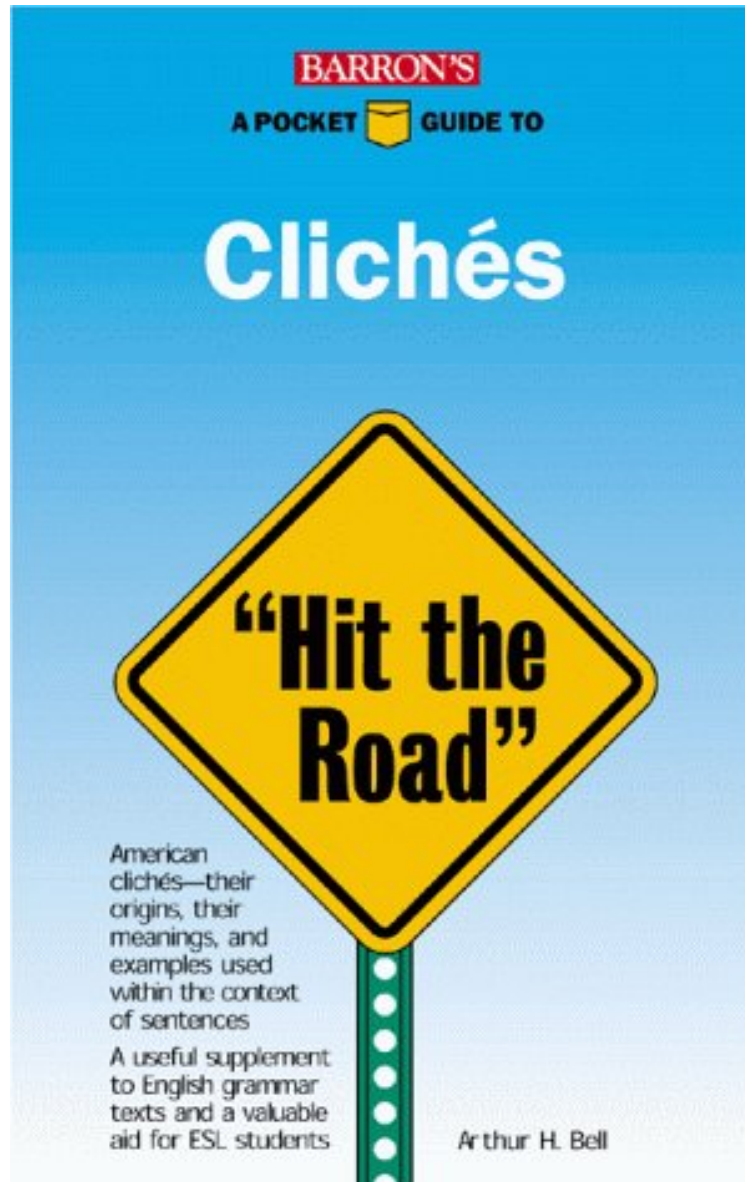


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## Barron's Pocket Guide to Clichés: "Hit the Road" (Barron's Pocket Guides)

Arthur H. Bell

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**Arthur H. Bell : Barron's Pocket Guide to Clichés: "Hit the Road" (Barron's Pocket Guides)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Barron's Pocket Guide to Clichés: "Hit the Road" (Barron's Pocket Guides):

15 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Not recommended for those looking for origins of clichés. By A Customer This volume fails to reflect the cliché: "You get what you pay for". Despite the description: "...this new addition to Barron's "Pocket Guides" series takes on the subject of clichés--their origins, meanings, examples used within the context of a sentence, and in many cases, the regions where the idiom is used most often." and the words on the cover of the guide regarding the origins of clichés, I was unable to find a single origin in the guide. It is a very lean publication with generous white space. I returned it for a full refund. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A handy resource for ESL students or any non-native English speaker. By Exodus Forum I like the small book, well-suited for a carry-on bag, which has much of what one needs to enhance daily communications in English. It helps listening comprehension, especially for sentences you cannot find in regular dictionaries. It serves an excellent niche for those whose mother-tongue is not English and want to add some colors to their communications, either in presentation or comprehension.

A practical, fast-reference guide for home or office, this new addition to Barron's "Pocket Guides" series takes on the subject of clichés--their origins, meanings, examples used within the context of a sentence, and in many cases, the regions where the idiom is used most often. This volume is also a great way for ESL students to gain insights into informal American English as it is really spoken.

.com This is an entertaining little volume, and oddly addictive to folks who love a good, tired turn of phrase. Open to the M's, for instance, and you'll find "mad as a hatter," which is significantly different from "mad as a hornet," plus a variety of "make" phrases, including "make a clean breast," "make a killing," "make a long story short," "make a monkey out of," and "make hay while the sun shines," as well as "make one tick," "make one's mark," and the simple yet evocative "make waves." Fun as it is, however, to read through the well-worn bromides and homilies, one might wonder about the Pocket Guide's practical applications. For the foreign-born student of English, the applications are clear. These are the phrases that drive students crazy, the ones that can't be looked up in a standard dictionary and whose meanings can't be intuited by looking up each word and piecing it all together. Try deciphering "coin a phrase" or "dressed to the nines" if English isn't your first tongue. It's also handy for native speakers for understanding the clichés of other generations and regions. And it's especially worthwhile for writers learning to recognize the trite chestnuts they might want to avoid. When a phrase is so tried and true that it flows from your pen as easy as 1, 2, 3, you can look it up in the Pocket Guide and see if perhaps you might want to find a more original way to express yourself. --Stephanie Gold From Library Journal This compulsively readable new addition to Barron's "Pocket Guides" series covers American clichés from "absence makes the heart grow fonder" to "yellow-bellied." Bell, a professor of management communication at the University of San Francisco and author of *A Pocket Guide to Synonyms* and *A Pocket Guide Thesaurus*, identifies three target audiences for his guide: native English speakers who don't understand the clichés of other generations, non-native speakers of American English baffled by the language's colloquialisms, and writers interested in avoiding clichés in their work. This is a "quick and dirty" source, providing only concise definitions and the illustrative use of each cliché in a sentence. The absence of an index limits the book's utility somewhat, as does the lack of cross referencing. Bell makes no claims to have written a comprehensive source; those interested in the origins and deeper meanings of clichés should consult the lengthier and more scholarly entries in Christine Ammer's *Have a Nice Day: A Dictionary of Clichés* (LJ 1/92) or Betty Kirkpatrick's *Clichés: Over 1500 Phrases Explored and Explained* (LJ 7/97). While not as detailed or as inclusive as these sources, this pocket guide is a useful and cheap reference source for people who want to "get down to the brass tacks" of a succinct definition. Recommended for quick reference or for idle minutes at the reference desk. A Kathleen Collins, Arizona State Univ. West Lib., Phoenix Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.