Contents

Preface ix

1 Email to Your Brain • Language in an Online and Mobile World 3

2 Language Online • The Basics 11

3 Controlling the Volume • Everyone a Language Czar 31

4 Are Instant Messages Speech? • The World of IM 45

5 My Best Day • Managing “Buddies” and “Friends” 71

6 Having Your Say • Blogs and Beyond 99

7 Going Mobile • Cell Phones in Context 127

8 “Whatever” • Is the Internet Destroying Language? 161

9 Gresham’s Ghost • Challenges to Written Culture 183

10 The People We Become • The Cost of Being Always On 213

Notes 237

References 253

Index 275