

## Grammar 2

### Assignment 5

- Complete Chapter 5. If you need to, review chapters 1 and 2: *make sure that you have the kinds of pronoun memorized as well as the specific pronouns. Also, make sure that you have the names of the pronoun usage areas memorized.*

Being vague is almost as fun as doing this other thing.

- Take Chapter 4 Test and submit it by Tuesday morning. Make sure that you do not scan the book; rather, write the answers down on a separate sheet, and then scan it. Your answers should be on one page and *one* page only! On the test, write down how many incorrect answers you had on your diagnostic grammar test. This will be your first grade of the year. Chapter tests will count 1/4 of a Unit Test.
- I asked Mr. Wombly whether or not he had time to meet you. Although he has been very busy, he said that any student of mine is a student of his. That is a high encomium! Here is more advice from Mr. Wombly's teacher, Censor:

*Don't* call your servants *girls*. Call the cook *cook*, and the nurse *nurse*, and the housemaids *maids*.

*Don't* use wrong adjectives, There is perhaps no adjective so misused as *elegant*. Don't say "an elegant morning," or an "elegant piece of beef," or "an elegant scene," or "an elegant picture." This word has been so vulgarized by misuse that it is better not to use it at all.

*Don't* use extravagant adjectives. *Don't* say *magnificent* when a thing is merely pretty, or *splendid* when *excellent* or some other word will do.

Extravagance of this kind is never in good taste.

*Don't* use the words *hate* and *despise* to express mere dislikes. The young lady who declares that she "hates yellow ribbons" and "despises turnips," may have sound principles, but she evinces a great want of discrimination in the selection of epithets.<sup>1</sup>

*Don't* say *hung* when *hanged* is meant. Men, unfortunately, are sometimes *hanged*; pictures are hung.

*Don't* say that anybody or anything is *genteel*. *Don't* use the word at all. Say a person is "well bred," or a thing is "tasteful."

*Don't* say *transpire* when you mean *occur*. *Transpire* means to become known, and hence is erroneously used in the sense of taking place.

*Don't* say *yeh* for *yes*; and *don't* imitate the English *ya-as*. *Don't* respond to a remark with a prolonged exclamatory and interrogative *ye-es*. This is a rank Yankeeism.

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<sup>1</sup> Also, don't say *awesome* or *fabulous* when merely *good* is meant, as when you encounter something truly awesome, such as a panoramic view of Grand Canyon, you will be at a loss for appropriate words. (Mr. Walter's note)