A CONCISE MANUAL OF STYLE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649362011

A Concise Manual of Style by H. Allan Reed

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H. ALLAN REED

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A CONCISE MANUAL OF STYLE

REVISED EDITION

By H. ALLAN REED



COMPILED FOR USE IN THE PRINTING HOUSE

AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY

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PHILADELPHIA 1920

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CONTENTS

SCHOOL

INTRODUCTORY ___

,

I. GENERAL RULES _

11

Compositors and Operators. Temporary headlines. Untimely criticism. Illustrations. Maps. Poetical and other extracts. Proof-readers. Editorial Assistance.

II. ABBREVIATIONS

....

Addresses. Apocrypha. Associations, Societies, Unions. Books of the Bible. Christian Names. Clock Time. Contractions. Dates. Degrees. Firm Names. Geographical (names). Latin Words. Months. MS. and P. S. Numbers. Railroads. References (Scripture). Revised Version. Saints. Sovereigns. States (names of). Temperature. Titles.

III. CAPITALIZATION ...

15-24

A B C's. Adjectives and Verbs from foreign languages. Ages and Periods (geological and historical). Appendix. Associations, Conventions, Societies, and Unions. Books of the Bible. Captions. Chapter. Church. City. Committee. Commonwealth. Confession. Deity. Derived Names and Nicknames. Ecclesiastical. Epistolary Addresses. Flag. Foreign Names. Geographical (names). Government. Historical (epochs, documents, etc.). Holidays. Honorary Degrees and Titles. Hymns. Initials. Inscriptions (under illustrations). Legislative Bodies. Lesson Studies. Nations and States. O and Oh. Organizations (corporate bodies). Personification. Political Parties. President. Proper Nouns used as Adjectives. Public Buildings, Race Designations. Roman Numerals. Scientific Names (natural order, genus, etc.). School. Scripture Names and Terms. Seasons. Signatures (to documents). State.

Street. Depart Titles.	Sunday school ments. "The U.S. Service	ol and Tea " (as par and Depa	acher-train t of name rtments.	ing. S. S. e). Time. War.
Explan pounde verbs i of wor- list of	OLIDATION ation of method to form an a " "y." Emph ds that should words that d. List of wo d.	od used. adjective. asis a gui be consol take the	Several w Indian na de. Alpha lidated. Al hyphen w	ords com- mes. Ad- betical list lphabetical hen com-
V. CREDI	TS			43.
	o be used in p		Style to	E-1-1-11-1-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11
VI. DIVIS	IONS			44-
Genera sample	IONS l rules. Suffi words divided,	xes. Lis alphabeti	t of eight ically arran	hundred ged.
VII. FIGU "Gener Degree Footno	RES ral" versus "S s. Dimension tes. Fractions.	Statistical' s, Distan Time.	" matter. ices, and	Decimals. Measures.
VIII. FOO	TNOTES			52,
Abbrev	iations. Capita Editor's, and T	lization.	Superior fig	
IX. FORE	IGN LANGUA	GES		53-5
French division sions; exclama phabet;	: accents; adje s. Italian: acc diphthongs. S ation-point; die acute accent; ants; divisions;	ctives; elisi ents; elisi panish: m eresis; fi a adjectives	sions; capi ons; adject ark of inte a member ; ch, ll, and	italization; ives; divi- rrogation; of the al- d rr single
X. INITIA	LS			55-5
Marked	in copy for t			editorials

4 40

XI. ITALIC	58-60
Excessive use. Foreign Words. Foreign so Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. Foreign wor phrases followed by translation. Foreign pappellations. Italic punctuation-marks. Res and Dramatic Readings. Titles (following tures).	ds and ersonal
XII. NOTATION	60
Numerals used as adjectives, as nouns, and verbs of time. Order of notation.	as ad-
XIII. PROOF-READER'S MARKS	61, 62
Sample page. Key to Proof-reader's Marks.	
XIV. PUNCTUATION	63-69
What punctuation is for. Accents. Apos A B C's; P's and Q's; omission of "s" in s possessive; "printer's ink"; "state rights"; evidence"; "somebody's else"; "oneself."	singular " state's

What punctuation is for. Accents. Apostrophe: A B C's; P's and Q's; omission of "s" in singular possessive; "printer's ink"; "state rights"; "state's evidence"; "somebody's else"; "oneself." Brackets: use restricted; useful in dramatic readings. Colon: when demanded; addresses; references. Comma: with conjunction "and"; in connection with "again," "also," "beside," "for," "however," "now," "of course," "oh," "so," "still," "therefore," "too," "verily," and "why"; omit in "Oh dear!" and "Mother dear"; with adverbs and verbs; preceding short quotations; demanded at times by common sense. Dash: Cobbett's opinion: De Vinne on comma-dash and colon-dash; with initials; two-em dash; en dash in place of hyphen. Exclamation-point: sentences should be really exclamatory; frequently misused. Hyphen: after adjectives; references; dates; cooperation, preempt, reelect, etc.; Palestinian names. Parentheses: references; notes; interpolations. Period: after Roman numerals; on title-pages; display matter; elisions of words and passages; elisions of lines of poetry; omit in nicknames. Quotation-marks: nicknames; animals; boats; cars; ships; quotations within quotations; outside of punctuation; Golden Texts; Memory Verses; extracts; book and article mentioned together; credits; Bible, Homer, Virgil, Cæsar, Vedas, and en-

cyclopedias. References: simple; composite; chap- ters only; proof-readers not expected to verify. Scripture Selections: must conform literally to ver- sion used as copy; Revised version. Semicolon: in simple sentences; where phrases are nearly or quite complete in themselves; in references.
XV. SIGNATURING 69 Methods employed. 1. Figures. 2. Letters.
XVI. SPACING 69-71
Elisions. Em-quadrats. Single Letter Abbreviations. Poetry. Quotations. References.
XVII, SPELLING 71-73
A and An. Accents. Afterward, Backward, Forward, Toward. Awhile. Beside. Bible Names. Chemicals, Formulæ. Diphthong. "Ei" and "ie." Farther, Further. Foreign Words, Latin form in plurals of English words. "Ful" and "fuls." Geographical. Illiterate Phraseology and Slang. Miscellaneous. Phonetic Spelling.
XVIII. SAMPLE INDICES 73
Half-measure. Broad measure. Samples. Titles in index work.
XIX. SAMPLES, BIBLIOGRAPHY74
Plain style. Elaborate style, useful at end of chap- ters or sections of a book.
XX. SAMPLE LIST OF CHARACTERS 74
XXI. SAMPLE LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS 74
XXII. SAMPLES, TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTORY

THERE is no one final authority that may be appealed to by the printer in disputed points of capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and the compounding and division of words. The teaching of the special treatises on these subjects is so widely divergent that an attempt has been made here to put in concrete form a number of rules that will assist in preserving uniformity of style in typographical composition. It is needless to say that this embodiment of rules is not exhaustive, and that much has been left to the judgment and experience of the compositor and proof-reader. As a convenient starting-point, the rulings of the Standard Dictionary have been followed generally, although office decisions frequently differ from that authority.

The specimen words found under the captions "Consolidation," "Hyphenation," and "Division" will be found useful in indicating the treatment of words of similar construction not mentioned in these lists.

It must be clearly understood that while the rules given in this Manual are to be generally observed, cases are bound to occur where it may be considered necessary to deviate from the rule. So far as possible, in such cases, special instructions will accompany copy. Sometimes, however, the proof will convey the notice of temporary change of procedure. Such exceptional departures from the usual style must not be considered as a precedent or as invalidating any rule herein given. Every doubtful point that may arise cannot be specifically treated here, but it is believed that the rules laid down will serve as a guide in the majority of such cases,