

ent duties and assignments. He spends a great deal of time at the Genealogical Library.

His advice to younger generations: Acquire as much knowledge of the Gospel as possible. Be active in the callings of the Church. The signs of the times point to the fulfillment of prophecy and the nearness of the Second Coming of the Savior. It is a time when all peoples will be tested and tried as never before in the history of the world. Be prepared for these trials and tests.

YOUR ENGLISH

Would you care to improve it?

We have thought that, when time and space allowed, it might be worth while to run a series of articles designed to improve the spoken and written language of anyone who cares to take advantage of the suggestions.

Undertaking a project of this sort is akin to bearding the lion, when you consider that in this day and age there are so many writers championing bad grammar, poor spelling, and all manner of incoherences. Teachers of English from public schools to universities can be found that discredit the rules of old fashioned GRAMMAR as being just that--old-fashioned--never used in even the best of circles, and an out-and-out bore to try to teach or to learn.

But being one of the old school that had to learn grammar and to appreciate its finer points, I never fail to wince and squirm at barbs of bad grammar shot from radio, T. V., pulpit, or press. It hasn't been too many years ago that I overheard this snatch of conversation going over a phone from the lips of a local School Principal: "Mr. Jensen has invited I and my wife to go with he and his wife to the show on Saturday night." Then I recall another School Principal who commonly made the remark, "If we only would have known....."

Because no one misunderstands the meaning in either of the above quotes, the common contention is, "Why bother about any troublesome rules of grammar?" For what it is worth, may I suggest that the modern trends in permissiveness, loose morals, and defiance of law and order in general had their beginnings about the same time that students and some educators began protesting against having to learn the rules of correct speech.

At the risk of being labelled "sticky" or "up tight" on the subject of proper speech, we will undertake a series of articles on "Your English" and will begin with "CASE".

"Case" is the form or use of a noun or pronoun to show its relation to other words in a sentence. As pronouns are the chief offenders, we will give our immediate attention to them.

There are three case forms: nominative (sometimes called subjective), objective, and possessive. Some of the troublesome pronouns are tabulated in their three cases at the top of the next column. None of those listed form the possessive by using an apostrophe.

NOMINATIVE	OBJECTIVE	POSSESSIVE
I	ME	MY, MINE
WE	US	OUR, OURS
HE	HIM	HIS
SHE	HER	HER, HERS
THEY	THEM	THEIR, THEIRS
WHO	WHOM	WHOSE
IT	IT	ITS (no apostrophe)

Note that "it's" means "it is". You would write, "It's a long story." but "Its name is Rover."

There are some pronouns which form the possessive by using ('s), such as one's business, each other's burdens, anybody's game, everybody's concern, somebody's pencil.

Now, to tackle the first two columns:

The nominative pronouns are used as subjects of verbs, e.g., I, we, they, ... wrote a letter. and as complements (predicate nominatives) of verbs of 'being', e.g., It was I. These are they. It was she.

The objective case forms are properly used as objects of transitive verbs, (Mother saw me.) as objects of prepositions, (This book belongs to him.) as objects and subjects of infinitives, (I wanted to see him. I wanted her to see him.) and as objects and subjects of gerunds, (Grandma enjoys visiting us. The police saw him shooting the gun.

Some common offences under the LAW:

If you would not say, "Mother told I." then for goodness' sake don't say, "Mother told Bill and I." 'And' is a coordinate conjunction that joins words, phrases, and clauses of the same value, hence of the same case.

If you would not say "Her was a convert to the Church." then it would be equally ridiculous to say "Her and her mother were converts to the Church." You could say, "Her mother was a convert." But the subject of the sentence is 'mother', not 'her'. 'Her' is a possessive case pronoun in this case.

Now as to the objective case following prepositions (of, for, to, with, in, on, by, at, over, between, behind, etc.) when followed by nouns or pronouns to form phrases.

As before, few people would be guilty of saying, "Give it to I." And yet many of the same people would not hesitate to say, "Give it to Harry and I." Both are equally wrong.

Here are some correct forms. Learn to use them.

- Just between you and me.....
- It cannot hurt you or me.
- What does it matter to you or me?
- Some deacons and I set up the chairs.
- Will you and she come tomorrow?
- It was she that did it.
- Whom did I meet you with yesterday?
- Who do you think should be chosen?
- She or he would make a good secretary.
- I like Jane better than him. (than I like him.)
- I am taller than he. (than he is.)

The trouble with contentment is that the neighbors can't distinguish it from laziness..