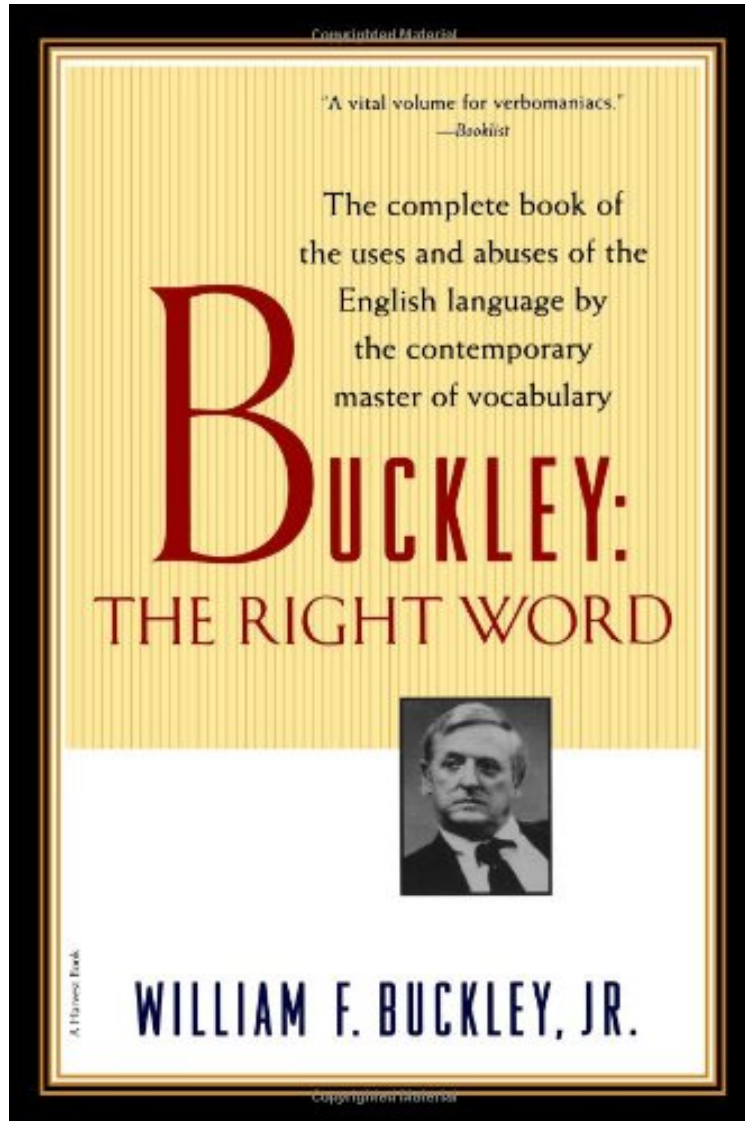


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Buckley: The Right Word

William F. Buckley Jr.

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replaced an old copy of this book with the newest version. If you're a wordsmith, a lover of semantics, linguist, or any other language oriented individual, you will never be disappointed with this book. Buckley was/and is the consummate user of words to express, not impress. The greater vocabulary, the greater the mind and intelligence. Read this one; your IQ will jump 5 to 10 points! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ben Wagner Excellent cover to cover. Many thanks, WFB. May you rest in peace.

Buckleys provocative observations on the use and abuse of English, gathered for the first time in a single volume - a veritable cornucopia of language and logic that belongs in every library (Library Journal). Edited by Samuel S. Vaughan.

From Publishers Weekly Vaughan, who has edited most of Buckley's books since 1976, has "selected, assembled and edited with an introduction and sundry comments" a sprawling, annotated scrapbook of Buckley's nonpolitical jottings on the subject of writing English well. Topics range from notes he's sent people who have dared to correct his grammar, to letters to old friends and enemies on matters dealing with English usage, to book reviews, interviews, selected columns, essays and even obituaries, the last of which are especially flavorful. The book's conclusion is worthy of Dr. Johnson himself, a 100-page "lexicon" of words and phrases?partita, paternalistic, paucity, pedagogical?used over the years by Buckley. Much of this book has already appeared in print scattered over a lifetime of publishing, but Buckley's admirers will be delighted by the generous sampling of the author's correspondence. Vaughan's notes, introductions and running commentary more than do the job of holding together this sometimes unwieldy collection. They are downright entertaining in themselves. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Vaughan, currently editor-at-large for Random House, has edited nearly all of Buckley's 35 books since 1976. In this collection, he showcases Buckley's "language in action" rather than focusing on his politics. Vaughan has included Buckley's pieces on the uses and abuses of language, reviews, letters, and journalism, among many other things. Whether responding to letters to National , being interviewed, or skewering a reviewer, Buckley is prolific and provocative, influential and infuriating, and always intellectually stimulating. In an appendix, there is a lexicon of words defined and used by the master grammarian. This veritable cornucopia of language and logic belongs in every library.?Cathy Sabol, Northern Virginia Community Coll., Manassas Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist A style manual? A dictionary? A chrestomathy? An apologia pro vita sua? Whatever words define this compendium of Buckleyan writings might not exist, and Buckley, conservative that he is, would abhor pasting some faddish neologism on this title. Suffice it to say, the English language, even with its capacious vocabulary, doesn't seem big enough to contain Buckley's subject--the usage of words. His book tries and contains a copious quantity of his letters, memos, columns, novel excerpts, interviews, and, yes, a personalized dictionary (in the sense that Buckley, verbally self-confident and immune to imputations of self-idolatry, uses his own published phrases to display in action some polysyllabic word or other). About the only categories of Buckleyiana not represented here are transcripts of Firing Line debates and songs he might sing while showering. In this variety of formats, one quality associated with Buckley is absent: politics on the Right. This is a collection for word lovers, not partisans of polemics, and so should widen readership beyond the subscription list of the National , the magazine that, besides being the voice of conservatism, seems to have as its mission debating the obfuscatory or coruscant meanings of words. A vital volume for verbomaniacs. Gilbert Taylor