6

Punch as a satirical usage guide

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This chapter is very largely an index of what I found when I read through the issues of *Punch* magazine from its launch in 1841 to the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. Having acquired an entire set a few years ago, and curious about what might be hiding in its pages, I scoured all 121 volumes looking out for topics of linguistic interest, and specifically relating to English usage. *Punch* has always fascinated me, and I've used its cartoons in my books for many decades. Not in all books: you won't find any cartoons in my *Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics* (1985; 6th edn 2008), for example (though they might have helped). But whenever I write something for a general readership, I find that a *Punch* cartoon can often make a point better than any of my words might do. And when it's a matter of usage, a century-old observation provides an immediate and telling riposte to anyone who asserts that usage issues are of recent origin. Almost all the letters I got when I was presenting *English Now* on Radio 4 back in the 1980s began with something like 'I'm appalled at this new use of English'—and almost always the point in question was an ancient one.

It isn't just me. I know of many linguists who like to add a light touch to their writing or lecturing by incorporating a relevant cartoon (from any source, not just *Punch*). Fromkin and Rodman's *Introduction to Language* (1974) is a well-known case in point. It shows that linguists are human, and have a sense of humour. We need to remember the BBC's maxim: to inform, educate—and entertain. I suspect there would be more cartoons around if people knew where to find them. And one of the reasons for writing this chapter is to tell people where to find them (at least, in *Punch*).

But it isn't just cartoons, of course. In fact, the majority of items in my database are textual (243/387, 63%)—satirical pieces on a variety of linguistic topics, and especially on contentious points of English usage, points that are called 'usage problems' in Straaijer's Chapter 2 in this collection, or 'old chestnuts'. And so we're talking quotations as well as illustrations, when deciding how to exploit material of this kind. Here's an example. I can imagine several present-day contexts where it would be

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apposite—not least, in relation to the Plain English Campaign. It is an article from volume 10 (1846: 76) called 'The bad English parliament':

The English Parliament, we believe, is supposed to express itself in the English language. In the opinion, however, of a competent judge, this supposition is questionable; for Judge Alderson, the other day, in the Court of Exchequer, on the trial of the case Young v. Smith, remarked, respecting the 26th section of 7 & 8, Victoria, c.110,—the Joint Stock Companies Act,—

'That Clause is generally the most unintelligible in the whole Act; and is not unlike some interpreters, who speak such bad English as to puzzle one more than the language of the party interpreted.'

Both the Lords and the Commons have standing rules; but these do not seem to include the rules of Syntax. We propose that these rules should be inscribed, by way of legends, on the walls of the interior of the new Houses of Parliament, where, handsomely emblazoned in Old English characters, they would form very appropriate decorations. As, for instance, 'Ye Nominative Case governs ye verb, and replies to ye Question Who? or What? with Ye Verb,' 'Conjunctions, copulative and disjunctive, connect similar Moods, Cases, and Tenses;' or, 'Ye Relative agrees with ye Antecedent in Gender, Number, and Person.'

When Parliament turns over a new leaf in the Statute Book, which we hope, on more accounts than one, that it will do when it gets into its new house, let us trust that the sentences committed to the fresh page will accord with the above-mentioned axioms. Adam Smith is a parliamentary authority; why not Lindley Murray? To the list of officers of the Lords and Commons, it would really be desirable to add a grammarian, to be entitled Professor of Plain English. His duty should consist in putting their enactments into an intelligible form; and surely, so many charity boys as there are in the kingdom, there are plenty who would undertake it for a trifle.

There are another 242 like that. And, then as now, the obscure language of lawyers and parliamentarians take up a fair number of them. No one is exempt, not even the Prime Minister (vol. 14, 1848: 22):

... The Iron Duke rides down the Grammar of our language with the same daring with which he rode down the old Guard at Waterloo, and smashes sentences now as he then smashed hollow squares.

Let me first comment on my total of 387. I restricted myself in my search to text items where there was something by way of terminology in the heading or caption. There are many pieces in *Punch* which are simply pieces of creative writing that use non-standard versions of English—a story or news report written in Yorkshire dialect or Scots or American or reformed spelling or Shakespearean, for example. I didn't include these unless the item made some mention of a linguistic term, or the name of a language or dialect. Mine is a metalinguistic trawl through *Punch*. But 387 items spread over 121 volumes is quite a lot. The items deal with a wide range of topics, and Table 6.1 lists them according to the frequency with which they appeared. The preoccupation with issues of pronunciation, vocabulary, and slang is striking, but also notable is the evident interest in French and its speakers—a topic that we still

TABLE 6.1. **Linguistic topics in *Punch* listed according to frequency**

Pronunciation	88
Vocabulary and slang	86
Orthography	58
Grammar	55
Style	34
Languages (other than French)	19
French and the French	18
Accents and dialects	16
General topics	13
Total	387

find regularly dealt with in usage guides today, as shown, for instance, by Ingrid Tieken-Boon van Ostade's chapter on Kingsley Amis above.

Language as such is not a regular theme, but when it does occur it presumably reflects the varying interests of the editors, writers, and illustrators—though as virtually all pieces were anonymous, it's impossible to say anything about their backgrounds. There was a huge flurry of interest in language topics in the 1870s, for instance—a quarter of all my examples were published in a single decade, between 1869 and 1879. And then, as the inventory in the Appendix shows, in 1889 and 1891 we find nothing at all. In some years, matters of great moment dominated the contents, such as the Great Exhibition, or a war, and language recedes into the background. New inventions always take precedence in the pages of *Punch*—the railway, the bicycle, the electric telegraph, the motor car (originally called an autocar, I learned). But even here, sooner or later someone is going to write a piece reflecting on language and that innovation, as in this piece from volume 13 (1847: 157), called 'Great Western Grammar'.

We regret to announce a serious collision between Lindley Murray and a recent advertisement, on the Great Western Railway. A first-class paragraph was despatched from the Paddington Station to announce the laudable determination of the Company to attach a travelling carriage porter to every express train; but the paragraph had scarcely started before it met with a frightful accident, which rendered one Substantive completely senseless, and an unfortunate Adjective was thrown out of its place to a very considerable distance. Some idea of the nature of the collision may be gathered from the following official statement:—

'The travelling-carriage *porter* will be furnished with a pilot coat, &c., in addition to *his* present suit, with grease-box, grease-knife, picker, lamps, &c. *Their* pay will be 25*s*. per week, and the *man* will be selected from the body of porters, and the appointment will be considered a reward for good and steady conduct, general intelligence, and acquaintance with the management of the carriages.

'Paddington, Sept. 28. 'Seymour Clarke, Superintendent.'

It will be observed, that the collision with the rules of Lindley Murray is most frightful, and the dislocation of an entire sentence has been the consequence. The substantive 'man' was picked up a very long way off from his proper position, and the pronoun relative, 'their,' which mainly caused the accident, had no business at all to be present. We have not yet heard whether any inquiry will be instituted; but it is evident that Her Majesty's English cannot be considered safe if more pains are not taken for its protection. It has been said that the catastrophe occurred through the points not having been properly placed, but of this there is no satisfactory evidence.

We are sure that if Mr. Saunders, the excellent secretary, had seen the paragraph before it started from the Paddington Terminus, the casualty would not have occurred; and if there had been engineering difficulties in the continuation of the sentence, the genius of Mr. Brunel would have surmounted them. An inquest has been already held on the unfortunate paragraph, and a verdict returned of 'Grammar Slaughter against some person or persons unknown.'

You will notice a name that has cropped up in each of my illustrations: that of the grammarian Lindley Murray (1745–1826), whose English grammar first appeared in 1795, followed by an Abridgement two years later, both of which were enormously popular.[1] Whenever *Punch* debates grammar, it refers to Lindley Murray. Murray is the only grammarian to receive any mention throughout the period, and his name turns up in 19 articles. Sometimes it is merely a passing mention, such as in volume 33 (1857: 85):

Here is a paragraph, which is flying about the papers. It is but a small gnat, but still it is worth putting out of the way as soon as possible, for fear it should annoy others with a Lindley Murray skin as sensitive as our own.

Sometimes Murray is the punchline of a joke, such as this limerick (vol. 44, 1863: 77):

There was a young lady of Surrey,
Who always would talk in a hurry,
Being called by her Pa,
She replied 'here I are,'
And he said, 'Go and read Lindley Murray.'

Sometimes he headlines an article, such as 'Murray and Pusey' (vol. 13, 1847: 113), which is a piece on Oxford professor Edward Pusey's use of an unrelated (or dangling) participle; or 'Ladies' maids and Lindley Murray' (vol. 37, 1859: 66), which is on the use of *got* in a newspaper announcement (a lady could not have written so; it had to be a maidservant). But when we examine the content of these articles, we see something odd. They are sometimes nothing to do with grammar at all. The article called 'Law and Lindley Murray' (vol. 27, 1854: 7), for example, is all about errors of pronunciation by London cabmen. We might have expected the jibes to refer back to Walker because of his *Pronouncing Dictionary* of 1791, not Murray;

[1] See the articles in Tieken-Boon van Ostade's *Two Hundred Years of Lindley Murray* (1996) as well as Fens-de Zeeuw's study of Murray's grammar in relation to the language of his letters (2011).

but evidently by the mid-nineteenth century, Murray was 'the name' for all matters of usage, regardless of whether the point was grammatical or not.

Murray's star seemed to wane after 1860—probably a reflection of the decrease in reprints of his grammar during that decade, with other texts being used in schools. This can be seen from Alston's *Bibliography of the English Language* (1965), which lists many editions and reprints of the grammar between 1795 and 1871, when a 65th edition appeared. The same is true for the equally popular *Abridgement* of the grammar, of 1797. There are only three references to Murray in *Punch* between 1860 and the end of the century. Other themes took over, such as a focus on spelling reform in the 1870s (reflecting the growth of Isaac Pitman's initiatives) and in artificial languages in the 1880s (especially Volapük).

Punch often provides some useful information about other trends. For example, spelling bees come to the fore in the 1870s, but in 1878 (vol. 74, p. 90) we find this comment:

> The question whether 'penny' ought to be spelt with one or two n's might exercise a Spelling Bee, if Spelling Bees, once so numerous, had not passed away to the limbo of extinct entomological species…

Another example is Americanisms. The American Civil War generated a flurry of articles on anti-Americanisms: something almost every year in the decade after 1862 (such as *recuperate*, *burgle*, the political use of *stump*, and—an early example of a pseudo-Americanism—*enjoyable*). But the social climate changed, and there was evidently a new mood in favour of Americanisms in the 1880s, judging by a cartoon in volume 95 (1888: 258), where a strongly American-sounding governess is welcomed by a Belgravian mother who says: 'I want my daughters to acquire the American accent in all its purity—and the idioms, and all that.' The cartoon is headed: 'The New Society Craze'. I had no idea that such a reaction had taken place, and I'm not sure how else I might have found out, without *Punch*.

So some themes come and go. But one is constant: pronunciation, and especially Cockney pronunciation, and especially 'poor letter H' (as it is repeatedly described in captions). Almost a quarter of all the items in my collection (88) are to do with pronunciation, usually a criticism of the London accent of the kind originally made by John Walker in the preface to his *Pronouncing Dictionary* (1791). Various features are pilloried, such as the *v*/*w* substitution, but the omission or insertion of *h* attracts a remarkable amount of space—over half the pieces (46) take it to task. Among my favourite cartoons here are the man in a barber's chair scared to death because the barber comments: 'the cholera's in the hair' (vol. 22, 1852: 138); the man told by his doctor that he's suffering from acne, and reacts by saying he wishes he'd never been near the place (vol. 68, 1875: 41); the schoolboy asked by a pompous school manager 'what's the capital of 'Olland,' and replying 'An H, sir' (vol. 59, 1870: 104; Figure 6.1); and, in the steaming hot summer of 1896, the swell who asks

A CAPITAL ANSWER.

"*Self-made*" *Man* (*examining School, of which he is a Manager*). "Now, Boy, what's the Capital of 'Olland?"
Boy. "An 'H,' Sir."

FIGURE 6.1. From *Punch* vol. 59 (1870), 104

his friend how he is. '"'Ot! Ve'y 'ot!", he replies, "Too great trouble to aspirate!"' (vol. 111, 1896: 41).

Many of *Punch*'s targets are predictable: regional accents, slang, French loanwords, the idiosyncratic pronunciation of upper-class names (such as *Cholmondley*), the jargon used by lawyers, politicians, and clerics, and poor language-learning ability by the English and by foreigners trying to speak English (especially the French). But there is no unthinking pedantry in its pages. A tone of irreverence is the norm, and this sometimes turns into quite a sharp satire, such as in the piece headed 'The latest thing in crime', in which two society ladies discuss in horrified tones someone who splits infinitives (vol. 114, 1898: 101). (Note the year: 1898. It's interesting that we find such a late date in *Punch* for the first mention of that construction—it had become an item in the English usage guide tradition three decades earlier.)[2] The pieces even become risqué at times—surprising for the supposedly strait-laced Victorian era, as in an article headed 'libraries for the police', which argues that

[2] See Tieken-Boon van Ostade, Ch. 4 this volume.

language skills are needed 'to aid a policeman in the discharge of his duty': 'How is a policeman to interfere with confidence in a dispute between man and wife, if he is not aware of the true force of the copulative conjunction...' (vol. 3, 1842: 127). And every now and then we see—as we do with Fowler's *Modern English Usage* (1926)—a realization that there are serious flaws in the prescriptive approach of Murray, Walker, and other normative grammars and dictionaries. In the first of a series of articles called 'School board papers', we read (vol. 80, 1881: 12):

> There are Grammars and Pronouncing Dictionaries, but Society sometimes creates rules of its own, which are not strictly in accordance with the received authorities. To side with the authorities is to be a fogey and a pedant; to side with Society is to be a model of good behaviour.
>
> It would be extremely vulgar to say 'sassenger' for sausage, but such a pronunciation might become fashionable from a variety of causes, and then it would be your duty to follow the fashion. When you are introduced to a Duchess, and she asks after your health, it is hardly polite to say that you are 'right as a trivet,' or 'A 1;' but it is quite possible for a popular member of the aristocracy to bring such expressions into use, in which case you would probably be right in using these peculiar idioms.

It is a small step in the direction of recognizing custom as the primary criterion. Aristocratic custom admittedly, but custom nonetheless.

The idioms discussed in this quotation are interesting: *right as a trivet*, *A1*. These two were popular in the 1830s—we find them in Dickens, for example—and they illustrate a further way in which *Punch* provides us with insight into the usage of the period. Idioms are a poorly treated domain in lexicology, and are rarely mentioned in the older usage guides. Sources such as the *Oxford English Dictionary* and Brewer's *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* are sporadic in their coverage, and rarely give us an indication of the popularity of idioms, even when they do include them. This comes across loud and clear in the pages of *Punch*. In 1841, for example, *that's the ticket for soup*, *how's your mother*, and *has she sold her mangle* were among the common phrases of the day, all referring to the situation of the poor. For example, a rent collector would ask a little child who answered the door 'How's your mother?' or ask whether she was receiving any income for taking in washing (a mangle is an old-fashioned drying device). *Awfully ta* was annoying everyone in 1876, as was *quite too too* in 1881. When a history of English idioms comes to be written, *Punch* will surely be one of the primary sources, and a full index of its idiomatic content, to my mind, is a very desirable research goal.

I end with a comprehensive listing of all the linguistic topics treated by *Punch* during the Victorian period. Although the selection of material has a literary and humorous motivation, I believe the index will be of interest to scholars of historical usage and to those specifically interested in usage problems over the years, in that it shows the linguistic topics that were being most widely noticed and discussed at the time, reflecting the trends found in usage guides of the period, and anticipating the kinds of observation still encountered in the guides published today.

Appendix. An index of linguistic topics discussed in *Punch* (1841–1901)

Volume, date, page	*Punch* title	Topic
1, 1841, 10	The introduction of pantomime into the English language	early semiotics—the use of the five senses in communication
1, 1841, 15	Stenotypography	typographic symbols used as rebuses in a story
1, 1841, 25	Poetry on an improved principle	predictability of rhymes in poetry, and an ingenious solution
1, 1841, 28	Nouveau manuel du voyageur	helpful conversational equivalents in French and Italian
1, 1841, 57	New code of signals	telegraphic code for fostering a relationship between the sexes
1, 1841, 69	The advantages of style	colloquial sentences turned into a very formal style
1, 1841, 144	To professors of languages who give long credit and take small pay	short note advertising a course in the 'purest Irish' to conceal a West Indian patois
1, 1841, 261	Elegant phrases	Idioms of the day—*that's the ticket for soup, how's your mother, has she sold her mangle*
2, 1842, 35	The omnibus cad's vocabulary, or, the idioms of conductors, done into English	pronunciation of local names, such as *Helephant, Hangel, Ngton* (short for Islington), and glosses for expressions—use of H
2, 1842, 112	A few words upon a few words	sound symbolism heard in *impracticable* and *serpent*
3, 1842, 127	Libraries for the police	language skills needed 'to aid a policemen in the discharge of his duty', 'How is a policeman to interfere with confidence in a dispute between man and wife, if he is not aware of the true force of the copulative conjunction . . .'
4, 1843, 169	On the Cockney pronunciation	long philological justification of Cockney, with refs to Grimm et al.; opening of the article has a drawing of Walker's dictionary
5, 1843, 7	On the Cockney pronunciation 2	continuation, focusing on *v/w*
5, 1843, 223	Polite conversations	not finishing sentences
6, 1844, 215	Act for the amendment of the orthography of surnames	formal proposal to make *Chumley* etc. normal

7, 1844, 46	Thirty seconds' advice to a cabman	general advice includes saying *cab* not *keb*
8, 1845, 21	The Elocution Society	a visit to the premises of the newly formed society
8, 1845, 74	Punch's Noy's Maxims: Of grammar	the law outranks grammar, with reference to King Alfred and Lindley Murray
8, 1845, 131	Curiosities of chop-houses—cartoon	pronunciation of *boiled* as *biled*
8, 1845, 150	Interrogatories for players	actors' pronouncing monosyllables as two syllables—*blue* as *blee-yew* etc.
8, 1845, 234	Use and abuse of the dash	the practice of anonymity in a name (Captain P)
9, 1845, 192	Modern hieroglyphics—cartoon	nonsense-words in a conversation (*wots'isname* etc.)
10, 1846, 10	Railway scale of manners	addressing people in different train classes: *Gentlemen* (1st class), *Gents* (2nd class), no title (3rd class)
10, 1846, 76	The bad English parliament	proposal to increase awareness of grammar in parliament, mentioning Lindley Murray: see quotation above
11, 1846, 26	Cartoon on spelling	child spelling *D O G* as *cat*
11, 1846, 83	The speaking machine	account of the Euphonia and its possible uses
11, 1846, 135	Matrimonial dictionary	explanation of terms like *dear*, *duck*, etc.
11, 1846, 143	The speaking automaton on railways	better than how railway officials talk
11, 1846, 238	The complete letter-writer	the electric telegraph should be in every house—anticipation of the internet
11, 1846, 253	Electric telegraphs for families	to facilitate communication between husband and wife
12, 1847, 14	Imaginary (railway) conversation	how the electric telegraph might be used romantically
12, 1847, 31	A nation of advertisers	the spread of advertisements—we are becoming 'a nation of advertisers'
12, 1847, 112	Parliamentary acoustics	setting debates to music in the new building
12, 1847, 117	Foreign tongues	what languages are spoken in European courts
12, 1847, 263	The complaynte of William Caxton	poem by Caxton saying he doesn't need a monument

(*continued*)

Volume, date, page	*Punch* title	Topic
12, 1847, 265	Modern streetology	need for principles in assigning new street names—get rid of names like *Smith*
13, 1847, 3	How to learn English in six theatres	the French should visit the theatre to learn English
13, 1847, 113	Murray and Pusey	Pusey's use of an unrelated participle—call to 'all disciples of Murray' to comment
13, 1847, 157	Great Western Grammar	grammatical error in a railway advertisement, mentioning Lindley Murray: see quotation above
13, 1847, 171	The progress of slang—cartoon	use of *stunner*
13, 1847, 213	The fast man's phrase-book	fashionable slang—*brick, pump, tin, fresh*, etc.
14, 1848, 22	The Duke's grammar	Lindley Murray invoked against the Duke of Wellington's use of grammar: see quotation above
14, 1848, 84	Parliamentary grammar	the 'mysterious language' of parliament—need for plain English
14, 1848, 86	Mysteries of the initials—with cartoon	use of anonymizing initials in *The Times*
15, 1848, 86	Punch's popular phrases and sayings	analysis of familiar sayings, such as *he put his nose out of joint*
15, 1848, 187	The schoolmaster very much abroad	influx of Latin and Greek words for everyday objects
15, 1848, 199	Hard names	plea for help in pronouncing foreign names like *Jellachich*
15, 1848, 250	The spell-bound enthusiasts	new proposal for spelling reform—phonography
15, 1848, 274	Pity the poor index-writer!	the role of the indexer
15, 1848, 274	A simple question answered—cartoon	legal style parodied
16, 1849, 48	St. Stephen's School, Westminster	includes a paragraph recommending that politicians appreciate the rules of Lindley Murray
16, 1849, 67	The value of words	verbosity at the Bar
16, 1849, 84	The fonetic solution for hard names	spelling reform a solution for aristocratic names like *Cholmondley*
16, 1849, 123	Origin of the fonetic mystery	the people involved in spelling reform

16, 1849, 152	Definition of a 'brick'	explanation of a fashionable piece of slang
16, 1849, 171	Street punctuation	proposes the use of punctuation marks on the streets
16, 1849, 176	Nonsense that is quite Refreshing	Frenchification of English, with reference to *recherché*
16, 1849, 247	Punch's law grammar	on lawyer's use of letters, syllables, words, sentences—reference to H and a listing of Latinate cases
17, 1849, 91	A tedious spell of it	the impossibility of mastering Hungarian
17, 1849, 125	Dramatic degrees of comparison	in the theatre, *positively last appearance*
18, 1850, 215	Nooks and corners of character: the graphologist	scepticism about the way graphologists operate
19, 1850, 154	A sketch of character by Professor Milkansop, the celebrated graphologist—cartoon	a rough-looking man is given a lovely gentle reading
19, 1850, 166	Shall England swallow the leek?	problems in pronouncing Welsh
20, 1851, 90	Scene—a café in Paris—cartoon	Englishman speaking French
20, 1851, 126	'You must Translate, 'tis fit we Understand.'—*Hamlet*	translate everything into all languages in preparation for 1851 influx of foreigners
20, 1851, 147	Fewest words not soonest mended	parliamentary verbosity
20, 1851, 187	Our number of all nations	*Punch* tries to translate its jokes into other languages
20, 1851, 188	English French and foreign English	proposal to have a register of interpreters for people who speak languages badly
20, 1851, 232	Conversations in Chinese	difficulty in communicating with Chinese artistes
21, 1851, 201	Our increasing vocabulary	letter to *Punch* about 'solidarity'
21, 1851, 250	Court grammar	ambiguity in a letter from an equerry
22, 1852, 63	Alphabet lozenges	teach children letters through sweets
22, 1852, 83	Plea for the Queen's English	the press should not use parliamentary language
22, 1852, 138	Alarming!—cartoon	accents—use of H—*the cholera's in the hair*
22, 1852, 222	Equality of names	origins of surnames
23, 1852, 21	A display of scollardship	misspellings in a sports event notice
23, 1852, 103	Cardinal's English	style of bishops' writing

(*continued*)

Volume, date, page	*Punch* title	Topic
24, 1853, 33	The actor's orthography—with cartoon	adding extra sounds to a word
24, 1853, 84	Torture of the English according to law	obscurity of legal and parliamentary language
25, 1853, 203	Too fastidious—cartoon	accents—use of H—waiter's use of *'am* corrected
26, 1854, 23	Londonderry and Lindley Murray	ambiguities in the Marquis of Londonderry's letters to his tenants
26, 1854, 83	Singular scene at Windsor Castle	in a conversation, the Queen corrects Prince Edward's use of *me* for *I*
26, 1854, 139	Mind your antecedents	ambiguities in announcements and ads
26, 1854, 174	The English grammar and the English government	mention of Cobbett and Lindley Murray in criticism of political language
27, 1854, 7	Law and Lindley Murray	actually all about errors of pronunciation, not grammar at all—the writer evidently remembers the name but not the content
27, 1854, 259	Mr. Bright's new word	criticism of his use of *populace*
28, 1855, 9	A school for actors	very much needed to improve their pronunciation
29, 1855, 11	Sabbath-breaking and swearing	swearing going out of fashion, but needs to be penalized in the streets
29, 1855, 99	English conversation	social pleasantry recorded verbatim by *Punch*
29, 1855, 100	Street names	recommendations for new names
29, 1855, 124	An acquisition to plain English	preference for *ignored* over *excluded* etc.
29, 1855, 163	H cartoon	accents—'I think you dropped this'
30, 1856, 13	Elocution for chemists	unpronounceable long technical terms
30, 1856, 57	Slang in Westminster Hall	parliament to support shortening words, e.g. *omnibus* to *bus*
31, 1856, 4	Parsing a sentence	purchase a Murray's Grammar for the War Office and now for the Court Newsman
31, 1856, 167	Low railway language	the royal family train being *shunted*
31, 1856, 183	The slang of the shoulder-knot	fashionable wedding descriptions, esp. using French words
31, 1856, 252	Germanism in journalism	use of hyphens, e.g. in *art-treasure*
32, 1857, almanack 4	Hi art!—cartoon	accents—use of H—*'air* and *hi's*

32, 1857, 13	Comparatives are odious	begins with 'Every student of Lindley Murray . . . '—ways of comparing
32, 1857, 131	'Yes, 'tis the spell!'	poor spelling in civil service examinations
32, 1857, 194	H—cartoon	accents—sweeping up the *h*s dropped
33, 1857, 7	Imperfection of the Yankee tongue	use of unoriginal place names
33, 1857, 57	Reform your railway calls	call out station names distinctly
33, 1857, 85	A hospital for mangled English	ambiguous phrasing
33, 1857, 187	The battle of the telegram: or, language in 1857	a poetic account of usage issues
34, 1858, 222	A case for Lindley Murray—cartoon	Cook: 'I don't want none.' Boy: '. . . you might ha' spoke Grammer.'
36, 1859, 189	Slang—cartoon	boy explains school slang to his grandma
36, 1859, 227	Fashionable vulgarism	use of inverted commas in announcements
36, 1859, 231	Slang and Sanscrit	too much slang coming into English
36, 1859, 244	Orthography and spelling	difficulties in spelling
36, 1859, 257	Slang of the superior classes	French words in inverted commas
37, 1859, 13	The Foreign-Office spelling book	a series of questions for Lord Malmesbury
37, 1859, 22	A chapter on slang	poem on slang usages
37, 1859, 66	Ladies' maids and Lindley Murray	use of *got* and *when* in a newspaper announcement—a lady could not have written so, it has to be a maid
37, 1859, 129	Englishmen and English	badly constructed advertisement, ascribed to 'Lindley, Murray, & Co.' to hide the company's real name
37, 1859, 140	Bad language by a lady!	poor grammar in an announcement
37, 1859, 214	The slang of the superior classes	praise for plain English used in a news report of a wedding, but criticism of French *en route*
38, 1860, 226	How to 'spike the English'	French guide to pronunciation and grammar—omits H—and refers to Lindley Murray
38, 1860, 248	A good man, no doubt, but a bad speaker	bad usage by the rifle volunteers—*quake for war*—refers to Lindley Murray
38, 1860, 260	Phonography for Frenchmen	review of the French guide, and extracts
39, 1860, 8	Grammar cartoon	'Do you like Grammar' . . . 'I never tasted it!'

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40, 1861, 31	English murdered by the French	*blackball* as a loanword in French
40, 1861, 54	The slang of the shops	trade slang taking over
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40, 1861, 219	The lisping tribes	*r*/*w* confusion by Chinese speakers
40, 1861, 237	An improper expression	*reliable*, in from America
42, 1862, 48	Three hundred words	a 'clerical philologist' asserts that country people know only 300 words in English
42, 1862, 89	The penny-a-liner's cyclopaedia, and paragraph-maker's companion	translating newspaper English into the Queen's English
42, 1862, 133	More American slang	*secesh* and *quite*
43, 1862, 3	Polyglot cabmen wanted	because so many foreigners visit London
43, 1862, 60	An error in orthoëpy—cartoon	Brougham vs. Broom
43, 1862, 65	More Yankee slang	*to claim*
43, 1862, 108	The progress of slang	marriage as an 'alliance'—and thus the parties are 'allies'?
43, 1862, 133	A labyrinth of language	ambiguity in an ad
43, 1862, 215	Orthography in the army	spelling difficulties, with reference to Johnson's *Dictionary* (1755)
44, 1863, 77	Nursery rhymes	includes one on grammar—see quotation above
44, 1863, 88	The linguist—cartoon	child knowing why parents talk French in her presence
44, 1863, 100	H—cartoon	accents—*(h)orse*
44, 1863, 167	Speaking by the letter	accents—on H and R
46, 1864, 19	President's English	another Americanism—*recuperate*
46, 1864, 210	Another pretty little Americanism—cartoon	*taking root*
47, 1864, 64	Letter H—cartoon	*Beautiful hair*
47, 1864, 165	Something like English	advertisement from Bonn, also referring to terrible standards in Britain
47, 1864, 174	Who will teach the teachers?	criticism of *along with* in an ad
47, 1864, 201	Vulgar errors	first item on the list is 'It is a Vulgar Error, a very Vulgar Error, to omit or introduce improperly the letter H in conversation'—the only one in the list to stress the point

47, 1864, 207	Avoid Americanisms	*to claim*
47, 1864, 214	Oh, by all means revise the code!—H cartoon	a teacher dropping his H's
48, 1865, 16	Poor letter H—cartoon	billboard men holding H's given the sack
48, 1865, 65	Punishment for bad spelling	spelling *musick* with a *k*
48, 1865, 82	child language—cartoon	not saying 'thank-you'
48, 1865, 95	An incurable	in love with someone who drops her H's
48, 1865, 197	Parson's English	ambiguity in an ad
49, 1865, 29	Mind your accents	spelling – *fete* for *fête*
49, 1865, 246	Accidentally correct	use of H—*hairs*
50, 1866, 21	Grammar on the waters	ambiguity in the rules of a boat company
50, 1866, 205	Vague people	declines the personal pronoun of vagueness—*whatshisname*
50, 1866, 266	Vague people—more examples	
51, 1866, 54	Economy of the English language	spelling—replacing *jewellery* by *jewelry* and other examples
51, 1866, 199	The grammar class examination	'a verb is a noun'
52, 1867, 51	Colloquial equivalents – cartoon	girls learning school slang from their brother
52, 1867, 180	Lady lexicographers—Mrs Dr. Johnson	need for a dictionary from a feminine point of view
53, 1867, 42	Letter perfect—cartoon	H recommended to a Cockney pupil
53, 1867, 143	A word for the readers	sympathy for proof-correctors etc.
54, 1868, 63	Subterranean spelling	on London underground—the three S's—Signals, Safety, Sivility
54, 1868, 73	Inarticulate information	shouting names of stations on the Underground
54, 1868, 153	An 'official English' dictionary wanted	obscurity in the Poor-Law Board
55, 1868, 136	A slang catechism	*swell, nob, togs*
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55, 1868, 194	Americanising our language	*stump* in politics
56, 1869, 33	A home study—cartoon	spelling *window*
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56, 1869, 153	&	poem about the ampersand

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57, 1869, almanack 3	Culture for the million; or, society as it may be—cartoon	duchess requiring a dictionary
58, 1870, 14	A grammarian's thought	adjective vs. adverb—*constant(ly) in love*
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58, 1870, 44	American slangography	Americanisms—*excurted, burgled, injuncted*
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58, 1870, 127	Lisping in numbers	a lisp allows lots of rhymes with *month*
58, 1870, 154	Parliamentary grammarians	comment on a criticism of Gladstone's usage, with reference to Johnson and Webster
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59, 1870, 104	A capital answer—cartoon	H is the capital of 'Olland: see Fig. 6.1
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63, 1872, 42	Suit your talk to your company—cartoon	replacing *trap* by *carriage* leads to servant hesitantly saying *be I*
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