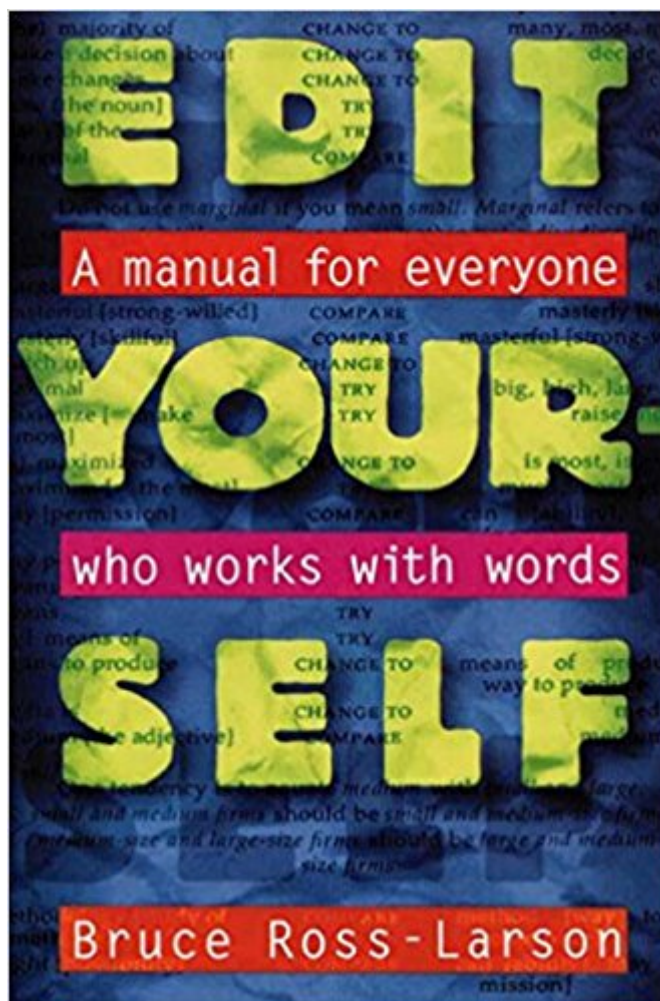


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# Edit Yourself: A Manual For Everyone Who Works With Words



## Synopsis

"A strong new entry for the reference shelf of anyone who writes to be understoodâ•or would like to."â•Pittsburgh Press In the first part of this useful book, the author shows how to solve common problems of writing. The reader will learn how to recognize common problems of writing. The reader will learn how to recognize words and phrases that should be cut; how to shorten cumbersome sentences; how to arrange the elements of pairs, series, and compound subjects and predicates; how to recognize and rectify mismanaged participles; and how to be on the lookout for the better word. The second part of the book consists of more than 1500 recommendations for cuts, changes, and comparisons that editors make to produce writing that is concise and effective.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bruce Ross-Larson lives in Washington, D.C.

Interesting and helpful resource, although I did not agree with all the word changes. Overall, I enjoyed the whole book. I did agree with many word changes the author suggests. He provides a long list of "comparison words." Overall, I think it is useful and will help writers and editors think about cutting down on wordiness. Quick lessons are also provided throughout the guide and are relevant.

This manual is not a replacement for any edition of Strunk and White. Think of it as a more-specific,

complementary volume to buy alongside it. The first half of the book is divided into chapters on specific problem areas. The last half is an alphabetical index of problem words and phrases, many of them highly annotated. Skilled writers likely will identify one or more ways to be brief and concise, or to be clearer. College freshmen, who must become writers, require these two books ("The Elements of Style," "Edit Yourself") to transform poorly-articulated good ideas into coherent written thought. Fundamentals of writing are poorly and inconsistently transmitted in U.S. high schools today. Either of these volumes is worthy of consideration as supplemental texts in an advanced high school writing class. It is hardly worth mentioning, but I should note that "Edit Yourself" is highly affordable, whether bought new or used. Try reading it over breakfast for a couple of weeks. It will put you miles ahead of colleagues expressing ideas of the form, "It is my informed opinion that..." followed by several abortively deployed three-syllable words.

help yourself succeed.

For years I've been giving a copy of "Edit Yourself" to every young person in whose success I am interested. Bruce Ross-Larson has written an excellent and blessedly short handbook for every writer: brief chapters setting forth the principles of good writing accompanied by an alphabetical list of questionable usages with, right next to them, how to improve them. Any writer who takes Ross-Larson's advice will write much more powerfully; the book is useful to writers at all levels.

This is a very practical book. I have used it to tidy up my writing. I have recommended it to friends and I bought a copy for my son.

Well written (and well edited no doubt) clear and easy to read advice on removing accidental obstacles to good writing. This will prove useful to anyone who writes, whether student or storyteller.

I got this book to help me write more effectively in my dissertation, but I think the material would be useful for many different types of writing. The book does an excellent job of providing both general and specific advice on self-editing, with the overall goal of developing a more concise writing style. The suggestions are not simply stated however, and the pages are filled with many examples of how to implement the improvements.

I liked this book so much I bought another for my managing editor. It's quick, succinct and easy to

follow. Particularly useful is the author's list of substitutes for overused words such as "utilize," -- a word I'd never use (shoot me if you see it!), but which a lot of would-be writers do. I bought my copy used and I'm sure I'll be getting a newer copy soon; I'm constantly looking something up. If you edit yourself or other people, "Edit Yourself" belongs on your desk, right next to Strunk and White.

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