



Usage and Abusage

Portman
Reference
Books

Eric Partridge

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ERIC PARTRIDGE

USAGE AND ABUSAGE

A GUIDE TO GOOD ENGLISH



ABUSUM NON TELLIT OMNIBUS

PENGUIN BOOKS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
HAMISH HAMILTON

What is to be preferred - *nom de plume*, pseudonym, or pen-name? What are neologisms, figurative conjunctions, and fused participles? How should one set about writing a précis? More generally, where does usage end and abuse begin?

Language is everybody's business, and enters into almost every part of human life. Yet it is all too often misused: directness and clarity disappear in a whirl of clichés, euphemisms, and wooliness of expression. This book wittily attacks linguistic abuse of all kinds, and at the same time offers helpfully constructive advice on the proper use of English. Eric Partridge is well known for his books on words, and this is the most comprehensive of them all.

'A very entertaining and original book which will help to liberate a writer from the constraints of a bad style.'

'An excellent and very readable book and one which is indispensable in the present state of English writing; it could scarcely be improved on.'

- Peter Quennell in the *Daily Mail*

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Published by Penguin Books