

Hamburg International Speakers
 Grammar & Usage
 22. Feb. 2017
 Bericht des Sprachstilbeobachters

Phrase	Verbesserungsvorschlag
The way <u>how</u> you speak	The way you speak
If you have no <u>possibility</u> to visit	If you don't have any <u>opportunity</u> to visit (Möglichkeit = <i>possibility</i> <u>or</u> <i>opportunity</i>)
We had <u>much</u> more meetings	We had <u>many/a lot</u> more meetings (countable noun)
outen (Denglisch)	<i>verraten, enthüllen, offenlegen, offenbaren, entlarven</i>
Slogan (Fremdwort)	Schlagwort, Devise
Feedback (Denglisch)	<i>Analyse Kommentar Vorschläge Rückmeldung Bewertung Vorschlag Reagieren Reaktion Empfang</i>
That was the scene <u>where</u> the main character...	That was the scene <u>in which</u> the main character... (a scene is a thing, not a place <u>where</u>)
This narrowed down the choices <u>to me</u>	<u>for</u> me
The mother <u>of</u> my best friend	My best <u>friend's</u> mother
My teachers wanted to <u>lay</u> the confidence in me.	My teachers wanted to <u>instill</u> the confidence in me. (An example of subject-verb "fit" or collocation)
I have to (must) <u>make a pause</u> and think.	I have to pause and think. (<i>Ich muss innehalten und nachdenken.</i>)
Let's <u>make the/our pause</u> at 8 o'clock.	Let's <u>take/have the/our break</u> at 8 o'clock.
cool (Denglisch/Fremdwort, unreife Jugendsprache)	Dieses abgedroschene Wort zeigt einen Mangel an Fantasie auf. Andere Möglichkeiten: <i>hervorragend, ausgezeichnet, glänzend, genial, wunderbar, wundersam, vortrefflich, unübertrefflich, erhaben</i>
I was holding back <u>from</u> tears.	I was <u>holding back</u> tears.
When I was a child, I was about half the <u>length</u> I am today.	half the <u>height</u> (<i>Körpergröße</i>); in English, "body size" refers to massiveness or build, not the measurement from head to foot in cm.
I was hitchhiking <u>with myself</u> .	<u>by myself</u> (or <u>alone</u>)

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Examples of **excellent** language use

Phrase	Comment
ein Teil <u>des Plans</u>	Der Genitiv ist nicht tot!
Er soll sich vor der Gruppe öffnen.	gute Formulierung
I would never <u>voluntarily</u> try to...	Excellent word order—placement of adverb
The <u>aims</u> of this project are...	'aims' as a noun – elegant
“What do you want to be when you grow up?”	Fully idiomatic
“ <u>Day in and day out</u> , I worked as a software engineer.”	Fully idiomatic
I <u>took</u> the decision to...	UK usage (US: <i>make</i>)
in medias res per se	These are identical in both German and English! Latin is our shared cultural heritage—Carpe Diem!
It helps you feel part of the story <u>yourself</u> .	Correct word order
I was <u>bullied</u> into doing that.	Strong, vivid verb
The human side <u>kicks in</u>	Informal phrasing, but idiomatic and correct here
We had a couple of <u>beers</u> .	More idiomatic than “We had some beer,” which is not wrong but sounds less natural.
<u>effect</u> change	Correct use of <i>effect</i> as a verb; here it means, roughly, <i>herbeiführen</i> . Normally <i>affect</i> is the verb, but there are exceptions.
A few years down the road...	Fully idiomatic
These are the points I would like to emphasize <u>tonight</u> .	Correct English word order
His objectives are the same as <u>Sheeba's</u> .	Correct use of possessive “s” – this works identically in German and English, so don't be afraid to use it! There is no need to say, “I drove the car of Robert.” Better: “I drove Robert's car.”
Er muss seinen eigenen Weg beschreiten.	Ein gut eingesetztes Verb.
Er sollte sich lieber an die eigene Nase fassen. (Etwa: Look who's talking; he should tend to his own business first, etc.)	eine anschauliche Redewendung