

THE MRS HOOVER SHOW

COMEDY TIME WITH MRS HOOVER

A Piece of Her Mind

Mrs Hoover...

on the English Language

"A lot of the visitors who stay with me have come to improve their English by rubbing up against native speakers, the people who spoke it first and, let's face it, still speak it best. It's an international language and it belongs to us. It's a rich natural resource and, unlike oil and gas, it's not suddenly going to dry up. If only we'd patented it, like they're doing now with human genes, we'd be earning billions today in royalties!"

on varieties of English

"If you want tonic water in your gin, you buy Schweppes; if you want cornflakes in your breakfast bowl, you buy Kellogs; if you want a vacuum cleaner, you get a Hoover. Why? *Because the original is always the best.* It's the same when it comes to learning English: beware of imitations! Which would you rather speak — the English of Queen Elizabeth II, or the English of Sylvester Stallone? Exactly! We British have been setting the standard for correct English usage since the days of Geoffrey Chaucer (particularly those of us who live in my corner of East Sussex!)"

on English teachers

I'm not sure I've ever met a so-called English Language teacher who could get his students speaking English as quickly and effectively as I do at number 179 Davigdor Road. As far as I can see most language students sit in the classroom while their teachers bombard them with difficult grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation exercises with the result that they clam up for good! With me, on the other hand, learners really 'live' the language: mowing the lawn, emptying the bins, washing my husband's car or just peeling the potatoes for the evening meal. It's called Learning by Doing, and what they learn is Survival English — quite literally in some cases!

As for 'mixed ability', let me say there is no discrimination at the Hoover house. Elementary, Intermediate, Advanced — they're all treated as equals (as long as they pay on time and don't use all the hot water).

on the United Kingdom

"Forgive me for speaking plainly, but the Scots and the Welsh, in my opinion, are an ungrateful lot. They've been pleased to call themselves British when it suited them — when we had an Empire, for example, or when Cliff Richard won the Eurovision song contest. But I'm past caring, to be honest. Let them go off and be 'independent' if that's what they want. Just so long as they don't come running back every weekend expecting us to do their washing and pay off their overdrafts!"

Check out www.mrshoover.com