

# tools of the trade

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**Word Watchers** *Word Watchers Handbook. Phyllis Martin. New York: David McKay Co., 1977. 81 pp. \$3.95.*

Few tools are more important to Extension workers than words, written or spoken. This little paperback, described by the author as a deletionary of the most abused and misused words, is delightful reading. It also lays it on the line. Try this test:

Questions:

1. The word is *forte*, as in "Tennis is his forte." Do you pronounce it *fort* or *for' tay*?
2. Do you say, "I am *nauseated*," or do you say, "I am *nauseous*"?
3. Do you say, "Come to see me," or do you say, "Come and see me"?
4. Is the word *height* or is it *heighth*?
5. How do you pronounce the word *jodhpurs*?
6. How do you pronounce the word *chasm*?
7. Are the words *verbal* and *oral* interchangeable?
8. Is it correct to say, "I am writing in regards to your report"?

Answers:

1. Pronounce it *fort* when you mean one's strong point. In music, it means strong or loud, and you pronounce it *for' tay*.
2. Say "I am *nauseated*." *Nauseous* means causing nausea. "It was a *nauseous* situation."
3. Say "Come to see me."

4. The word is *height*. It rhymes with kite.
5. It is pronounced *jod' perz*.
6. Sound that *k*. It is *kaz' um*.
7. No. *Verbal* refers to either spoken or written words, while *oral* refers only to spoken words.
8. No. Most careful speakers say *regard* in denoting reference.

Did you miss any? I doubt it. But I hope you had fun.

Often we seem to need to fill space, so we use more words—two, three, maybe four, when one would do. For example:  
A store offers a free gift. Is there any other kind?

What is the difference between planned and preplanned?  
When I receive prior approval is this more valid than approval?  
Some days I am surrounded on all sides. This may get my  
sinking feelings more sympathy than when I'm only surrounded.

My advance prediction is you'll enjoy this gem and that  
it's time for me to come to a complete stop.