

Farewell and Many Thanks, Word Hawk

Bob Johnson, who writes our popular column The Word Hawk, has announced that the current installment will be the last. (See page 197 of this issue.) The column will be much missed, and we thank Johnson for all he has contributed over the years.

Bob came to our attention in early 2004, when a Council member mentioned an excellent posting he had written for a list-serv. We invited Bob to adapt that posting

as a Guest Editor column. The result: “I Call Myself an Editor”, which appeared in our July–August 2004 issue.

The Word Hawk then debuted in March–April 2005. Since then, this column, which focuses on language and the manuscript editor’s work, has appeared in almost every issue. In May 2009, Bob received a CSE Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his work as a *Science Editor* columnist.

A compilation of Word Hawk columns appears at www.councilscienceeditors.org/publications/wordhawk.cfm, in the *Science Editor* section of the CSE Web site. The table below identifies the main subjects addressed.

Again, many thanks to Bob for the time, thought, and talent he has contributed to this column. Although he is leaving our domain, may The Word Hawk continue to soar.

Topics of Word Hawk Columns

Compiled by Barbara Mendoza, *Science Editor Intern*

Year	Vol(No)	Page(s)	Title	Topic
2005	28(2)	59	Enhancing Readability	Factors making documents readable
	28(3)	99	Bulletproof: How to Armor-Plate Your Work	Techniques to help ensure that copy is error free
	28(4)	134–135	Concision: The Art of Linguistic Liposuction	Increasing brevity while maintaining grace
	28(5)	162–163	Greetings from the Land of Total Nickels	Roundup: “words, language trends, and books and sources about them”
	28(6)	194–195	Of Gobbledygook and Bafflegab	Avoiding jargon
2006	29(1)	24–25	Linguistic Lightning: The Power of the Right Word	Accurate word choice
	29(2)	54–55	Usage in a Top Hat	Characteristics of formal English
	29(3)	96–97	Chalk It Up to the Greeks	Use of hyphens, en dashes, and em dashes
	29(4)	133–134	Stop! You’re Deriving Me Crazy	Acronyms, initialisms, abbreviations, contractions, and other condensations
	29(5)	167–168	Stop! You’re Deriving Me Crazy! Part 2	Light-hearted look at acronyms and other condensations
	29(6)	203–204	A Bit About Brit	Differences between British and American English
2007	30(1)	24–25	Patching a Pothole	Whether to use “they” as a gender-neutral singular pronoun
	30(2)	51–53	Me and My Column	Reactions to an ungrammatical advertisement
	30(3)	93–94	Ten Helpful Editing Practices	Principles to follow in editing

	30(4)	128–129	Confused, Misused, Abused, and Underused Words	Common errors in usage
	30(6)	197–198	Paper or Plastic?	Omitting unnecessary words from text
2008	31(1)	28–29	Comma Drama	Trends and issues in comma usage
	31(2)	55–56	A Copyeditor's Top-10 List	Some irritating items commonly encountered when copy-editing
	31(3)	93–94	Explain Yourself!	Roles of an editor: mentor, mediator, and midwife
	31(4)	135–137	A Thesauromachy	Comparison of three thesauri
	31(5)	167–168	Thsd-Wd Ed Clm	Amount of abbreviation compatible with intelligibility
	31(6)	197–198	Six Sick Science Sentences	Analysis and improvement of six sentences
2009	32(1)	21–22	Let Us Now Laud Linnaeus	Linnaeus and his system of scientific nomenclature
	32(2)	53–54	Confessions of an Epeolatrist	A history and appreciation of Noah Webster's dictionary
	32(3)	91–93	22 Q's and 66 A's	Questions to use in estimating how long an editing project will take
	32(5)	167–168	I'm So Sure!	Expressions indicating degree of likelihood
	32(6)	197–199	Once Upon a Column	Farewell column; 50th anniversary of Strunk and White's <i>The Elements of Style</i>