

Mrs. Hodgkins tries her best: Grammar in 1893

DOUBTFUL WORDS THESE.

Expressions That Are Incorrect and Should Be Avoided by Everyone.

Miss Hodgkins, a teacher at the Wellesley college, has prepared for the benefit of her young lady students the following list of "words, phrases and expressions to be avoided."

"Guess" for "suppose" or "think."

"Fix" for "arrange" or "prepare."

"Ride" and "drive" interchangeable. (Americanism.)

"Real" as an adverb, in expressions "real good" for "really" or "very good," etc.

"Some" or "any" in an adverbial sense—e. g.,

"I have studied some" for "somewhat," "I have not studied any" for "at all."

"Some" ten days for "about" ten days.

Not "as" I know for "that" I know.

"Storms" for it "rains" or "snows" moderately.

"Try" an experiment for "make" an experiment.

Singular subject with contracted plural verb—e. g., "She don't skate well."

Plural pronoun with singular antecedent. Every "man" or "woman" should do "their" duty; or, if you look "any one" straight in the face "they" will flinch.

"Expect" for "suspect."

"First-rate" as an adverb.

"Nice," indiscriminately.

"Had" rather for "would" rather.

"Had" better for "would" better.

"Right away" for "immediately."

"Party" for "person."

"Promise" for "assure."

"Posted" for "informed."

"Post-graduate" for "graduate."

"Depot" for "station."

"Stopping" for "staying."

Try "and" go for try "to" go.

Try "and" do for try "to" do.

"Cunning" for "smart," "dainty."

"Cute" for "acute."

"Funny" for "odd" or "unusual."

"Above" for "foregoing," "more than" or "beyond."

Does it look "good" enough for "well" enough.

The matter "of" for the matter "with."

"Like" I do for "as" I do.

Not "as good" as for not "so good" as

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"Between" seven for "among" seven.

Seldom "or" ever for seldom "if" ever, or "seldom or never."

Taste and smell "of" when used transitively.

More than you think "for" for "more than you think."

"These" kind for "this" kind.

"Nicely" in response to an inquiry.

"Healthy" for "wholesome."

Just "as soon" for just "as lief."

"Kind of" to indicate a moderate degree.