

# Grammarian / Word of the Day

This role offers the opportunity to sharpen your listening skills, increase your vocabulary and that of the club, deliver a short, prepared comment at the start of the meeting, and extemporaneous comments at the close of meeting.



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## **Before the Meeting**

- Choose a ***Word of the Day***, preferably a verb or adjective, and look up the word's official definition in a dictionary. Write the definition down and bring it to the meeting. Prepare a sample sentence using the word and be ready to share the word, its definition, and the sample sentence. An excellence resource is the *Readers Digest Word Power and Miriam-Webster* home page (see Web Resources).

Do not select words that are unusual and have little potential for practical use (such as "synapse" – a very tiny junction between nerve cells through which a nerve impulse is transmitted) nor words that are very commonly used in daily language (such as "surprise"). You could choose a word that is often used improperly or confused with a similar sounding word. For example, "bought" versus "brought."

- Print the word (many people use large computer font and print it) on TWO sheets of paper. One is to hang from the lectern for the club members to see. The other is to place on the lectern for the speaker to see.
- Bring pen and paper and scotch tape.

## **At the Meeting**

- Paste the word of the day on the lectern facing the audience, and on the lectern BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS. Prepare a list of members in attendance to use as a tally sheet for use of the word.
- When the Toastmaster calls upon you to explain your duty, please stand at your seat and say words to this effect:

***“Mr./Madam Toastmaster, fellow Toastmasters, and welcomed guests, my duty as Grammarian is to provide a word for the day and listen for good or poor use of the English language.***

***The word for today is \_\_\_\_\_. (Point to the word. Define it, and use it in a sentence.)***

***I will keep track of all those who use the word of the day. I will also report on good and poor use of the English language at conclusion of meeting.”***

- Listen for:
  - Colorful/descriptive words
  - Good vocabulary
  - Mispronounced or misused words
  - Flabby sentence structure
  - Incomplete sentences
  - Grammatical errors.
- When called upon by the General Evaluator to report, stand at your seat, say ***“Thank You Mr./Ms General Evaluator”*** and state which Toastmaster or guest used the word. If you made notes of good or poor use of English language, share that too.