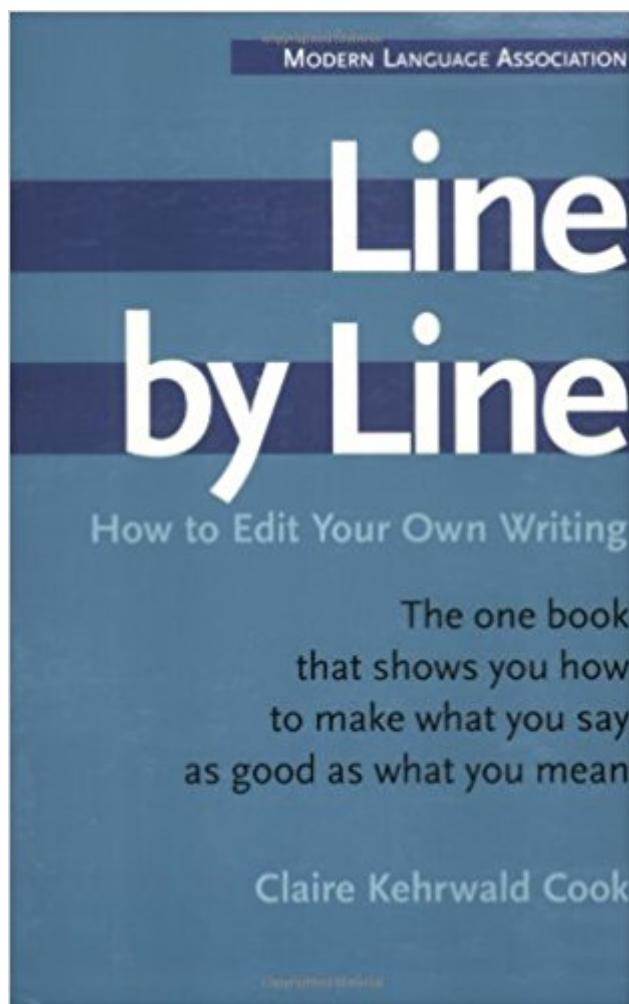


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# Line By Line: How To Edit Your Own Writing



## **Synopsis**

The essential guide for all writers. With over 700 examples of original and edited sentences, this book provides information about editing techniques, grammar, and usage for every writer from the student to the published author.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

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After earning her M.A. in English literature, Claire Kehrwald Cook taught English Composition for three years at a midwestern university before she went into publishing. For the next eight years she worked for a major book company, rewriting problem manuscripts in the trade, business, and college departments. Since 1976 she has worked at the Modern Language Association, where she enjoys styling literary essays considered worthy of painstaking editorial efforts.

If you think you write well (as I did) I strongly recommend reading this book. I have a number of helpful books on the creative and technical aspects of writing prose, but Claire Kehrwald Cook's book is by far and away the most helpful I have read. Where other books help in curbing the tendency to overwrite, this book puts a scalpel in the writer's hand that enables him to explore and cut deeply. You will be surprised how much the resulting excisions and rearrangements improve your writing. I found the chapters 'Faulty Connections' and 'Il-matched Partners' the most helpful.

Without doubt this book has improved my writing. It will continue to do so as I regularly return to it

I bought this to learn copy editing - especially word usage and punctuation. The subject matter is covered in great detail. However, it was too pedantic for me and difficult to internalize. It started stifling my creative process. It will be more useful for writers who have a good basic knowledge and experience with editing. I needed a simpler book and easy to read and remember

Thanks to this book, I have pruned my convoluted writing style down to simple, understandable prose. I recommend it to anyone who writes copy of any kind--from novelists and academics to secretaries and casual bloggers. One word of warning: Cook goes heavy on the jargon. Even expert grammarians would find some sections dense. If you can't identify a dependent clause, a correlative conjunction, a dangling participle, or any of the other terms on your ninth grade English quizzes, I would review the basics with a more digestible book first. My favorite is the McGraw-Hill *Handbook of English Grammar and Usage*, 2nd Edition.

*Line By Line: How To Edit Your Own Writing* demystifies line editing and enables authors to polish their own manuscripts. Author Claire Kehrwald Cook walks writers through the process step-by step from how to read and evaluate a sentence, to how to condense sentences to succinctly and clearly convey meaning. Along the way she tackles all the usual suspects: weak verbs, prepositional phrases, modifiers, structure, ambiguous words, parallelism and correlative conjunctions, punctuation, and subject-verb disagreement. Most helpful are the extensive glossary of 'questionable word usage' and the numerous examples that help guide readers during editing. Used alongside a good book on grammar (such as Mignon Fogarty's *Grammar Girl's Quick & Dirty Tips For Better Writing*) and a professional developmental editor, *Line By Line* is a valuable resource for any writer wanting to craft a well-written manuscript.

This book focused more on grammatical editing issues like parallel sentence structure, verb-noun agreements. It seemed a bit basic as far as applying concepts to editing and spent far too much time going over grammar terms, like "gerunds", etc., that while good to know, did not really help me learn how to edit writing the way I thought the book would. Even at the low price, more concise lessons can be had on the internet for free.

The writer discusses sentences in great grammar detail. You can tell she is very knowledgeable but

you constantly have to refer back to the sentence she is discussing which gets lost in the paragraphs of discussion about it. I would have liked more examples of the grammar points and perhaps the sentences discussed in bold so that they are easier to find when you want to compare the example to what she is saying.

Superb! I am a programmer by day and a writer of articles on programming at other times. Growing up in England I was taught every minuscule detail of the English language. How to construct sentences and how pronunciation changes depending on word stems, Country of origin and so on. I had a pretty good grasp on writing. At work I spend some of my time re-writing briefing notes, user manuals, and proof-reading emails. On top of this I study grammar and style manuals. You get a feel for where I'm coming from in terms of expertise. This book changed my entire outlook on writing. I am only up to page 26 and already I have hacked through some articles like a whipper-snipper through a weeded garden. I found some habitual mistakes I constantly make and curbed some emerging ones. This is a fantastic book! The last briefing note I edited started as a monstrosity of bad grammar and ended as a shining example of what this book has to offer. I cannot recommend this book enough. It is only 200 pages but not a word is wasted. It is concise and packed full of information and is an example of its own subject.

I am currently reading this book for graduate school and I must admit that Claire Kehrwald Cook must have written this book for me because I find that I have committed about every writing error in the book. Fortunately, Cook provides clear, reasoned and detailed instructions on how to fix sloppy writing and faulty sentence structure. This book is extremely helpful for college and professional writers.

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