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Grammarian

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## Grammarian

### The syntax sentinel

#### Before the Meeting

One benefit of Toastmasters is that it helps people improve their grammar and word use. Being grammarian also provides an exercise in expanding listening skills. You have several responsibilities: to introduce new words to members, to comment on language usage during the course of the meeting, and to provide examples of eloquence.

Several days before the meeting, select a [word of the day](#) (if this is done in your club):

It should be one that will help members increase their vocabulary – a word that can be incorporated easily into everyday conversation but is different from the way people usually express themselves.

Adjectives and adverbs are more adaptable than nouns or verbs, but feel free to select your own special word.

Print your word, its part of speech (adjective, adverb, noun, verb) and a brief definition in letters large enough to be seen from the back of the room.

Prepare a sentence showing how the word is used.

Also, prepare a brief explanation of the duties of the grammarian for the benefit of the guests.

#### At the Meeting

Before the meeting begins, place your visual aid at the front of the room where everyone can see it. Also get a blank piece of paper and pen ready to make notes, or get a copy of the grammarian's log, if your club has one, from the sergeant at arms.

When introduced:

Announce the word of the day, state its part of speech, define it, use it in a sentence the meeting use it.

Briefly explain the role of the grammarian.

Throughout the meeting, listen to everyone's word usage. Write down any awkward us sentences that change direction in midstream, incorrect grammar or malapropisms) w someone used a singular verb with a plural subject. "One in five children wear glasses' when a pronoun is misused. "No one in the choir sings better than her" should be "No

Write down who used the word of the day (or a derivative of it) and note those who use

When called on by the general evaluator during the evaluation segment:

Stand by your chair and give your report.

Try to offer the correct usage in every instance of misuse (instead of merely anno

Report on creative language usage and announce who used the word of the day (

After the meeting, give your completed report to the treasurer for collection of fines, if y

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