

## Assignment 1

### Online Grammar Course

- Read chapter 1 of *Gentleman Wombly's Grammar Notes* and complete all of the exercises, *excluding* the chapter test at the end. Ordinarily you would be sending me your answers through email, but for the first few chapters, you will be grading the test yourself. *When you begin sending your test answers, you will be sending only the answers on one sheet of paper, not scanning the book.*

- Enjoy the cartoon on right!

- In 1837, Gentleman Wombly's illustrious teacher "Censor" published a tiny book titled "Don't" in which he talks about all those things we should avoid in speech and writing. I was so happy to receive it as a birthday gift from Mr.

Wombly about ten years ago. It was wildly famous when it came out, and launched Censor's career as a grammarian. Some of that fame rubbed off on his student, Gentleman Wombly, although Wombly's first field of study and practice was medicine. Unfortunately (or fortunately), none of that fame has rubbed off on me, a devoted disciple of Mr. Wombly. I will be quoting Censor's classic book in these assignment pages. Here are the first two pages of rules to follow as students of Mr. Walter (student of Mr. Wombly, student of Censor):

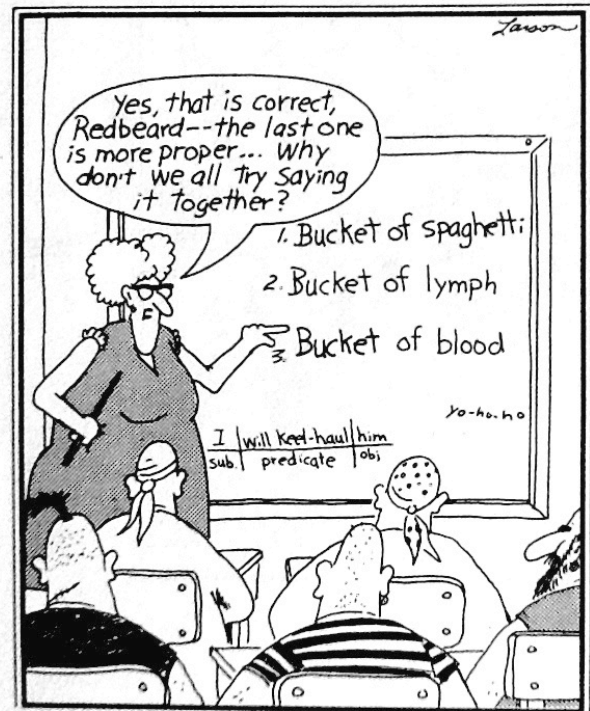
*Don't* speak ungrammatically. Study books of grammar and the writings of the best authors.

*Don't* pronounce incorrectly. Listen carefully to the conversation of cultivated people and consult the dictionaries.

*Don't* mangle your words, or smother them, or swallow them. Speak with a distinct enunciation.

*Don't* talk in a high, shrill voice and avoid nasal tones. Cultivate a chest voice; learn to moderate your tones. Talk always in a low register, but not too low.

*Don't* use slang. There is some slang that, according to Thackeray, is gentlemanly slang, and other slang that is vulgar. If one does not know the difference, let him avoid slang altogether, and then he will be safe.



Pirate school

Don't use profane language.

Don't multiply epithets and adjectives; Don't be too fond of superlatives.

Moderate your transports.

Don't use meaningless exclamations, such as "Oh, my!" "Oh, crackey!" etc.

Don't interject *sir* or *madam* freely into your conversation. Never say *ma'am* at all. Young people should be taught to say, "Yes, papa," "No, mamma" (with accent on

the second syllable of *mamma* and *papa*), "Yes, uncle," "No, aunt," and so on, instead of always "Yes, sir," "No, ma'am," etc. *Sir* is right toward superiors, but it must even in this case be sparingly used.

