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Subject: Re: "verbal diahorrea"

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Tue, 06 Dec 2005 18:43:24 GMT

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I would just like to note, for the record, that it is positively stunning how shaky a grasp most people have on the English language. Perhaps it is because I spend so much of my time working with words, but I just cannot comprehend how anyone who has passed third-grade English could possibly not know the difference between "your" and "you're." One is a contraction consisting of a pronoun and a verb, one is a possessive pronoun.

I'm equally annoyed, for that matter, with people who cut in and correct grammar when their own grasp of the language has several glaring holes- "American's" for instance. Apostrophes are never used to indicate a plural- they denote possessive and are used in contractions. I apologize- this is one of my pet peeves, and it annoys me to nearly the same extent as people who spell "turret" with an extraneous n.

Americans- plural of American. "The Americans visited Europe."

American's- possessive of American. "The American's suit was clean and new."

Most folks who read these forums are advanced enough in their education that they ought to have much more competence and ability with the English language. This is a message board, after all- there are no time limits imposed on posting; you are not going to be penalized in any way for taking a few extra minutes to go over your spelling and grammar before clicking the button. It is, of course, entirely up to the poster to decide whether or not to make that effort, and sadly most people do not seem highly inclined to do so. In my opinion, that reflects very poorly on the quality of education and the intellectual capacity of most of the English-speaking world (allowances must be made, naturally, for people who are only just learning the language- English is, after all, one of the most complicated and tricky languages to learn).

\*edit\* And for the love of sanity, if you make a typo or some other screw-up during posting, do please use the edit button. That's why the damned thing is there.

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