

Miss Lee's book sharing



Name of the book	<i>Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation</i>	
Author	Lynne Truss	
My feelings / Reasons of recommendation / Meaningful quotes / Others...	<p>This is a book for people who love punctuation and get upset about it. I re-read the book recently and I love it even more. When the book first published in 2003, Truss said that “with our system of punctuation patently endangered, it is time to look at our commas and semicolons and see them for the wonderful and necessary things they are”. I’m sad to say that in today’s world, it’s even truer.</p> <p>A lot of non-fiction books about punctuation that I’ve read are quite boring, but Truss manages to include enough cultural references and historical examples to liven up the subject. I understand that language is evolving and it keeps changing every day. However, I don’t think some grammatical rules can be “relaxed” whatsoever. By mixing humor and instruction, I think the writer is successful in reminding readers the importance of punctuation in the English language. Truss shows how meaning is shaped</p>	

by commas and apostrophes, and the hilarious consequences of punctuation gone awry. Let me share an anecdote which renders the topic of the book with you: -

A panda walks into a bar. He orders a sandwich, eats it, then draws a gun and fires two shots in the air.

"Why? Why are you behaving in this strange, un-panda-like fashion?" asks the confused waiter, as the panda walks towards the exit. The panda produces a badly punctuated wildlife manual and tosses it over his shoulder.

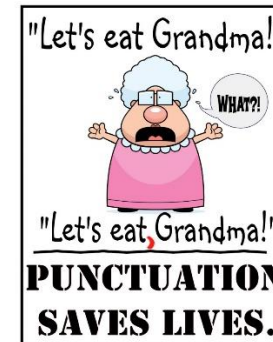
"I'm a panda," he says, at the door. "Look it up."

The waiter turns to the relevant entry and, sure enough, finds an explanation.

"Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves."

The joke turns on the ambiguity of the final sentence fragment. As intended by the author, "eats" is a verb, while "shoots" and "leaves" are the verb's objects: a panda's diet comprises shoots and leaves. However, the ridiculous appearance of the comma gives the mistaken impression that the sentence fragment comprises three verbs listing in sequence the panda's characteristic - it eats, then it shoots, and finally it leaves.

There are numerous times that I'm appalled by the indifference of people paying the very least attention to punctuation when I read the examples used by Truss. When she saw a banner reads "for CD's, VIDEO's, DVD's and BOOK's." near her home, she writes "If this satanic sprinkling of redundant apostrophes causes no little gasp of horror or quickening of the pulse, you should probably put down this book at once." Living in "a world of plummeting punctuation standards" as Truss states, I'm glad that there's a book which is able to explain a very serious matter, at least to an English teacher like myself, in a light-hearted tone. Truss also published "*An Educational Companion to EATS, SHOOTS & LEAVES*" in which she explains the grammatical rules related to the examples she used in her book in detail. I think it's a must-have item for teachers.



Punctuation Saves Lives - Poster by teltator

Zazzle

I'd like to end my sharing using these two pictures I found online. And yes. Punctuation saves lives. Thanks for reading my book sharing.