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Put This One Back in Print!

By Robert R. Hudson

I've worked in editing and copy editing for more than 30 years, and this is the best training manual for proofreaders available. The only problem is that it's out of print. I beg Editorial Experts--or some other publisher--to reprint this book. Please, someone, put this book back in print!

50 of 50 people found the following review helpful.

A very worthwhile investment of time and money

By Book Geek

I acquired this book while working on a proofreading job, took an hour or two out to read the main text of it (eight short chapters), and have been very glad I did. The instructional part of the text, geared toward the professional proofreader, progresses clearly and succinctly, with plentiful examples and no tedious filler about how important proofreading is in the grand scheme of things. The author doesn't talk down to you or try to inflate your self-importance; she just tells you how to perform your task in an efficient, thorough, and professional way.

I've been an editorial freelancer for a couple of years and worked in-house in publishing as well, so I thought I already pretty much knew how to proofread. I had never taken a class in proofing, however, so I wanted to make sure--before getting too far into my first full-length book job for a new and much-desired client--that there weren't any conventions or tricks of the trade that I was missing. Having read the business part of this book, I now feel confident that I can do the job well.

There's a handy cheat-sheet of the most commonly used marks--more detailed than what you'll find in your dictionary--printed both within the text and inside the back cover. Every time I have to mark up something more tricky than the situations handled there, I look it up in the main text. The examples are well chosen and thoughtfully organized, and there are not so many that it takes more than a minute to find the one you're

looking for.

The second half of the book comprises mostly exercises--with answer keys. I'm looking forward to doing those when I have some free time.

If you are ever called upon to proofread, I strongly recommend that you get this very practical book.

76 of 76 people found the following review helpful.

A Refreshing and Concise Workbook for Aspiring Proofreaders

By LCLamont@prodigy.net

Whether learning the trade or refreshing rusty skills, Mark My Words is the most welcome and informative proofreading workbook I have found. Content is introduced in a practical step-by-step manner. Discussion of topics progresses logically from a beginner's level i.e. learning of the 'dele' mark on through to more intermediate levels such as page layout editing. Many features of this text/workbook set it above the rest of the proofreading guides. Exercises along with their answer keys accompany each skill-builder. Helpful hints are arranged in keys; sections of chapters on devoted to subjects such as what to query, tricks of the trade, and guidelines for what to proof in each successive pass of one's editing. For exercises comparing dead copy to live, Mark My Words has even perforated pages for removal and, hence, easy comparison reading! Mark My Words is also a wonderfully clear and concise reference book. I have found it is much faster to seek an answer to a proofreading question with Peggy Smith's work than with any of the others in my collection...and there are several. I recommend this book whole-heartedly!

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