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## Oops!

## Do I Do That?

Bravo!  
vs.  
Brava!

*Bravo* is used for cheering a man; *brava* is used for cheering a woman.

YES:  
After she hit the high note, everyone started shouting "Brava!"

YES:  
I've never heard that many people yell "Bravo!" after a one-man musical show.

NO:  
I couldn't wait to yell "Bravo!" after my sister delivered a flawless solo performance.

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## Just Where Did "Maverick" Come From Anyway?

On October 5, *The New York Times* ran an interesting article that discussed the history of the term *maverick*.

According to the article, the use of *maverick* to mean an independently thinking individual stems from the story of Samuel August Maverick. Living in Texas in the 1800s, Mr. Maverick did not brand his cattle, which made him (and his livestock) well-known in the community. Because of his decision, any animal not branded became known as a *Maverick*. From there, the term became synonymous with anything, or anyone, who refused to be identified with a particular identity or group.

*The New York Times* article also discusses how the Maverick family has a long history of independent thinkers and progressivism. Fontaine Maury Maverick coined the term *gobbledygook* in reference to the language of bureaucrats, and multiple generations of Mavericks have been involved in Texas politics. Terrellita Maverick is a member emeritus of the board of the San Antonio ACLU, and Maury Jr. Maverick was a "firebrand civil libertarian and lawyer."

You can read the entire article at <http://tinyurl.com/5zdfes>.

## Nifty Word of the Month

**defenestration**, *noun*:

(1) a throwing of a person or thing out of a window; (2) a usually swift dismissal or expulsion (as from a political party or office)

(Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, Oct. 29, 2008)

## Have Too Many Books – But Want More?

A new online company, 2SWAP, lets you swap books with other bibliophiles – for free. For every 10 books you list on the site, you get "credits," which can then be used to request books from other members. 2SWAP describes itself as "a Web community dedicated to freeing captive books in America." Its goal is to get those dusty books off of your bookshelf and, in exchange, help you receive other well-loved books in return.

Books are shipped to you for free; you only pay to ship your books to other 2SWAP members who have requested items from your list.

It's bookmark worthy!

<http://www.2swap.com>

## An Orientation on "Orientate"

A frequent, and perhaps even emerging, error that kelcilynn.com has seen in writing, in publications, and on television is the interchanging use of *orient* and *orientate*.

*Orient* is often used to mean "to acquaint with the existing situation or environment," whereas *orientate* is traditionally used to mean "to face east."

Thus, if you would like to become familiar with something new, you probably want to *orient* yourself with it; if you'd like to turn or face east, you probably want to *orientate* yourself. Saying or writing that you'd like to *orientate* yourself with your company's new materials or with this year's election issues may not quite mean what you intended.