Oliver Strunk.

#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Strunk, William, 1869–1946.

The elements of style / by William Strunk, Jr. ; with revisions, an introduction, and a chapter on writing by E. B. White. — 4th ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-205-30902-X (paperback). — ISBN 0-205-31342-6 (casebound)

1. English language—Rhetoric. 2. English language—Style.

3. Report writing. I. White, E. B. (Elwyn Brooks), 1899–

II. Title.

PE1408.S772 1999

808'.042—dc21

99-16419

CIP

36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 18 17 16 15 14 13

**PEARSON**

ISBN 10: 0-205-30902-X

ISBN 13: 978-0-205-30902-3

#### FOREWORD

#### INTRODUCTION

#### I. ELEMENTARY

1. Form the by adding
2. In a series a single co each term
3. Enclose p between c
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5. Do not jo a comma.
6. Do not br
7. Use a col to intro appositive illustrativ
8. Use a das or interr appositive
9. The num the numk
10. Use the p

The words *a*, *an*, and *the*, which signal orouns. The definite article *the* refers to a particlar report. The indefinite articles *a* and *an* refer to an item or one not already mentioned: *an* apple.

**verb** A verb that combines with the main verb to show differences in tense, person, and voice. The auxiliary verbs are forms of *be*, *do*, and *have*. *I am* *id* not go; they *have* gone. (See also *modal auxiliaries*.)

**relative clause** The form of a noun or pronoun that reflects its grammatical function in a sentence as subject (*they*), object (*them*), or possessor (*their*). *She gave her* employees a raise *and they* *d* *them* greatly.

**subject** A group of related words that contains a subject and a predicate. *Moths swarm* around a burning candle. *She was taking* the test, *Karen* *muttered* to herself.

**idiom** A word or expression appropriate to a particular conversation but not usually suitable for academic writing. They wanted to *get even* (instead of they *retaliate*).

**subject complement** A word or phrase (especially a noun or adjective) that completes the predicate. **Subject complements** complete linking verbs and rename or describe the subject. *Marta* is my *neighbor*. She seems *shy*. **Object complements** complete transitive verbs by describing or identifying the direct object: They found the play *exciting*. *He* considers *Mary* a *wonderful wife*.

**compound sentence** Two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction, a correlative conjunction, or a semicolon. *Caesar conquered Gaul*, but *Alexander* *conquered the world*.

**parallel subject** Two or more simple subjects joined by a coordinating or correlative conjunction. *Hemingway* and *Erlend* had little in common.

**conjunction** A word that joins words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. The coordinating conjunctions, *and*, *but*, *or*, *nor*, *yet*, *so*, *for*, join grammatically equivalent elements. Correlative conjunctions (*both*, *and*, *either*, *or*, *neither*, *nor*) join the same kinds of elements.

**contraction** A shortened form of a word or group of words: *can't* for cannot; *they're* for they are.

**correlative expression** See *conjunction*.

**dependent clause** A group of words that includes a subject and verb but is subordinate to an independent clause in a sentence. Dependent clauses begin with either a subordinating conjunction, such as *if*, *because*, *since*, or a relative pronoun, such as *who*, *which*, *that*. *When it gets dark*, we'll find a restaurant *that has music*.

**direct object** A noun or pronoun that receives the action of a transitive verb. Pearson publishes *books*.

**gerund** The *-ing* form of a verb that functions as a noun: *Hiking* is good exercise. She was praised for her *playing*.

**indefinite pronoun** A pronoun that refers to an unspecified person (*anybody*) or thing (*something*).

**independent clause** A group of words with a subject and verb that can stand alone as a sentence. *Raccoons steal food*.

**indirect object** A noun or pronoun that indicates to whom or for whom, to what or for what the action of a transitive verb is performed. I asked *her* a question. Ed gave *the door* a kick.

**infinitive/split infinitive** In the present tense, a verb phrase consisting of *to* followed by the base form of the verb (*to write*). A split infinitive occurs when one or more words separate *to* and the verb (*to boldly go*).

**intransitive verb** A verb that does not take a direct object. His nerve *failed*.

**joining verb** A verb that joins the subject of a sentence to its complement. *Professor Chapman is a philosopher. They were ecstatic.*

**main clause** A sentence that begins with the main verb and attaches modifiers, qualifiers, and additional information. *He was determined to succeed, with or without the help he was hoping for and in spite of the difficulties confronting at every turn.*

**independent clause** An independent clause, which can stand alone as a grammatically complete sentence. *Grammarians*

**auxiliaries** Any of the verbs that combine with a main verb to express necessity (*must*), obligation (*should*), permission (*may*), probability (*might*), possibility (*can*), or tentativeness (*would*). *Mary might lose her car.*

**modifier** A word or phrase that qualifies, describes, or limits the meaning of a word, phrase, or clause. *Frayed ribbons, worldly wisdom.*

**relative pronoun** A pronoun that functions as a subject or object complement: *I, we, you, he, she, it, they,*

**restrictive modifier** A phrase or clause that does not restrict the essential meaning of the element it modifies. *My youngest niece, who lives in Ann Arbor, is a writer.*

**proper noun** A word that names a person, place, thing, or organization. *Most nouns have a plural form and a possessive form. *The park; the cup; democracy.**

**number** A feature of nouns, pronouns, and a few verbs referring to singular or plural. A subject and its corresponding verb must be consistent in number; a pronoun must agree in number with its antecedent. *A solo flute player; the oboes join in.*

**object** The noun or pronoun that completes a prepositional phrase or the meaning of a transitive verb. (See also *direct object*, *indirect object*, and *preposition*.) *Frost offered his audience a poetic performance they would likely never forget.*

**participial phrase** A present or past participle with accompanying modifiers, objects, or complements. *The buzzards, circling with sinister determination, squawked loudly.*

**participle** A verbal that functions as an adjective. Present participles end in *-ing* (*brimming*); past participles typically end in *-d* or *-ed* (*injured*) or *-en* (*broken*) but may appear in other forms (*brought, been, gone*).

**periodic sentence** A sentence that expresses the main idea at the end. With or without their parents' consent, and whether or not they receive the assignment relocation they requested, *they are determined to get married.*

**phrase** A group of related words that functions as a unit but lacks a subject, a verb, or both. *Without the resources to continue.*

**possessive** The case of nouns and pronouns that indicates ownership or possession (*Harold's, ours, mine*).

**predicate** The verb and its related words in a clause or sentence. The predicate expresses what the subject does, experiences, or is. *Birds fly. The partygoers celebrated wildly for a long time.*

**preposition** A word that relates its object (a noun, pronoun, or *-ing* verb form) to another word in the sentence. *She is the leader of our group. We opened the door by picking the lock. She went out the window.*

**prepositional phrase** A group of words consisting of a preposition, its object, and any of the object's modifiers. *Georgia on my mind.*