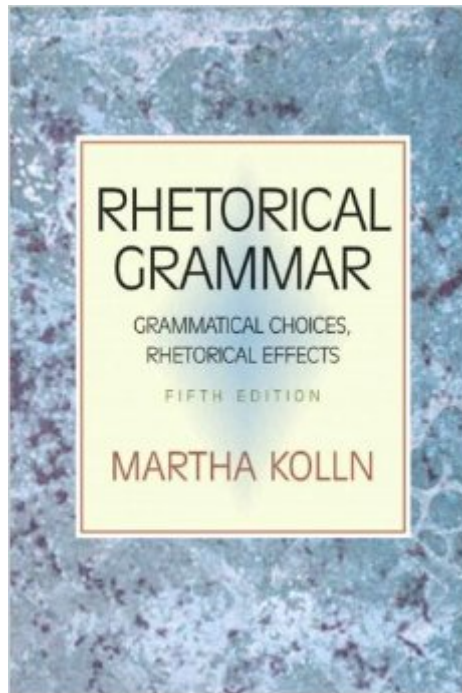


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# Rhetorical Grammar: Grammatical Choices, Rhetorical Effects (5th Edition)



## Synopsis

This detailed guide encourages writers to recognize and use the grammatical and stylistic choices available to them and to understand the rhetorical effects those choices can have on their readers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Martha Kolln has created a practical text for writers and, especially, teachers of writing. Rhetorical Grammar proves that the present day "wisdom" that the teaching of grammar might be detrimental to writing is not so wise after all. Focusing only on those issues that relate grammatical choices directly to the writer's purpose and audience, or on the long-range development of the writer's ideas, Professor Kolln shows us how to make our texts clear, direct, and reader friendly. She also avoids the pitfalls of traditional grammar teaching, concentrating instead on those questions that focus only on the needs of real writers in real writing situations. Among the issues covered are sentence rhythm (for example, how the placement of an adverbial in the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence affects the reader), how to choose between coordination or subordination, and the differences between form and structure classes of words (far more practical than merely discussing "parts of speech"). After each major section of the book, Professor Kolln includes, rather than the usual fill-in-the-blanks exercises, a combination of writing exercises and "Group Discussion" problems, employing real texts or real-life writing situations. Teachers of writing will find much to be thankful for in this little book, from clear explanations of composition choices to dozens of useful classroom activities. This is a must have text for any English teacher, from elementary school

through graduate school.

As a lawyer, I spend considerable time revising my own writing. Professor Kolln's lessons on grammar helped me learn how to write more efficiently and with more confidence. Like most people, I often relied on the "... just sounds better that way ..." technique of editing my sentences. Kolln explained how to focus the reader's attention by making deliberate choices of grammar. I was surprised to learn how easy it is to control sentence rhythm, emphasizing the most important word in each phrase. She also explained how sentences can be organized to stick together (cohesiveness), so the reader doesn't get lost or frustrated. Slightly over 250 pages, Kolln's book is short enough to be reviewed again and again. Her system of "rhetorical reminders" is a set of tools that should be valuable to any writer, at any level of proficiency.

Rhetorical Grammar, by Martha Kolln, is a great way to get a grasp on the grammatical intricacies of the English language. But, in order to enjoy it and get something out of it, you have to be willing to do the exercises, at least the even ones, and work with the book. If you don't give the book a chance you won't like it. Kolln lays out a very effective method of teaching grammar. Her method is so effective, in fact, that top linguistics and English graduate/undergraduate programs, nationwide, use this book. What Kolln does is explain grammar in a way which doesn't involve sentence diagramming, the most difficult part of many grammar classes. She explains how grammar controls the language. Kolln has a way of explaining grammar that will help anyone struggling in the subject to become a better writer. The best thing about this book is that it's written in a way that writers, college students, graduate students and even high school students can understand and learn from. This is one book I'll never regret having bought.

Martha Kolln's book took my teaching to a whole new level. Finally, I found a simpatico educator and academic researcher...someone who's on the same wavelength as I am. Her work bolstered my theories and ideas, and expanded them into a more complex and rich expression. I share this book with my foreign graduate students, to help them understand the core of the language and how word and grammar and syntax affect the basics of rhetorical expression. This foundation is not clear to students from other languages. I reference it a lot, and recommend it often.

You really do want to buy this book. Of all the writing handbooks I have, it is the one that is most interesting and most helpful. Countless lightbulbs have gone off in my mind as I've read its

explanations. I strongly feel that it deserves yet another 5-star rating. I wish I had owned it during my first year of college (or even during high school). Regarding the negative post: I read it in its entirety, and with respect to its author, all I could do was chuckle and shake my head because I strongly disagree with the opinion as well as the arguments presented.

I got this book (5th edition ... much cheaper than 6th) because the author is mentioned in *The War Against Grammar*. I'm awaiting her more basic grammar book, but plunged into this one (which arrived first). I have never had a good, technical writing course, and grew up in a time when this was not stressed. I have felt it was a weakness I needed to correct before my homeschooled son reaches middle school age. While this book is dense, it is very useful, and the exercises are interesting and well-chosen. I'd love to take this with a good teacher at the helm, but no such luck. Regardless, the book is do-able on its own, and I am very, very pleased with it. It is making me **think** about every comma and turn of phrase. I'm not "there" yet, but I feel I'm on the road with this book. I'm about 3/4 of the way through and intend to go back and outline it to make a reference manual for myself. If you are serious about correct writing that conveys what you want it to, this is a must-have book. I've long known I didn't know how to do this, but never how much I didn't know, nor what steps to take towards correction. Now I do.

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