**Grammarian Role**

**(Report 30sec)**

The responsibilities of the grammarian are to introduce **new/uncommon words to members**, comment on the language used during the course of the meeting, and to provide examples of good grammar and word usage.

It offers the opportunity to practice listening skills.

**I. Prior to the Meeting:**

Select a word of the day. Relate it to the meeting theme. Concentrate on adjectives that are uncommon but not overly obscure, that helps participants increasing their vocabulary.

Distribute the word to members well before the meeting and develop a visual aid to be shown during the meeting.

Helpful link:

<https://www.toastmasters.org/magazine/magazine-issues/2017/april2017/word>

<https://www.toastmasters.org/Membership/Club-Meeting-Roles/Grammarian/Word-of-the-Week>

<https://www.toastmasters.org/magazine/magazine-issues/2020/aug/whats-the-word>

**II. During the Meeting**

Place any visual aid at the front of the room where it can be seen by the speakers.

When the Toastmaster calls upon you stand up and briefly explain the role of the grammarian. Announce the word of the day. State the definition, use it in a sentence, and invite speakers to use it.

You can use the following as an example to explain your role to the audience:

*“Toastmaster of the day, Fellow Toastmasters, and Guests*

*As Grammarian, it is my responsibility to listen to everything said during the meeting and to note and report any particularly effective uses of grammar and any grammatically incorrect speech.*

*As Grammarian, it is also my task to present the Word of the Day. For today’s meeting, the*

*Word is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. [Point out where you have posted the*

*Word of the Day.] An example of using the word is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

I will also note the usage of the Word of the day and will give a Word of the Day report and grammatical usage report when called for.”

Throughout the meeting, listen to each speaker’s word usage.

Write any awkward use or misuse of language (such as incomplete sentences or incorrect grammar) and note the use of word of the day (or a form of it).

When called on by the General Evaluator during the evaluation section, **stand near your chair and give your report:**

**REPORTING: (Report 30sec)**

* Announce who used the word of the day (or a form of it) correctly.
* Offer examples of correct usage in every instance in which there was misuse of grammar and report the use of creative language. (– Say the word was used ‘n’ times in the meeting.. ‘n’ times by Mr. Y, etc).
* Then move on to the good usage, **no names to be taken** but mention what you felt was good use of the language.
* Then move on to the “not so good” usage, again **no names taken** but the incorrect usage to be mentioned and the correct usage to be said.
* Finally comment on the pronunciation error and give the pronunciation, which in your opinion is correct.

**CAUTION:** You would have noted a lot of wrong usage or good usage. Remember each role player has to contribute to have the meeting end on time.

**You should only mention the wrong usage and the correction where it would benefit the audience the most** (**not every error:** like saying he instead of she or some such errors where the takeaway is minimal).

**Grammatical Usage/Word of the Day Report:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Category: | POSITIVE USAGE | Incorrect grammar -Subject/Verb disagreement  (I seen; We was, etc.) |
| Toastmaster |  |  |
| Topic Master |  |  |
| General Evaluator |  |  |
| TT speaker #1 |  |  |
| TT speaker #2 |  |  |
| TT speaker #3 |  |  |
| TT speaker #4 |  |  |
| TT speaker #5 |  |  |
| P Speaker #1 |  |  |
| P Speaker #2 |  |  |
| P Speaker #3 |  |  |
| Evaluator #1 |  |  |
| Evaluator #2 |  |  |
| Evaluator #3 |  |  |
| Other Speaker |  |  |
| Other Speaker |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Number of times "word of the day" used |  |

**Extra Note about Grammarian role**

1. Find the Good

1. Vocabulary - interesting, enriching words like cathartic.
2. Alliterations - he ate a lot of fatty, feel-good food.
3. Emotion, emphasis
4. Good adjectives (deep, beautiful, puffy, humid, warm, foreboding, blustery, etc.)
5. Word pictures, transitions, puns, word play, metaphors, similes, etc.
6. Use of good words and using words correctly.

2. Pointing out where to improve

1. Refer to a dictionary for exact pronunciation.
2. Colloquialisms - *ya'll, gonna, want to, 'old as the hills', 'there is more than one way to skin a cat', etc.*
3. Jargon - words hard to understand by those outside the profession or group.
4. Dialect - e.g. New Yorker yelling, *"wassa madda wichoo?"*
5. Buzzwords and overused words.
6. Disconnected ideas
7. Ineffective wording, misused and misunderstood words and phrases.
8. Tense consistency, active -vs- passive voice, incomplete or run on sentences, etc..
9. Off color or offensive words.

3. Things to avoid

1. Making someone look bad.
2. Pointing out too many things about one person.
3. "Should" and "shouldn't" statements.
4. If you can't explain why something is wrong or give the proper alternative then don't mention it.
5. "So", if over used, can be a filler word, but don't mistake its use as bad grammar.
6. Speakers name should not be taken while mentioning the bad usage of language , which may hurt the self esteem of the member.

4. Tricks of the trade

1. Make general observations and avoid knit picking an individual.
2. Point out the positives over the negatives.
3. Make simple diction suggestions to ESL members instead of attacking their many mistakes. Consider talking to them in person or writing them a note instead of singling them out before the group. Compliment their success in English!