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The Fight for English

How language pundits ate, shot, and left

David Crystal

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Lynne Truss's *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* injected new life into the long-standing arguments over rights and wrongs in English usage. Now David Crystal brings together his own distinctive style and unique expertise to provide the first thorough-going assessment of the ongoing debate.

With a lively and accessible approach, Crystal charts the clashes from Anglo-Saxon times via the language of Shakespeare and Samuel Johnson to our own time of texting and the greengrocer's apostrophe. He combines a chronological survey of key influences in the area of usage with discussion of particular themes such as punctuation, spelling, and pronunciation. And he looks ahead to the future in the context of recent education policy shifts.

While others have fought to impose their views on spelling and grammar, David Crystal – as ever scholarly yet entertaining – explains why we should say no to zero tolerance.

About the author

David Crystal is the foremost writer and lecturer on the English language, with over 100 books to his name, including *Words, Words, Words* (OUP 2006). He is Honorary Professor of Linguistics at the University of Wales, Bangor, and in 1995 was awarded the OBE for services to the English language.

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