

William Strunk, Jr.

Quotes

*Writing, Drawing, Stronger, Style, Air, Attention, Should Have, Assertion,
Acquire, Important, One Chance, Sky, Learning, Chance, Quotation Marks,
Children, Details, Views, Prose, Reason*

...when a sentence is made stronger, it usually becomes shorter. Thus, brevity is a by-product of vigor.

~William Strunk, Jr.

A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts.

~William Strunk, Jr.

If you don't know how to pronounce a word, say it loud!

~William Strunk, Jr.

Make definite assertions. Avoid tame, colorless, hesitating, non-committal language.

~William Strunk, Jr.

To acquire style, begin by affecting none.

~William Strunk, Jr.

None are so fallible as those who are sure they're right.

~William Strunk, Jr.

Instead of announcing what you are about to tell is interesting, make it so.

~William Strunk, Jr.

Vigorous writing is concise.

~William Strunk, Jr.

Rich, ornate prose is hard to digest, generally unwholesome, and sometimes nauseating.

~William Strunk, Jr.

A drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no

unnecessary parts.

~William Strunk, Jr.

The approach to style is by way of plainness, simplicity, orderliness, sincerity.

~William Strunk, Jr.

Rewrite and revise. Do not be afraid to seize what you have and cut it to ribbons ... Good writing means good revising.

~William Strunk, Jr.

Remember, it is no sign of weakness or defeat that your manuscript ends up in need of major surgery. This is a common occurrence in all writing, and among the best writers.

~William Strunk, Jr.

The adjective hasn't been built that can pull a weak or inaccurate noun out of a tight place.

~William Strunk, Jr.

Never call a stomach a tummy without good reason.

~William Strunk, Jr.

To air one's views gratuitously, is to imply that the demand for them is brisk.

~William Strunk, Jr.

A dash is a mark of separation stronger than a comma, less formal than a colon, and more relaxed than parentheses.

~William Strunk, Jr.

The situation is perilous, but there is still one chance of escape.

~William Strunk, Jr.

Opinions scattered indiscriminately about leave the mark of egotism.

~William Strunk, Jr.

It is worse to be irresolute than to be wrong.

~William Strunk, Jr.

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