

Hamburg International Speakers
 Grammar & Usage
 19. Okt. 2016
 Critiques

	Phrase	Correction
	I <u>did</u> not eat yet	I haven't eaten yet (*many native speakers make this mistake too; the "yet" should be used with the present perfect)
	The evaluation team <u>of today</u>	Today's evaluation team *“The team of today” would refer to “today” in terms of a longer-term era, e.g., contemporary life versus the past: “The man of today doesn't have to shave daily.”
	He did (performed) <u>good</u> .	He did (performed) well.
	Every speech has <u>an</u> own evaluator.	Every speech has its own evaluator. (All speakers have their own evaluators.)
	You have already enough time.	You already have enough time.
	They laughed <u>heavily</u> .	They laughed hard.
	Robert competes against <u>myself</u> .	Robert competes against me. (*I compete against myself.)
	how Toastmasters <u>work</u>	how Toastmasters works (the organization is a collective singular, even though grammatically it's a plural).
	They specialize <u>on</u> leadership	They specialize in leadership.
	It helps also when you can...	It also helps when you can...
	There came a big <u>flooding</u>	There came a big flood (*“Flooding” is used without the article: “There was flooding in the basement.”)
	Weil wir werden nicht größer	Weil wir nicht größer werden
	Spaß haben	Spaß machen

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 Examples of **excellent** language use

Phrase	Meaning
up for it	ready, eager for, excited about
dodgy	questionable, possibly dishonest (esp. in England.)
They guided (or showed) us to the <u>elevator</u> .	Yes! (USA!)
supportive environment	idiomatic
of this <u>very</u> club	good for emphasis; this is at a high register
If you are <u>in sales</u>	idiomatic for describing someone working in a given field or profession
implement the feedback	good phrasing
The media that are...	“media” is plural of “medium” (this is a losing battle in the United States but I’m still fighting)
The first prepared speech <u>tonight</u> will be delivered by...	<u>Correct</u> word order; also possible: “Tonight’s first prepared speech,” but <u>not</u> “ <i>the first prepared speech of tonight</i> ”
hier und heute	schöne Alliteration (m.E. bzw. IMHO)
Nobody left the building (i.e., during the break)	idiomatic; in English, “house” is generally not used for offices, public buildings, or companies (although in England, sometimes it can be part of a proper name, e.g., Harrow House)
to <u>strongly</u> encourage you	idiomatic (it <i>is</i> not only permissible, but actually correct to “split” an infinitive—disregard old schoolmarms here)
She was <u>kind of</u> ignorant about the topic	informal language, not 100% “proper” but <i>very</i> idiomatic, and appropriate especially in an informal context or to soften or qualify a statement or criticism.
man kann sie allein machen; man kann sie in einer Gruppe machen	Parallelismus