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Emily Post on the Language of Hollywood

At the tail~end of a vey 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:	DON'T SAY:	SAY:
automobile	automobile	lovely food	good food
reely	real-ly	"Charmed" or	"How do you do"
secretree (unless you're English)	secretary	"Pleased to meet you"	
av viator	ay viator	a stylish dresser	"She wears lovely clothes" or "She dresses well"
eggsit	exit		formal clothes
Muhree	Marie	formals	man
col yum	column	fellow or chap	girl
for mid able	formidable	young lady	a best or intimate friend
cult your	cultcha	close friend	a party
at-all	a-tall		curtains
ray-tion	ration (rash)	social affair	big house
to-may-to	to ma(h) to	drapes	I remember
mayonnaise	mai-onnaise (my)	mansion	ask
vallay	valet	I recall	"Let me help you"
attended	went to	request	
wealthy	rich	"Permit me to as- sist you"	talk
brainy	clever	converse	I suppose
"Pardon me"	"I beg your par- don" or "Ex- cuse me"	presume	

