

PHOTOPLAY

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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:

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automobile

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real-ly

secretree (unless

secretary

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ay viator

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Marie

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formidable

DON'T SAY:**SAY:**

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a-tall

ray-tion

ration (rash)

to-may-to

to ma(h) to

mayonnaise

mai-onnaise (my)

vallay

valet

attended

went to

wealthy

rich

brainy

clever

"Pardon me"

"I beg your par-
don" or "Ex-
cuse me"

lovely food

good food

"Charmed" or

"How do you do"

"Pleased to
meet you"

a stylish dresser

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

formals

formal clothes

fellow or chap

man

young lady

girl

close friend

a best or intimate
friend

social affair

a party

drapes

curtains

mansion

big house

I recall

I remember

request

ask

"Permit me to as-
sist you"

"Let me help you"

converse

talk

presume

I suppose