

The very model of an amateur grammarian



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(With apologies to Gilbert and Sullivan)

I am the very model of an amateur grammarian
I have a little knowledge and I am authoritarian
But I make no apology for being doctrinarian
We must not plummet to the verbal depths of the barbarian

I'd sooner break my heart in two than sunder an infinitive
And I'd disown my closest family within a minute if
They dared to place a preposition at a sentence terminus
Or sully the Queen's English with neologisms verminous

I know that 'soon' and not 'right now' is the true sense of
'presently'
I'm happy to correct you and I do it oh so pleasantly
I'm not a grammar Nazi; I'm just a linguistic Aryan

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I'm sure people appreciate my pointing out their grammar gaffes

And sorting out their sentences and crossing out their paragraphs

When you crusade for good English, it's not all doom and gloom you sow

The secret of success is: it's not who you know; it's whom you know

The standards of our language are declining almost every day

Down from a peak in 18- or 19- I think - well, anyway

Pop music, TV, blogs and texting are inflicting ravages

Upon English and unchecked, this will turn us into savages

I fear that sloppy language is a sign of immorality

For breaking rules of grammar is akin to criminality

So curse those trendy linguists, lexicographers and anyone

Who shuns the model English of the amateur grammarian

Conjunctions at the openings of sentences are sickening

I wish that the decline of the subjunctive were not quickening

And that more people knew the proper meaning of 'anticipate'

Of 'fulsome' and 'enormity', 'fortuitous' and 'decimate'

I learned these rules at school and of correctness they're my surety

I cling to them for safety despite having reached maturity

Some say that language changes, but good English is immutable

And so much common usage now is deeply disreputable

My pedantry's demanding but I try not to feel bitter at

The fact that everyone I meet is borderline illiterate

When all around are wrong then I am proud to be contrarian

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Source: <http://stroppyeditor.wordpress.com/>