

Hamburg International Speakers  
 Good use of language & adroit turns of phrase  
 18 January 2017

Phrase	Positive aspect of usage
He witnessed me doing that.	vivid verb, much stronger than merely "saw"
I spontaneously booked a flight.	correct position of adverb
I went snowshoeing.	use of noun as verb, low-frequency
Ich musste die Ohren spitzen.	anschaulich
I daresay...	solid application of a high-register, low-frequency word, provides subtle shade of meaning: ( <i>Ich könnte mir denken, ich wage zu sagen</i> )
Afterwards we can all mix and mingle.	properly applied idiom
Then we'll all have the <u>chance</u> to talk	correct word (not "possibility"!)
„...was er am häufigsten gesagt hat“	Wortstellung im Nebensatz (Freddy)
I might even say...	precisely formulated, good shade of meaning
You're having the time of your life.	good idiomatic usage
That drives me crazy!	good idiomatic usage ( <i>zum Wahnsinn treiben</i> )
Is it so urgent?	rhetorical question, correct adjective
You need to learn to live with...	natural, idiomatic phrase
Give your full attention to others	correct word choice ("undivided" is also possible)
limit your connectivity	vivid, clear phrasing
prefer the real world over the digital one	well phrased (can also be "to," but "over" is somehow more vivid, IMHO)
enter the stage	very high-register ("come on stage" is probably more common, but this was more elegant)
How things fall into place	excellent idiomatic usage
That will grab your attention	good subject-verb collocation
expand your horizons	good subject-verb collocation
ages ago	good colloquial usage, grammatically correct and appropriate ( <u>much</u> better than "in former times," which, though grammatically correct, is extremely stilted and comes off like a 19 <sup>th</sup> century oration)
pinafore	apron (**I had completely forgotten this word—Gilbert and Sullivan would not approve!)
talk nonsense	casual but idiomatic usage (generally avoided in writing or formal speech)
self-deprecating	correctly used in context
Enlighten me!	strong verb, emphatic
I remember vividly	verb and adverb fit together nicely
expand your horizons	set phrase