

Even the sharpest wordsmiths can find themselves tripping over words that are commonly muddled, misused or misspelled, and most of us have suffered the embarrassment of suddenly discovering that we have been using a word incorrectly for years or, in some cases, our entire life.

Compiled by a journalist, editor and all-round language nerd, *Word to the Wise* is your essential reference to untangling the mix-ups, misuses and abuses of language so that you can ensure you've got the word you need, whether it's 'taught', 'taut', 'tort' or 'torte', 'corny' or 'cheesy', 'angst' or 'ennui'.

With definitions and comparisons, examples of how to sharpen up your writing, and lists of useful social media abbreviations and unusual plurals, this engaging look at the often bizarre and frustrating English language has got you covered, whether you're writing a book, blog, email or text message.

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WORD TO THE WISE



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EXISTLE

WORD TO THE WISE

Untangling the mix-ups, misuse and myths of language

— MARK BROATCH —



procrastination
equivocation
prevarication
continuous
feint
indigent
sputter
splutter
splatter
deprecate
simulate
faint
flaw
continual
gaffe
persecute
prosecute
preclude
limp
slather
lather
slob
gaffe
abrogate
shear
delude
limpet
prognosticate
gaffer
mull
derogate
macerate
limp
pontificate
taught
surrogate
sunk
lacerate
hoity-toity
notorious
declaim
proclaim
effect
masticate
hoi-polloi
famous
tort
disclaim
refute
affect
gentle
clinch
infamous
denunciation
taut
proclivity
repudiate
falter
gentle
cinch
waive
enunciation
angst
propensity
rebut
rebuff
maximum
optimum
undefendable
pronunciation
ideate
ennui
myself
herself
pang
minimum
minimal
assonance
jingoism
patriotism
himself
itself
ping
pong
alternate
alliteration
favouritism
nepotism
oneself
yourselves
prang
alternative
consonance
parochialism
bane
yourself
wreak
prong
defuse
dissemble
deification
nativism
yourselves
reek
diffuse
dissimulate
baneful
ideation
cronism
themselves
reek
diffuse
dissimulate
lalelullale
luculent
self-cannibalism
used
edification
lure
verb
indolent
pain