

G A R N E R ' S

**MODERN
AMERICAN
USAGE**

Bryan A. Garner

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS
2003

Skechers EX1078
Skechers v Nike
IPR2025-00141

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford New York
Auckland Bangkok Buenos Aires Cape Town Chennai
Dar es Salaam Delhi Hong Kong Istanbul Karachi Kolkata
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Mumbai Nairobi
São Paulo Shanghai Taipei Tokyo Toronto

Copyright © 2003 by Bryan A. Garner

Published by Oxford University Press, Inc.
198 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016

www.oup.com

Oxford is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means,
electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise,
without the prior permission of Oxford University Press.

Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication Data is available
ISBN 0-19-516191-2

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the United States of America
on acid-free paper

pute." Frank Swoboda, "Hill in No Hurry to Settle Railroad Shutdown," *Wash. Post*, 25 June 1992, at A1.

intervention; intervenience. The latter is a NEEDLESS VARIANT.

in the affirmative. See **affirmative**.

in the amount of. See **check (B)**.

in the ascendant. See **ascendant**.

in the circumstances. See **circumstances (A)**.

in the context of. See **context of**.

in the course of is often wordy for *during* or *while*—e.g.: "Billingsley got to know the widow Doss pretty well *in the course of* [read *during*] the investigation." Bill Thomas, "He Can Name Tune but Can't Find Lyrics," *Jupiter Courier* (Fla.), 26 Nov. 1997, at A9.

in the event. See **event**.

in the final analysis; in the last analysis. Both CLICHÉS are likely to detract from your prose. Try to state the proposition without this tepid lead-in.

in the light of is inferior to *in light of*, itself a CLICHÉ. See **in lieu of (B)**.

in the midst of. See **amid**.

in the negative. See **affirmative**.

in the offing. See **offing**.

in the process of. See **process**.

in the throes of. See **throes of**.

in this connection. All in all, one can understand a mid-20th-century editor's denunciation of the phrase: "Of all the superfluous baggage carried by the journalistic or literary pilgrim, this seems to me the supreme specimen of uselessness. Study this combination of words through a hundred of its innumerable intrusions into printed text, and then say if it is not a monster of futility. It is not merely unnecessary verbiage, it is an actual clogging and cluttering of the channels of clear, concise utterance. To me, as an editor, it seems to suggest desire to consume rather than to conserve paper and typewriter ribbons." Edward N. Teall, *Putting Words to Work* 276 (1940). Cf. **in connection with**.

inthrall; inthral. See **enthral**.

intimately. For a misuse of *intricately* for this word, see **intricately**.

intimidatable. So formed. E.g.: "Sloan was perhaps the least *intimidatable* player in league history." Ray Ratto, "Nobody Sings the Blues Louder than the Jazz," *News & Observer* (Raleigh), 6 June 1997, at C1. See **-ATABLE**.

into. See **in**.

in toto (= completely, entirely, wholly, in full) is a LATINISM expressing such a fundamental notion, and having so many ready English synonyms, that it is seldom if ever justified. E.g.:

- "I asked and received permission from editor Max Brantley to reproduce it here *in toto* [read *in full*]." Meredith Oakley, "Why Not a Recall Now?" *Ark. Democrat-Gaz.*, 15 Sept. 1997, at B7.
- "Scientists had thought that given the considerable commitment of male sea horses to child care, sex roles would be swapped *in toto* [read *in full*], and the males would sit back peacefully while the females thrashed it out with one another over the right to mate with them." Natalie Angier, "When (and Why) Dad Has the Babies," *N.Y. Times*, 28 Oct. 1997, at F1.

INTRA- See **INTER-**.

intramural = conducted within the limits of an organization or body, esp. of an educational institution. The term is misused when the sense extends beyond one college or university—that is, it is impossible to have a competition remain intramural if there are competitors from elsewhere: "They are also trying to determine if there has been any recent contact between Harvard and Dartmouth, like *intramural* sports." "Link Sought Between Sickesses at Two Colleges," *N.Y. Times*, 6 Dec. 1994, at A12.

intransigence (= stubborn refusal to accommodate or compromise) is the standard spelling. *Intransigence* is a variant form.

intrastate. See **interstate**.

intravenous is pronounced /in-trə-vee-nəs/—not /in-trə-vee-nee-əs/. See **PRONUNCIATION (B)**.

intricately (= in a detailed or complicated way) is sometimes misused for *intimately* (= in a close, personal way)—e.g.:

- "Hill has also been *intricately* [read *intimately*] involved with CEPA's operations at Southern Energy and has a good working relationship." Matthew C. Quinn, "Southern Co. Replaces Old Asian Hand with Georgian," *Atlanta J. & Const.*, 14 June 1997, at E1.
- "Carolyn J. Schutz, 61, the secretary of Elmhurst's Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church who was *intricately* [read *intimately*] involved in relief work for the area's poor, died Sunday in Elmhurst Memorial Hospital." Deborah Kadin, "Carolyn J. Schutz," *Chicago Trib.*, 11 Sept. 1997, at 9.