

## Grammar 2: Usage

### Assignment 9

- This is our last chapter on pronouns! Complete Chapter 9 except the test. Start studying for the Unit Test, which we will have in one week!
- Take the chapter Test 8, scan it and email to me by **Tuesday morning. Remember that I want the answers on *one* page.**
- Review your mistakes and please ask any questions that you have next lesson.
- Below is the last installment of advice from my teacher’s teacher, Censor. Next week you will read Censor’s advice on issues other than grammar in speech.



*Don't* say “awfully nice,” “awfully pretty,” etc.; and *don't* accumulate bad grammar upon bad taste by saying “awful nice.” Use the word *awful* with a sense of its correct meaning.

*Don't* say “loads of time” or “oceans of time.” There is no meaning in these phrases. Say “ample time” or “time enough.”

*Don't* say “lots of things,” meaning an “abundance of things.” A lot of anything means a separate portion, a part allotted. Lot for quantity is an Americanism.

*Don't* say that “the health of the President was drank<sup>1</sup>,” or that “the race was ran.” For *drank* say *drunk*; for *ran* say *run*.

*Don't* use *smart* to express cleverness, brightness, or capability. This use of the word is very common, but it is not sanctioned by people of the best taste.

*Don't* habitually use the word folks—“his folks,” “our folks,” “their folks,” etc. Strictly, the word should be *folk*, the plural form being a corruption; but, while usage sanctions *folks* for *folk*, it is in better taste not to use the word at all.

*Don't* speak of this or that kind of food being *healthy* or *unhealthy*, say always *wholesome* or *unwholesome*.



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<sup>1</sup> “I assume that Censor began writing his liminal book on propriety *Don't* during Andrew Jackson’s tenure as President of the United States. Like Davy Crockett, Censor was not fond of “King Andrew.” Censor (who was a Northerner) and Davy Crockett (Congressional representative from Tennessee) would often have amicable discussions on Andrew Jackson’s failed monetary policies and his tyrannical government tactics. However, I did not know, and have never read about Andrew Jackson being addicted to drink. Ulysses S Grant and Franklin Pierce were known to be heavy imbibers, but the history books that I have consulted make no mention of Andrew Jackson.” (Gentleman Wombley’s note)

*Don't say learn for teach.* It is not right to say "will learn them what to do," but "will teach them what to do." The teacher can only teach; the pupil must learn.

*Don't say donate* when you mean give. The use of this pretentious word for every instance of giving has become so common as to be fairly nauseating. Good, plain, vigorous Saxon is never nauseating. If one can not give his church or town library a little money without calling it donating, let him, [for the sake] of good English, keep his gift until he has learned better.<sup>2</sup>[. . .]

*Don't say ruther for rather.* Pronounce *rather* to rhyme with *father*.

Don't use *admire* for *like*. "I should admire to go with you" is neither good English nor good sense.

*Don't* notice in others a slip of grammar or a mispronunciation in a way to cause a blush or to offend. If you refer to anything of the kind, do it courteously, and not in the hearing of other persons.



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<sup>2</sup> Although Gentleman Wombley shares his teacher Censure's passion for unpretentious language and speaking correctly, he does hold that good deeds are more important than good grammar, and believes, with all due respect to his teacher, that Censor was speaking here in the heat of passion and not according to reason. (William Walter's note)