

Any criticisms? Just one: This is one of those books that might have been improved had it been shorter. It's packed with nearly 2,000 quotations, so perhaps it's to be expected that not all are gems. Some judicious pruning would have resulted in a briefer but sharper collection. Still, the author can justifiably boast that it's the most comprehensive and definitive volume on its subject.

Of course, you need not read the book cover to cover. It lends itself perfectly to browsing, especially when a chapter such as the one on "sex, love and romance" catches your eye.

Both informative and entertaining, *Neverisms* is a great gift for someone you know, or a treat for yourself. You'll also find it a useful resource when you need an appropriate quotation for a writing assignment or presentation.

This review originally appeared in Don's weekly column, "The Language Perfectionist," in Early to Rise, a daily online newsletter. For current and past columns, see: <http://www.earlytorise.com/author/don-hauptman>.

A PANGRAMMATIC LIMERICK

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Oscar Thumpbindle merits high praise.
Every WORD offers **so** many WAYS
(Palindrome, square,
'abjurer-nowhere')
To tickle us, vex or amaze.

