

Grammarian's Reference

The Grammarian plays an important role in helping all club members (including him/herself) improve their grammar and vocabulary. **As Grammarian, you:**

- **Make members aware of the proper use of language by taking note of misused words, poor sentence structures, incorrect pronunciation, and clichés.**
- **Point out excellent use of words, phrases or sentences.**
- **Introduce the "Word of the Day" which is...**
 - Display the word, part of speech, and a brief definition with a visual aid and prepare a sentence showcasing how the word should be used. Note who uses this word or any derivatives thereof correctly or incorrectly during the meeting.
 - Give your complete report when called on, at the end of the meeting. You may begin with "Mr./Mdm. General Evaluator, fellow toastmasters, and guests, my report is as follows..."
 - You may end the report by saying, "Back to you, Mr./Mdm. General Evaluator."

By ignorance we make mistakes, and by mistakes we learn.

(MIS) PRONUNCIATION

Athlete (ăth'lēt') [not athelete]

Dessert (dī-zûrt') [not dazert]

Divorce (dī-vôrs') [not dye-vors]

Gesture ('jesCHər) [not gkeschər]

Gauge (gāj) [not gawj]

Grasp (grăsp) [not graps]

Jewelry (jōō'əl-rē, jōōl'rē) [not jewlery]

Competent (kōm'pī-tənt) [not kompatent]

Mischievous (mīs'chə-vəs) [not mischievious]

Pronunciation [not pronownciation]

Subtle (süt'l) [not sub-tel]

Suit (soot) [not sweet]

Very (vēr'ē) [not wary]

Womb (woom) [not wohm]

Have a dictionary nearby to check pronunciation key:

ă	pat	h	hat	ō	toe	ou	out	f	fife, phase,
ā	pay	hw	which	ə	about, item	p	pop	ng	thing
â	care	ī	pī	oī	noise	r	roar	ö	pot
ä	father	ī	pie, by	oo	took	s	sauce	ô	caught, paw, for
b	bib	î	pier	oo	boot	sh	ship, dish	û	urge, term
ch	church	j	judge	v	valve	t	tight, stopped	œ	German schön
d	deed	k	kick, cat	w	with	th	thin	ú	German über
ě	pet	l	lid, needle	y	yes	th	this	KH	German ich
ē	bee	m	mum	z	zebra, xylem	ű	cut		
g	gag	n	no, sudden	zh	vision, garage	ər	butter		

(POOR) SENTENCE STRUCTURE & CHOICE OF WORDS

INDEFINITE ARTICLES – A/AN

- ◆ Use them when you introduce a person/thing for the first time, or when you don't expect the reader/listener to understand who or what you are talking about.
- ◆ When the following word begins with a vowel sound, the word you want is "an": "an apple," "an X-ray," or "an NGO." When the following word begins with a consonant sound, you need "a": "a snake," "a university," or "a non-governmental organisation."

ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

Error	Correction	Explanation
That was an interested lecture.	That was an <u>interesting</u> lecture.	We use -ing adjectives to describe an effect and -ed adjectives to describe how a person feels.
I was really surprise.	I was really <u>surprised</u> .	
The tropical birds were beautifuls.	The tropical birds were <u>beautiful</u> .	Adjectives in English do not change with the noun that they modify.
She is more stronger than him.	She is <u>stronger</u> than him.	Avoid double comparatives. Adjectives of one syllable usually form their comparatives by adding –er to the positive.
He is the most cleverest of them all.	He is the <u>cleverest</u> of them all.	
We performed good.	We performed <u>well</u> .	Good/sad is an adjective, <i>used to describe a noun/pronoun</i> while well/sadly is an adverb, <i>used to describe a verb/ adjective/adverb/phrase</i> .
She looked sadly to us. She looked sad at us.	<u>She looked sad to us.</u> <u>She looked sadly at us.</u>	

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Error	Correction	Explanation
<u>She</u> <u>have</u> left. <u>Jay and Joe</u> <u>is</u> leaving.	<u>She has</u> left. <u>Jay and Joe are</u> leaving.	The subject and verb of a sentence must agree with one another: if the subject of the sentence is singular, its verb must also be singular; and if the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural.
A <u>bouquet</u> of roses <u>give</u> colour to the room.	<u>A bouquet of roses gives</u> colour to the room.	
Time seem to go quickly during a test.	Time <u>seems</u> to go quickly during a test.	The subject is an uncountable noun (For example: Rice, Water, Grass, Money).
Everyone have to take a health class.	Everyone <u>has</u> to take a health class.	The subject is an indefinite pronoun (Anyone, Each, Nothing, Everything).

TENSES

Error	Correction	Explanation
It is raining for two days.	It <u>has been</u> raining for two days.	Do not use the present continuous instead of the present perfect continuous. We use the present perfect continuous tense to talk about an action which started in the past, has gone on till the present and is still continuing.
The baby is sleeping for three hours now.	The baby <u>has been</u> sleeping for three hours now.	
He has returned from London last week. I have seen him today.	He <u>returned</u> from London last week. I <u>saw</u> him today.	Use simple past tense. The present perfect is a present tense. It can't be used with adverbs of past time.
See that you will not do any damage.	See that <u>you do not</u> do any damage.	It is wrong to use the future tense in the subordinate clause when the verb in the main clause is in the imperative mood.
I will call you when the dinner will be ready.	I will call you when the dinner <u>is</u> ready.	The verb in the main clause = future tense, so the verb in the subordinate clause = in the present and not future.
Did you went to the concert last year?	Did you <u>go</u> to the concert last year?	The tense is carried by the verb do -- not by the main verb.
I had been to New York recently.	I <u>went</u> to New York recently.	The past perfect is not used simply to say that something happened sometime ago. This is conveyed by using the simple past.

POSITION OF VERBS

Error	Correction	Explanation
What you did?	What <u>did you do</u>?	The first is a dependent clause which requires a subject and a main verb. In questions, the auxiliary/helping verb comes before the subject.
Does he know what did you do?	Does he know <u>what you did</u>?	
Dan rode carefully his bike.	<u>Dan rode his bike</u> carefully.	Never put an adverb between the verb and the object.

SINGULAR AND PLURAL NOUNS

Singular Plural	Error
Child Children	Child / Childrens
Datum Data	Datas
Man Men	Mans / Mens

Singular Plural	Error
Mouse Mice	Mouses / Mices
People	Peoples
Son-in-law Sons-in-law	Son-in-laws

PREPOSITION

Error	Correction	Explanation
She entered into the room.	She entered the room.	The verbs lack, approach and enter are directly followed by objects without prepositions. Other verbs that do not normally take prepositions: discuss, marry and resemble.
Although he is clever, he lacks of experience.	Although he is clever, he lacks experience.	
The train is now approaching to Boston.	The train is now approaching Boston.	
See you on next Friday.	See you next Friday.	Prepositions are not used before a number of common time expressions beginning next, last, this, one, etc.
I will never forget meeting her on that afternoon.	I will never forget meeting her that afternoon.	
We just arrived in Claudio's studio.	We just arrived at Claudio's studio.	AT = for specific places and addresses IN = for geographic regions, towns
I have a meeting at the morning.	I have a meeting in the morning.	IN/FOR = general measurements AT/ON = specific times and dates.
I was looking my glasses.	I was looking for my glasses.	Between a verb and a noun, you need a link. The link here is a preposition.
I've been working here since five years.	I've been working here for five years.	FOR = periods of time. SINCE = specific points in time.

MALAPROPISM

Malapropism is the use of an incorrect word in place of a word with a similar sound (which is often a paronym), resulting in a nonsensical, often humorous utterance.

Error	Correction	Explanation
Fade into Bolivian	Fade into oblivion	oblivion = the state of being unconscious of what's happening.
Anonymous decision	Unanimous decision	unanimous = a group of people fully in agreement. anonymous = not identified by name.
suppository of info	repository of info	repository = a place for storage
speech crunch	speech crutch	crutch = a tool used for support

OTHER COMMON MISTAKES

Error	Correction	Explanation
Who did you see?	Whom did you see?	If the answer is “him”/“her” rather than “he”/“she”, then it’s whom.
I swam to shore.	I swam to shore.	Irregular verbs: swim-swam, arise-arose, bend-bent, bring-brought...
I borrowed her the book. She lent it from me.	I lent her the book. She borrowed it from me.	Lend = give something to someone for a short time, expecting it back Borrow = get something from someone, intending to return it.
I’m coming there, she’s going here.	I’m going there, she’s coming here.	Coming close, going far.
This skill can acquire.	This skill can be acquired.	In a passive sentence, the verb should be in past tense form.
When I was so stressful.	When I was so stressed.	Stressful = causing mental stress Stressed = experiencing stress
Very less info.	Very little info.	Less is the <i>comparative</i> form of little.

JARGONS & ACRONYMS

- Break-even point (economics)
- Deadweight loss (economics)
- Live load (engineering)
- ADHD = Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder
- ROI = Return On Investment
- MUFY = Monash University Foundation Year

CLICHÉS, REDUNDANT WORDS AND PHRASES

- Like: “He was like, what do I do? And she was like, this is what you do.”
- Etc./ and so on: “...swimming, running, and so on”
- Sort of/ Kind of: “I was kind of scared because it was kind of dark and also kind of freaky.”
- Unexpected surprise
- Basic fundamentals
- Estimated roughly
- Actual experience
- Advance warning
- Regular routine

Ways to avoid using the word ‘very’:

afraid	terrified	cold	freezing	good	superb, magnificent
angry	furious	conventional	conservative	happy	jubilant, delighted,
bad	atrocious	dirty	squalid	hot	scalding, scorching
beautiful	exquisite	dry	parched	hungry	ravenous / starving
bright	dazzling	eager	keen	big/large	colossal, immense
capable	accomplished	fast	quick	lively	vivacious, festive
clean	spotless	sad	distraught	neat	immaculate, spotless
clever	brilliant	loved	adored	strong	unyielding, mighty
old	ancient	roomy	spacious	stupid	idiotic, brainless
poor	destitute	rude	vulgar	tasty	delicious, heavenly
quiet	silent, mute	serious	solemn	thin	gaunt, delicate, bony
risky	perilous	small	tiny	tired	exhausted, drained
ugly	hideous	valuable	precious	weak	feeble, decrepit
wet	soaked	wicked	villainous	worried	anxious, distressed

EXCELLENT USE OF ENGLISH *happy dance***RHETORICAL DEVICES**

Device	Definition	Examples
• Alliteration	recurrence of initial consonant sounds.	• pink penguins and puppies.
• Allusion	short, informal reference to a famous person or event	• You think life is hard? Tell Nelson Mandela about it.
• Amplification	repeating a word or expression for emphasis, while adding more detail into it.	• Love, real love, takes time. • Suddenly he was standing in front of me, right in front of me, right in front of my face.
• Analogy	compares two things with similar characteristics, to explain some idea or object by showing how the idea or object is similar to a familiar one. Similes and metaphors are often incorporated.	• Just as a sword is the weapon of a warrior, a pen is the weapon of a writer. • You are as annoying as nails on a chalkboard.
• Antimetabole	reversing the order of repeated words or phrases to intensify the final formulation, to present alternatives, or show contrast	• When the going gets tough, the tough get going! • Always is never right; and never is always wrong.
• Antiphrasis	one word irony, established by context	• <i>Come here, Tiny</i> , he said to the two-meter giant.
• Antithesis	establishes a clear, contrasting relationship between two ideas by joining them together or juxtaposing them, often in parallel structure.	• I was the right fish in the wrong pond. • One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.
• Assonance	Similar vowel sounds repeated in successive or proximate words.	• On a proud round cloud in white high night.
• Epithet	an adjective or adjective phrase qualifying a noun by naming a key characteristic of the subject. It can be metaphorical.	• Untouched love • Lazy road • Sleepy mountain
• Eponym	substitutes for a particular attribute the name of a famous person recognised for that attribute	• Is he smart? That boy is an Einstein. • She is a Mother Teresa.
• Hyperbole	counterpart of understatement, deliberately exaggerates conditions for emphasis or effect.	• I apologise a thousand times. • The bag weighed a ton.
• Metanoia	recalling a statement and expressing it in a better, milder/stronger way.	• He's a great friend. No, the best friend in the world.
• Metaphor	describes a subject by calling it, on some point of comparison, the same as another otherwise unrelated object.	• All the world's a stage • Golden time • He drowned in a sea of grief • She is fishing in troubled waters. • Broken heart • The light of my life. • Feeling blue • Stench of failure.
• Onomatopoeia	word that phonetically imitates or suggests the source of the sound that it describes.	• Oink Meow Bang Roar Snap Crackle Pop
• Oxymoron	combines contradictory terms	• Black milk • Dark light
• Personification	gives an inanimate (non-living) object human traits and qualities.	• The sky smiled, as the horrible clouds raced across it. • The stars danced playfully in the moonlit sky.
• Simile	directly compares two things through some connective, usually "like", "as", "than", or a verb such as "resembles"	• They fought like lions • Her eyes twinkled like stars • Happier than a tornado in a trailer!

Grammarian's Report

Word of the Day (WOTD): _____

Name	No. of times	Name	No. of times

Incorrect pronunciation:

Kerlig (Colleague: kö'l'äg' || call+eeg)

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.
11.	12.

Poor sentence structure / Misused words:

Take it here. [Bring it here.] [object is being moved towards the subject, not away from.]

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Others (clichés, jargons, acronyms, redundant words and phrases):

very happy. [ecstatic.] [the word 'very' is a weak way to emphasize an adjective/feeling]

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Excellent use of English (including excellent use of the WOTD):

ethereal [meaning = extremely delicate and light in a way that seems too perfect]

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Name: _____

Date: _____