

## TECH DOESN'T TEACH GRAMMAR

To begin this week's column, I would like to make a correction to a statement in last week's column. Shorthand is not a spelling method for children and has never been used to teach them to spell. This has bothered me all week. Surely, my readers should be up in arms! I apologize to teachers and readers alike for my computer's use of my brainstorming.

Grammar is the sentence structure and language rules for our English language, and it is not taught through texting or writing on the computer, tablet, or iPad. Grammar must be learned in order to communicate effectively and correctly to other human beings. You are not using **your** words correctly if **you're** making this common mistake.

Correct grammar is a necessity in writing. People judge you on how you write and speak. Using correct grammar and punctuation prompts people to form their perception of you and judge your level of education. First impressions are made by the way you use words, and in your writing, this is especially important. Job applications have been discarded, and college applications have been overlooked due to poor use of our English language.

If you find yourself weak (not week) in the correct usage of words, you may not be able to assist your children as they need to write reports or essays as part of their schooling. Learn grammar rules with your children and memorize the ones that will help you become a better conversationalist and writer. Using language correctly in your online communication influences people you meet through email. It is almost more important than "dress for success" to "write for success." It is unacceptable and disrespectful to use "text" language when writing for school or professional assignments. Basic grammar is a necessary condition for academic success.

Grammar is the structure of the language, and if words or form are used incorrectly, this confuses your listeners or readers. This is especially important in communicating with people from other cultures. By the way, these "foreigners" know our language better than many of us native English speakers. This should not be. We should be proud of our language and must learn to use it in the best way. We must learn to communicate with correct grammar and spelling to show we care about our language. English has replaced Latin as the means of communication within our global community.

Grammar and spelling are communication skills that must be taught early in life to establish the foundation for future communication. Strong language skills are an asset that will promote a lifetime of effective communication. (The Importance of Language...Center for Child Well Being).