

Hamburg International Speakers
 Grammar & Usage
 27. Apr. 2016
 Bericht des Sprachstilbeobachters

Phrase	Verbesserungsvorschlag
the single best advice I could give... (Der beste Rat...)	the single best <u>piece of advice</u> the best advice (You can't give "an advice" in English.)
He grew the seed	He raised/nurtured the seed ("He grew the crops/plants" is all right)
for twenty <u>ongoing</u> years	for twenty <u>straight</u> years for twenty years in a row for twenty years nonstop
to reference something (e.g., a book) (You will hear this, but it is poor grammar and sloppy.)	to <u>refer to</u> to make reference to to mention
He <u>always was</u> playing	He <u>was always</u> playing
atrocious attacks	atrocities (Gräueltäten)
most ugly	ugliest
civil social organizations (not wrong, <i>per se</i> , but not idiomatic)	public interest groups
a neutral official	an unbiased official an unprejudiced official
the third speech <u>of</u> Freddy	Freddy's third speech
If you <u>wouldn't have</u> asked, then... (Note: many native speakers say this. They are <u>wrong</u> . Ignore them!!)	If you hadn't (had not) asked, then... Had you not asked, then... (more formal)

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Examples of **excellent** language use

Phrase	Comment
guilt tripping (Jens)	very idiomatic!
facettenreiche Abwechslung	klingt schön, m.E.
Das habe ich kommen sehen. (Jochen)	sauberes Deutsch
never truly lived (Freddy)	idiomatic, with correctly positioned adverb
“If only I had...”	idiomatic, with correctly positioned adverb
major breakthrough	idiomatic
He was booted (out) by his own company	idiomatic, slang (avoid in formal speech, but very vivid)
behind the scenes	idiomatic
food safety	idiomatic
“cry wolf strategy”	idiomatic
drama queen	idiomatic
revolving door	idiomatic (Drehtür)
muddy the waters	idiomatic (Unklarheit erzeugen)
bound to fail	idiomatic
I very much enjoyed the session.	correct word order
I can relate to that (Jens)	very idiomatic
tief in die Tasche greifen	dig deep into one's/your pockets
zu meinem Bedauern	to my regret
im Auge des Betrachters	in the eye of the beholder