

April 2009

Volume 2, Issue 4

Oops!

Do I Do That?

Pore vs. Pour

To *pore* over something means to examine it carefully; to *pour* something means to dispense it from a container.

YES:

Would you mind pouring me another glass of wine?

YES:

His article was so interesting that I pored over it for hours.

NO:

My professor suggested I pour over A Theory of Justice one more time before submitting my final paper.

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Dictionaries as Markers of Social Change

A March 18 Associated Press article (<http://tinyurl.com/ckmvy8>) reported on the change in several publishers' dictionary definitions of the word "marriage."

Interestingly, some of the changes (such as Merriam-Webster's definition, which was revised in 2003) happened several years ago but have only come to light as the debate over gay marriage heats up. The American Heritage Dictionary has had a definition since 2000 that includes same-sex couples; the Oxford English Dictionary apparently has a "more inclusive definition of marriage" in draft form at the moment.

The definitions and the surrounding controversy bring to light an interesting question: does a dictionary document change that has already happened, or does it document change as it is happening?

Mastering Tricky Words

Carnegie Mellon University has a great "Using Tricky Words" Website. It features common rules for writing, commonly misused words, and commonly misspelled words along with clear discussions of entries in each section.

It's bookmark worthy!

<http://www.cmu.edu/styleguide/trickywords.html>

Nifty Word of the Month

spoonerism, *noun*:

a transposition of usually initial sounds of two or more words (as in *tons of soil* for *sons of toil*)

(Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, Mar. 31, 2009)

Fun New York Times Column on Words and Phrases

Schott's Vocab, a self-described "repository of unconsidered lexicographical trifles – some serious, others frivolous, some neologized, others newly newsworthy," can be found at <http://schott.blogs.nytimes.com> and is updated daily with interesting tidbits from news organizations around the world.

The blog, written by Ben Schott, lists new language that is appearing in modern media and explains new terms' meanings and origins. "Affluent thrift," "manscaping," and "uplandlords" all made an appearance this week. It's an entertaining blog that's updated quite frequently – and a great way to entertain yourself for a few minutes during your lunch hour.

What's Happening at kelcilynn.com

Things have been busy at kelcilynn.com. In the past month alone, we've:

- Proofread an academic research journal
- Proofread business presentation materials
- Begun proofreading a dissertation
- Written fund-raising materials for a non-profit organization working with kids and for a major university
- Written a 30-day lesson plan on Bram Stoker's *Dracula* for high school classrooms
- Written a weekly newsletter distributed nationally to college students
- Attended a national conference on higher education and student affairs

If your project involves writing, proofreading, or editing, we can probably help! Email info@kelcilynn.com or visit <http://www.kelcilynn.com> for more information on rates and services.