

**FIVE HUNDRED MISTAKES OF  
DAILY OCCURRENCE IN  
SPEAKING: PRONOUNCING, AND  
WRITING THE ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE, CORRECTED**

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Five Hundred Mistakes of Daily Occurrence in Speaking: Pronouncing, and Writing the English Language, Corrected by Walton Burgess

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**WALTON BURGESS**

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SPEAKING: PRONOUNCING, AND  
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"NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN!"

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# FIVE HUNDRED MISTAKES

OF DAILY OCCURRENCE

IN SPEAKING, PRONOUNCING, AND WRITING

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE,

CORRECTED.

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"Which—if you but open—  
You will be unwilling,  
For many a shilling,  
To part with the profit  
Which you shall have of it."

[*The Key to Unknown Knowledge*.—London, 1569.]

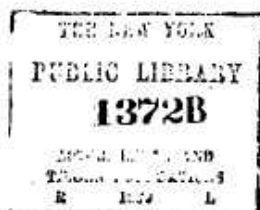
"It is highly important, that whatever we learn or know, we should know correctly; for unless our knowledge be correct, we lose half its value and usefulness."—*Conversations on Botany*.

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## P R E F A C E .

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THIS book is offered to the public, not to be classed with elaborate or learned works, nor expected, like some of its more pretending companions among the offspring of the press, to run the gauntlet of literary criticism. It was prepared to meet the wants of persons—numbered by *multitudes* in even the most intelligent and refined communities—who from deficiency of education, or from carelessness of manner, are in the habit of misusing many of the most common words of the English language, distorting its grammatical forms, destroying its beauty; and corrupting its purity. The most thorough mode that could be adopted to correct such errors, would doubtless be to impart to the ignorant a practical knowledge of the principles of language, as embodied in treatises on grammar ;

but such a good work, however desirable its results, has, in time past, been too difficult for the promoters of education to complete, and is still too great to give promise of speedy accomplishment. A better expedient, bearing immediate fruits, has been adopted in the present volume, which, while it does not aim to produce a radical reform, cannot fail to render great service to those who need to improve their usual modes of expression, and to be more discriminating in their choice of words.

The more frequent and less excusable mistakes that may be noticed in ordinary conversation or correspondence, are here taken up, one by one—exposed, explained, and corrected. They consist variously of abuses of grammar, misapplications of words and phrases, improprieties of metaphor and comparison, misstatements of meaning, and faults of pronunciation. They are grouped miscellaneously, *without classification*, not so much because of the difficulty of devising an arrangement that would be systematic and intelligible, as from the evident fact that a division of subjects would render no assistance to those for whom the book is specially designed; for an appropriate classification would necessarily derive its features from the forms of gram-



mar, and with these the readers of this book are supposed to be to a great extent unfamiliar.

The volume is put forth with no flourish of trumpets, and makes no extravagant pretensions; yet the publishers believe it will be regarded as a timely and useful work. If the race of *critics* should not like it—and while books have their “faults,” critics have their “failings”—they are reminded that he who corrects an old error, may render no less service to his brethren, than he who discovers a new truth. If the work shall be the means of saving one sensitive man from a confusion of blushes, in the presence of a company before which he desired to preserve his equanimity, it will not have gone forth without a mission of benefit, which will merit at least one acknowledgment.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. This includes the use of surveys, interviews, and focus groups to gather insights from stakeholders. The analysis of this data is then used to identify trends and areas for improvement.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the implementation of the findings. It details the steps taken to address the identified issues and the measures implemented to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future. This includes the development of new policies and procedures, as well as the provision of training and support to staff.

4. The final part of the document provides a summary of the overall findings and conclusions. It highlights the key takeaways from the research and offers recommendations for ongoing monitoring and evaluation. The document concludes by expressing the organization's commitment to continuous improvement and the pursuit of excellence in all its endeavors.

## INTRODUCTION.

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THE aim of this book, by correcting a multitude of common errors in the use of language, is mainly to offer assistance to such persons as need greater facilities for accurate expression *in ordinary conversation*. It is not designed to suggest topics of talk, nor to give rules or examples pointing out the proper modes of arranging them ; but simply to insure persons who often have a good thing to say, from the confusion and mortification of improperly saying it. This chapter of introduction will not, therefore, be expected to present an essay on the general subject of conversation.

It may be remarked, however, by way of admonitory hint to some, that the most prominent error in the conversation of those who commit the most blunders, does not consist in saying too little that amounts to much, but too much that amounts to little ; talkativeness is a characteristic more commonly of the ignorant, than of the wise. Shenstone says, "The common fluency of speech in many men, and most women, is owing to a scarcity of matter and a scarcity of words ; for whoever is master of a language, and moreover