

# 101 Language Choices That Will Get You Clobbered By The Grammar Snobs Even If

Language is a powerful tool for communication, but it can also be a dangerous weapon in the hands of grammar snobs. These self-proclaimed language experts will not hesitate to correct your grammar or point out your linguistic slip-ups. It seems like they are always ready to pounce on any mistake with their red pens at the ready. So, if you want to avoid being clobbered by these grammar snobs, it's essential to pay attention to your language choices. Here are 101 language choices that will definitely get you in trouble.

## 1. Using "literally" incorrectly

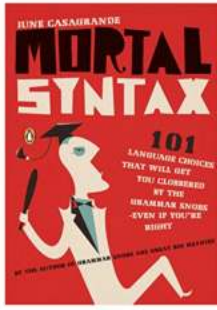
Grammar joke #16

I will  
LITERALLY  
DIE if you don't  
stop using  
hyperboles  
incorrectly

100xhahaha.com/grammar

The word "literally" should only be used to indicate something that actually happened. Using it metaphorically or to emphasize a point can trigger grammar snobs and lead to a verbal lashing.

**Mortal Syntax: 101 Language Choices That Will Get You Clobbered by the Grammar Snobs--Even If You're Right** by June Casagrande (Kindle Edition)



★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 292 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 242 pages



## 2. Starting a sentence with "Me and..."

Ways to start a sentence	
<p>As a matter of fact...</p> <p>In regard to...</p> <p>It comes as no surprise that...</p> <p>Small wonder that...</p> <p>To crown it all...</p> <p>It is important to note that...</p> <p>On the one hand, ..., on the other hand, ...</p> <p>Luckily / Fortunately / Unfortunately...</p> <p>This plays a key / vital / prominent / important / role in...</p> <p>To put it in a nutshell...</p> <p>To add to it...</p> <p>In addition...</p>	<p>To make a long story short...</p> <p>Summing it up...</p> <p>So, to sum it up...</p> <p>It seems to me...</p> <p>(Personally,) I believe...</p> <p>From my point of view / viewpoint...</p> <p>As I see it...</p> <p>For all I know...</p> <p>As far as I can see...</p> <p>At my best guess...</p> <p>To my way of thinking...</p> <p>We can safely assume that...</p> <p>So (as) far as is known...</p> <p>To the best of our knowledge...</p>

Grammar snobs cringe when they hear someone start a sentence with "Me and..." The correct way is to say "I and...". Using "Me and..." is considered poor grammar and is guaranteed to make you an easy target for grammar snobs.

### 3. Mixing up "there," "their," and "they're"

## THEY'RE / THEIR / THERE

### THEY'RE:

It's the contraction  
for :  
« they are »

*E.g. : "They're going to sell  
the house."*

### THEIR:

It's a  
possessive.  
It belongs to  
them.

*E.g. : "Their house is  
too small for the  
family. "*

### THERE:


Refers to a  
place/position  
or idea

*E.g.: "There are not  
enough rooms for  
everyone."*

Confusing these homophones will likely lead to a grammar snob's wrath. "There" refers to a place, "their" shows possession, and "they're" is a contraction of "they are." Mixing them up can result in eye rolls and disapproving sighs.

#### 4. Overusing exclamation marks!!!









## What Overusing Exclamation Marks Says about You?




**4 Usages of Exclamation Marks:**

- Often used in warning signs
- Factual assertion (in reality)
- Beginning of the expression to denote logical negation (in spoken language)
- Click the comment

**8 Names of Exclamation Mark**

 <b>Printing world</b> - screamer, gasper, slammer or a startin.	 <b>Hacker culture</b> - chrik, bang.
 <b>Mathematics</b> - it means 'the product of the integers from 1 to n'.	 <b>British slang</b> known as -ping.
 <b>Baseball</b> - asterisks.	 <b>Video games</b> - signify that a character is started or alarmed.
 <b>Comics</b> - realization of situation.	 <b>Chess</b> - the type of movement.

**What Exclamation Mark Says about President Trump**



- The 45th President of the United States does not use the exclamation mark sparingly.
- According to the Trump Twitter Archive, in 2016 alone he posted 2,223 tweets using exclamation marks.
- Of 100 tweets he used exclamation marks in all but 12 of them.

**5 Unexpected Usages of Exclamation Mark**

- ▶ In musicals it is usually used when the title of the show has the same title of a song within the act.
- ▶ A bitter argument in television.
- ▶ In music used as the name of band.
- ▶ In Baseball it is denote a 'great defensive play'.
- ▶ In Scribble it is used to indicate its presence in the Official Tournament and Club Word List.

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Sources:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exclamation\\_mark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exclamation_mark)  
<http://www.501.com/ask/ask/2017/03/01/what-overusing-exclamation-marks-says-about-you>

Exclamation marks should be used sparingly to express genuine excitement, surprise, or urgency. Using too many exclamation marks can make your writing appear over-the-top and amateurish in the eyes of grammar snobs.

## 5. Ignoring the difference between "its" and "it's"

# ITS VS IT'S

Its and It's are often mistakenly used in written English. It is important that you understand the difference between them.

## ITS

- Its is possessive of the pronoun It.
- It appears in front of the noun it describes.

## Examples

- The dog is wagging its tail.
- The baby is sleeping in its cot.
- The table is useless now. Its legs are broken.
- The computer looked as though its power supply had failed.
- A car is no good without its wheels.

## IT'S

- It's is a contraction of "It is" or "It has."
- The contraction keeps the sentence short, simple, and easy to read.

## Examples

- It's quite hot today.
- It's going to be a long day.
- Please go back to class immediately. It's not right to skip classes.
- "Do you know where my purse is?" - "It's on the table".
- It's been a year since the last time they met.

[www.confusedwords.org](http://www.confusedwords.org)

Grammar snobs will notice when you mix up "its" and "it's." "Its" shows possession, while "it's" is a contraction of "it is." Using them interchangeably will surely attract the attention of grammar snobs and invite their critiques.

## 6. Misusing apostrophes in plurals

A graphic with a repeating pattern of padlocks and the text "NO APOSTROPHES IN PLURAL NOUN'S". The text is in a white, serif font on a black rectangular background, which is centered within a white rectangular frame. The background of the entire graphic is a light gray with a repeating pattern of small, light gray padlocks connected by thin lines.

NO APOSTROPHES  
IN PLURAL NOUN'S

Apostrophes are used to indicate possession or contractions, but they should never be used in plurals. For example, saying "banana's" instead of "bananas" will make grammar snobs cringe at your lack of punctuation knowledge.

## **7. Using "irregardless" instead of "regardless"**



Get Your English On!

# Is Irregardless a Real Word?

[www.eslspeaking.org](http://www.eslspeaking.org)



The word "irregardless" is often mistakenly used in place of "regardless." While it has gained some level of acceptance in informal language, grammar snobs will quickly point it out as non-standard and discourage its usage.

## **8. Confusing "your" and "you're"**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Can you do this?

Junior Sunshine, Lesson 4, p. 26




## Interview













A: Hi, Alex! Can you read a book?

Alex: Yes, I can read a book.

A: Can you play the piano?

Alex: No, I can't play the piano.

Name		
Alex	Q	J

Name				
Name				
Name				

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Mixing up "your" and "you're" is a common mistake that grammar snobs love to correct. "Your" shows possession, while "you're" is a contraction of "you are." Be careful not to mix them up or risk being an easy target for grammar snobs.

## 9. Using double negatives

# Double Negatives

A double negative is the nonstandard usage of two negatives used in the same sentence so that they cancel each other and create a positive.



**Note:** the usage of double negatives is not considered proper or standard in English. On some occasions, mostly when speaking, the use of double negatives is accepted; however, you must remember that the meaning of these expressions will always be positive.

-- **Incorrect** --

The pilot could **not** find **nowhere** to land.



-- **Correct** --

The pilot could **not** find **anywhere** to land.

<b>negative</b>	<b>negative</b>
Nonstandard: She <b>can't</b> make friends with <b>nobody</b>	
<b>negative</b>	<b>positive</b>
Standard: She <b>can't</b> make friends with <b>anybody</b>	
<b>positive</b>	<b>negative</b>
Or: She <b>can</b> make friends with <b>nobody</b>	

[www.nabilinda.com](http://www.nabilinda.com)

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Using double negatives, such as "I don't know nothing," is a grammatical error that grammar snobs will quickly catch. Instead, use a correct affirmative sentence to avoid their ridicule.

## 10. Overusing clichés and buzzwords

## AVOID BUZZWORDS & CLICHÉS

Avoid these statements:

- I'm a team player
- I have great communication skills
- I have a proven track-record.
- I'm a problem solver.
- I assisted in X task.
- I have a strong work ethic.
- I'm self-motivated.
- I'm accustomed to a fast-paced environment.



Clichés and buzzwords are often used to make writing sound more exciting or engaging. However, overusing them can make your writing appear unoriginal and lazy to grammar snobs. Avoid clichés and choose your words wisely to stay under their radar.

These are just ten out of many language choices that can get you clobbered by grammar snobs. It's important to stay vigilant and ensure your grammar is up to par to avoid unnecessary criticism. Grammar snobs might annoy you at times, but their attention to detail can also serve as a valuable lesson to improve your language skills. So, embrace the challenge and strive to become a better communicator with every word you choose!



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The only fun, friendly, and surefire defense against the grammar snobs

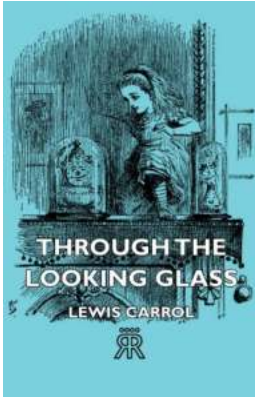
Having already made a name for herself with *Grammar Snobs Are Great Big Meanies*, now in its fifth printing, June Casagrande returns with *Mortal Syntax*, taking on the 101 most frequently attacked usage choices. Dedicating one short chapter to each, Casagrande brings her subject to life, teaching English usage through lively and amusing personal anecdotes. *Mortal Syntax* includes such chapters as:

? "I wish I was taller"

? "I am continuously watching Simpsons reruns"

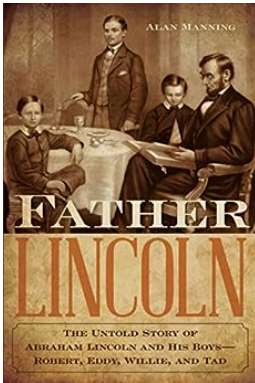
? "Was it Horton that heard the Who?"

Casagrande's clear and concise lessons-with entertaining titles and themes-make a potentially prickly subject go down like a spoonful of sugar.



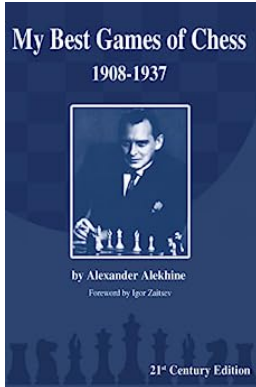
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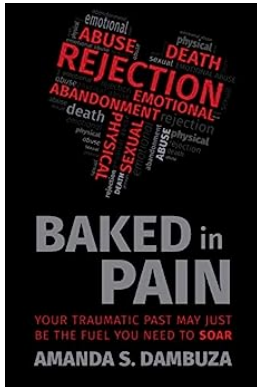
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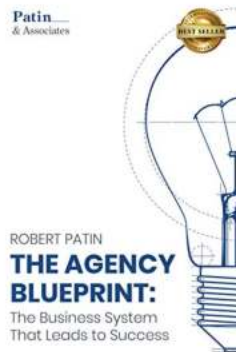
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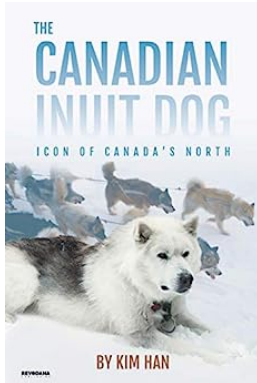
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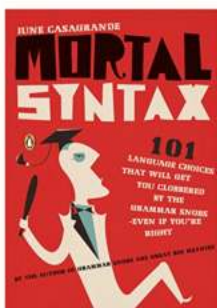
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