

All of this the editors at Fitzhenry and Whiteside accepted without actually saying so. They gave me virtually *carte blanche*. They altered little or nothing; they did not, as some editors might well have done, ask me to tone down the language to a level "more suitable". *World Book Encyclopaedia* tries to do just that, and the result is dreary, saltless, turbid stuff like Cream of Wheat. The new *American Academic Encyclopaedia* has hopefully reversed that awful trend of trying to write to a "Grade X" style.

For there ought to be no such thing as a Grade X style. The attempts at it are usually abominations, limp, pedestrian, slimy, with infinitives all unsplit, with sentences that never end with prepositions. For how can one learn to really understand the split infinitive without splitting them? One will find the rug pulled right out from under.

Let us, therefore, have soporific lettuces: if we can, we may be spared soporific sentences.

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