

Hamburg International Speakers
24. Januar 2018
Bericht des Sprachstilbeobachters

Äußerung	Übersetzung, Kommentar oder Berichtigung
1. Done is better than perfect.	
2. Bloom where you're planted.	
3. zwei Fliegen mit einer Klappe schlagen	to kill two birds with one stone
4. Be careful what you wish for; you just may get it.	Sei vorsichtig, was du dir wünschst - es könnte in Erfüllung gehen.
5. Don't cry over spilt milk.	Geschehen ist geschehen!
6. No news is good news.	Keine Nachrichten sind gute Nachrichten.
7. Der frühe Vogel fängt den Wurm.	The early bird catches the worm.
8. Der Apfel fällt nicht weit vom Stamm.	The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.
9. auf dem Holzweg	barking up the wrong tree to be led up the garden/primrose path to be on the wrong track
10. „Was mich nicht umbringt, macht mich stärker“. – Friederich Nietzsche (1844-1900)	“What doesn't kill me, makes me stronger.”
11. In God we trust – all others must pay cash.	~Vertrauen ist gut; Kontrolle ist besser. – Joseph Stalin
12. Hau rein oder hau ab!	~Put up or shut up. ~Fish or cut bait. ~Shit or get off the pot. (vulg.)
13. Wer nicht wagt, der nicht gewinnt. Aus nichts wird nichts.	Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
14. Ist die Katze aus dem Haus, tanzen die Mäuse auf dem Tisch.	When the cat's away, the mice will play.
15. Vorsätze <i>einlösen</i>	to <i>keep</i> New Year's Resolutions (subject-verb fit)
16. Rückmeldung	besseres Deutsch als <i>feedback</i>
17. When I <u>think back</u> to my childhood	idiomatic
18. He meant <u>to recognizing</u> ...	He meant <u>to recognize</u> ...
19. I <u>have been</u> educated about this early in life	I <u>was</u> educated early about this early in life (use the simple past with an adverb of time)
20. in retrospect	good idiomatic usage
21. the restaurant <u>of</u> [belonging to] my parents	my <u>parents'</u> restaurant (The “Germanic” possessive –s works similarly in both German and English)
22. He offered to me to be my mentor	He offered <u>to be</u> my mentor
23. I <i>gave birth</i> to my daughter in 2002	correct grammar
24. In my <u>studies of chemistry</u>	In my studies <u>in chemistry</u> <i>or</i> While I was studying chemistry
25. We <u>got</u> our second daughter	We <u>had</u> our second daughter
26. I hated watching my father <u>became</u> depressed	I hated watching my father <u>become</u> depressed
27. After four years on the job, I <u>got</u> a burnout.	After four years on the job, I <u>had</u> a burnout. After four years on the job, I <u>experienced</u> a burnout.

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28. the speech project <u>of</u> Amos	<u>Amos's</u> speech project (possessive –s)
29. I had to <i>set</i> goals.	correct subject-verb fit
30. Procrastination is the act of delaying or postponing something.	elegantly phrased
31. I <i>achieved</i> my goals.	good subject-verb fit
32. In der Theorie gibt es keinen Unterschied zu der Praxis; in der Praxis aber schon!	In theory there is no difference from practice; but in practice, there is!
33. He <u>swaps</u> the word X for Y	He <u>mistakes</u> the word X for Y (<i>mistake</i> is both a noun and a verb)
34. You want to <i>deliver</i> your best results.	good subject-verb fit
35. Procrastination <i>dissuades</i> you from working on your goals.	good subject-verb fit; vivid verb
36. Wir wollen nicht zuviel <i>Firlefanze</i> haben	lustiges Wort
37. <u>I've now been around a year here.</u>	<u>I've been here for around a year now.</u> (word order)
38. Every 20 seconds or so, the slide <u>is changing</u> .	Every 20 seconds or so, the slide <u>changes</u> . (no use of progressive tense in this instance)
39. „...was ich machen wollen werde“	richtige Wortstellung auf Deutsch
40. I can't <i>manage</i>	idiomatic for <i>klar kommen, bewältigen</i>
41. rural	ländlich (not heard often)
42. I <i>do</i> the laundry The laundry has to be/get <i>done</i>	Wäsche waschen – correct subject-verb fit
43. He loses the <u>red thread</u>	This is a literal translation from the German; the grammar isn't wrong, but there is simply no such expression in English. Equivalents include <i>go off track, go off topic, digress, get lost, get bogged down, lose one's train of thought, doesn't stay focused on the main topic/idea</i>
44. You should use that technique more <u>precise</u>more <u>precisely</u> (adverb with -ly)
45. There is no <u>shame</u> in relying upon notes for your icebreaker speech.	It's not a <u>disgrace</u> to rely on notes for your icebreaker speech. There's no <u>shame</u> in relying on notes.... **The difficulty here is that the phrase "It's a shame" means "Es ist schade, dass..." or "Es ist bedauerlich, dass..." This is a <i>very</i> fine distinction.
46. His speech was very <u>impressing</u> .	His speech was very <u>impressive</u> . (<i>beeindruckend</i>)
47. Your stance with <u>the</u> arms behind <u>the</u> back...	Your stance with <u>your</u> arms behind <u>your</u> back...