

PHOTOPLAY

MARCH, 1939

P. 20

Emily Post on the Language of Hollywood

At the tail-end of a very long interview concerning the problems in which Hollywood movies depict polite society, the legendary manners maven, Emily Post was asked one more question...

"And now," Mrs. Post leaned back, "I hope I've answered enough questions for you."

"All but one," I assured her.

"And what might that be?"

"English, pure and simple."

Mrs. Post laughed. "I'm afraid to speak about that, for I'm really a kind person. I don't like to hurt people's feelings. But it is true that your scenic designer may furnish a faultless set, a star's gown may be flawless . . . everything can look like society . . . but talking is the dead give-away."

And because this fault, so glaring, can so easily be corrected, I prevailed upon Mrs. Post to give us part of her preferred list of English "don'ts."

DON'T SAY:

SAY:

automobile

automobile

reely

real-ly

secretree (unless

secretary

av viator

ay viator

eggsit

exit

Muhree

Marie

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column

for mid able

formidable

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EMILY POST

DON'T SAY:**SAY:**

cult your
at-all
ray-tion
to-may-to
mayonnaise

vallay
attended
wealthy
brainy
"Pardon me"

lovely food
"Charmed" or
"Pleased to
meet you"
a stylish dresser

formals
fellow or chap
young lady
close friend

social affair
drapes
mansion
I recall
request
"Permit me to as-
sist you"

converse
presume

cultcha
a-tall
ration (rash)
to ma(h) to
mai-onnaise (my)

valet
went to
rich
clever
"I beg your par-
don" or "Ex-
cuse me"

good food
"How do you do"

"She wears lovely
clothes" or "She
dresses well"

formal clothes
man
girl
a best or intimate
friend

a party
curtains
big house
I remember
ask

"Let me help you"

talk
I suppose