

Grammar 2: Usage  
Assignment 12

- Complete Chapter 11 test. *You must hand it in by noon on Tuesday or you will not get credit for the test.*
- Complete Lesson 12 (except the test).
- More advice which I think that you will enjoy from Mr. Wombley's inimitable teacher, Censor:

## Subject-Verb Agreement

### 26 *In Dress and Habits.*

DON'T cleanse your ears, or your nose, or trim and clean your fingernails, in public. Cleanliness and neatness in all things pertaining to the person are indispensable, but toilet offices are proper in the privacy of one's apartment only.

DON'T use hair-dye. The color is not like nature, and deceives no one.\*

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\* Hair and beard dyed black produce a singular effect. They seem to coarsen and vulgarize the lines of the face. Any one who has ever seen an elderly gentleman suddenly abandon his dye, and appear with his gray locks in all their natural beauty, will realize what we

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DON'T use hair-oil or pomades. This habit was once quite general, but it is now considered vulgar, and it is certainly not cleanly.

DON'T wear apparel with decided colors or with pronounced patterns. Don't—we address here the male reader—wear anything that is *pretty*. What have men to do with pretty things? Select quiet colors and unobtrusive patterns, and adopt no style of cutting that belittles the figure. It is right enough that men's apparel should be becoming, that it should be graceful, and that it should lend dignity

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mean—for he has seen what appeared to him a rather coarse and sensuous face all at once changed into one of refinement and character.

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to the figure ; but it should never be ornamental, capricious, or pretty.

DON'T wear fancy-colored shirts, or embroidered shirt-fronts. Spotted or otherwise decorated shirts are fashionable in summer, but the taste is questionable. White, plain linen is always in better taste.

DON'T wear evening dress in the morning, or on any occasion before six-o'clock dinner.\*

DON'T wear black broadcloth in the morning ; or, at least, don't wear black broadcloth trousers except for evening dress.

\* This is the English rule, and generally adopted here. The French, however, wear evening dress on ceremonious occasions at whatever hour they may occur.

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DON'T wear your hat cocked over your eye, or thrust back upon your head. One method is rowdyish, the other rustic.

DON'T go with your boots unpolished ; but don't have the polishing done in the public highways. A gentleman perched on a high curbstone chair, within view of all passers-by, while he is having executed this finishing touch to his toilet, presents a picture more unique than dignified.

DON'T wear trinkets, shirt-pins, finger-rings, or anything that is solely ornamental. One may wear shirt-studs, a scarf-pin, a watch-chain and a seal, because these articles are useful ; but the plainer they are the better.

DON'T be a "swell" or a "dude,"

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or whatever the fop of the period may be called.

DON'T wear dressing-gown and slippers anywhere out of your bedroom. To appear at table or in any company in this garb is the very soul of vulgarity.\* It is equally vulgar to sit at table or appear in company in one's shirt-sleeves.

DON'T walk with a slouching, slovenly gait. Walk erectly and firmly, not stiffly ; walk with ease, but still with dignity. Don't bend out the knees nor walk in-toed, nor drag your feet along ; walk in a

\* "No man," says an excellent authority, "should ever be seen outside his bedroom in a dressing-gown and slippers. Nobody, not even his wife, should see him in it in the breakfast-room, dining-room, or drawing-room."

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large, easy, simple manner, without affectation but not negligently.

DON'T carry your hands in your pockets. Don't thrust your thumbs into the arm-holes of your waistcoat.

DON'T chew or nurse your toothpick in public—or anywhere else. Don't use a toothpick, except for a moment, to remove some obstacle ; and don't have the habit of sucking your teeth.

DON'T chew tobacco. It is a bad and ungentlemanly habit. The neatest tobacco-chewer can not wholly prevent the odor of tobacco from affecting his breath and clinging to his apparel, and the "places that know him" are always redolent of the weed. If one *must* chew, let him be particular where he ex-

pectorates. He should not discharge tobacco-juice in public vehicles, on the sidewalk, or in any place where it will be offensive.

DON'T expectorate. Men in good health do not need to expectorate; with them continual expectoration is simply the result of habit. Men with bronchial or lung diseases are compelled to expectorate, but no one should discharge matter of the kind in public places except into vessels provided to receive it. Spitting upon the floor anywhere is inexcusable. One should not even spit upon the sidewalk, but go to the gutter for the purpose. One must not spit into the fireplace nor upon the carpet, and hence the English rule is for him to spit in his

handkerchief — but this is not a pleasant alternative. On some occasions no other may offer.\*

DON'T whistle in the street, in public vehicles, at public assemblies, or anywhere where it may annoy. Mem. : don't whistle at all.

DON'T laugh boisterously. Laugh heartily when the occasion calls for it, but the loud guffaw is not necessary for heartiness.

DON'T have the habit of smiling or "grinning" at nothing. Smile or laugh when there is occasion to do either, but at other times keep your mouth shut and your manner

\* It is often said that the excessive expectoration in America is due to the dryness of the climate; but, if this is the case, how is it that the habit is confined to the masculine sex?