



ONLINE RESOURCES

EVERY

SERIOUS

WRITER

NEEDS

MY MUST-HAVE TOOLS FOR MAKING
YOUR BOOK SHINE



JERRY B. JENKINS™



Common Errors in English Usage

AVOID
embarrassing
MISTAKES
with this handy guide.

Do you pour over your manuscript or pore over it? Does your character tell a baldfaced, boldfaced, or barefaced lie? You might be surprised, but don't get it wrong if you want to make a sale. When it comes time to pitch your book, first impressions are everything.

This is the site to check when you're unsure whether to use complement or compliment, who or whom, or any other knotty choice. Common Errors in English Usage alphabetically organizes the most frequent mistakes we writers make, allowing us to find the right word every time.

FREE

[Click here to go to the database.](#)



Thesauri

THE RIGHT WORD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

I always recommend thesauri with a word of caution: Never let it be obvious you've consulted one. Avoid the obtuse and find the ordinary alternate word that sounds natural—like something you'd use in a casual conversation—and best conveys your meaning. If you use a word that sounds awkward or forced, readers will immediately be turned off.

A fun online resource is Thinkmap's [Visual Thesaurus](#). Be careful, though, because this one will suck you in! If you like it you can subscribe to it. Otherwise, just find a reputable free thesaurus. I recommend Merriam-Webster's—check it out and bookmark it if you find it useful.

FREE

[Click here to travel to the Merriam-Webster homepage.](#)



World Almanacs

**DISCOVER THE STATS, FACTS,
AND DATA YOU NEED TO WRITE
STUNNINGLY ACCURATE PROSE.**

World Almanacs list just about anything you could ever want for basic research. I've found them helpful for fleshing out nonfiction anecdotes, and I've even used them for foreign character names in my novels. I look up a character's country of origin, scan the current government leaders for a last name, then combine that with the first name of a historic war hero from that same country to create a legitimate, ethnically accurate name.

There are plenty of free almanacs online, but a Google search will also reveal worthwhile almanacs that require a subscription; just be sure you'll actually use the product before buying.

FREE

[Click here to see a directory of some of the web's top almanacs.](#)



WOW YOUR READERS BY IMMERSING THEM IN YOUR STORY'S TRUE SETTING.

An atlas can often provide foundational information for nonfiction, but I primarily use mine to make fictional characters more believable. When my characters travel the globe, I must use proper country names, time zones, monetary units, weather patterns, and so on. Gross national products, tourism factoids, major industry breakdowns, and data on natural resources are also available in atlases—as are, of course, detailed maps.

FREE

[See WorldAtlas.com for free access to all the information an atlas can provide.](http://WorldAtlas.com)



 freedom

**GET MORE DONE BY
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COMPUTER WHEN YOU
CHOOSE TO WRITE.**

You're not alone if you struggle with the distractions that come with social media. Every time I take a peek at Facebook to see what my kids and grandkids are up to, an hour later I've played Words with Friends and Scramble, caught up on the news, and even checked out a few tweets and added one or two of my own.

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Every writer's toolkit will look different, but these are the resources I won't live without. Take them, use them, enjoy them. More writing tips to come soon!

— Jerry B. Jenkins



Jerry Jenkins is the author of 21 *New York Times* bestsellers, including the popular *Left Behind* series. He's also written over 160 other books and is sought around the world for his expertise in writing and publishing. Jerry currently lives in Colorado with his wife Dianna.

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5 ONLINE RESOURCES EVERY SERIOUS WRITER NEEDS

JERRY B. JENKINS.