

Grammar 2: Usage

Assignment 4

- Complete Chapter 4 of *Gentleman Wombley's Grammar Notes* (except the chapter test).
- Take Chapter Test 3. Please write out your answers on ONE page and send your test in by Tuesday afternoon so that I am sure to have enough time to grade it. Also, be sure to write down your name. Thanks, everyone!
- Read more of my instruction from the illustrious Censor, my teacher's teacher

below. I would like to

introduce you to Gentleman Wombley sometime at the end of the year, and I am sure that he would be glad to meet you, too. He is *extremely* formal in his manners, but you will find him very entertaining. He is the brightest person that I have ever met in my entire life—but *humble*!



CENSOR'S "DON'T," PUBLISHED IN 1837

Don't say *doo* for *dew* or *due*.

Don't say *dooty* for *duty*. Remember to give the diphthongal sound of *eu* wherever it belongs. The perversity of pronunciation in this particular is singular. "A heavy *doo* fell last night," one rustic¹ will say. "Du tell!" will come as a response from another.

Don't drop the sound of *r* where it belongs, as *ahm* for *arm*, *wahm* for *warm*, *hoss* for *horse*, *govahment* for *government*. The omission of *r* in these and similar words—usually when it falls after a vowel—is very common.

Don't pronounce *route* as if it were written *rowt*; it should be like *root*. Don't, also, pronounce *tour* as if you were speaking of a tower. Let it be pronounced as if it were *toor*.

Don't pronounce *calm* and *palm* as if they rhymed with *ham*. Give the *a* the broad sound, as in *father*.

Don't say *gents* for *gentlemen*, or *pants* for *pantaloons*. These are inexcusable vulgarisms. Don't say *vest* for *waistcoat*.²

Don't say *party* for *person*. This is abominable, and yet very common.

Don't say *lady* when you mean *wife*.

Don't say *right away*, if you wish to avoid Americanisms. Say *immediately* or *directly*.

Don't say *rubbers* or *gums*. Say *overshoes*. Why should the material of an article of clothing be mentioned?

Don't say *female* for *woman*. A sow is a female; a mare is a female. The female sex of the human kind is entitled to some distinctive term.

Don't say *sick* except when nausea is meant. Say *ill*, *unwell*, *indisposed*.³

Don't say *posted* for *well informed*. Don't say *balance* for *remainder*. Don't use trade terms except for trade purposes.

Don't say, "Have the cars come in?" Say, "Has the train come in?" It is better to

¹ *rustic* Gentleman Wombly strongly feels that referring to the less educated or "country folk" as "rustics" shows a lack of good breeding and that arrogant manners are far more offensive than the mispronunciation of words. However, he felt it indelicate to mention the fact, as he was much younger than his old friend Censor when *Don't* was published. (Mr. Walter's note)

² *Vest* for *waistcoat* is almost universal in the United States, and perhaps established beyond reform, but in England it is rare, and considered vulgar. (Censor's note)

³ *Sick* for *ill* is almost universal with Americans, but *ill* is certainly a better word, yet we have *sick-room*, *sick-bed*, etc. (Censor's note)

travel by rail than by cars. These are simply preferences—matters of taste merely.