

Aware of what?

'Awareness is all'. These were the words with which Mrs B. Ryder of Bristol, England, closed a letter to the editor in October's *ET*12. By it she meant that if foreign learners of English were made properly aware of all the 'slurred elided effects' in the spoken language (such as 'Whatcher doing?', common Southern British English for 'What are you doing?') their task of using and understanding the language would be appreciably lightened.

Others have written to *ET* about 'language awareness' as a powerful new approach to teaching the language on all fronts, 'native' or 'foreign'. As a result, a large part of *ET*13 (or *ET* Vol. 4, No. 1, as it is also now known) is devoted to considerations of what the phrase already means to some people and might yet mean to others.

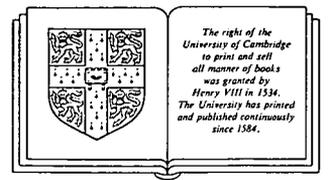
The discussion opens obliquely, with John Boyd, a freelance writer in Japan, replying to the more orthodox and traditional among 'pop grammarians', 'linguistic popes', and those who set out to protect the language from the uncouth and illiterate. Fred Parrott sustains the libertarian momentum with a report on how usages come in and are condemned, then stay on and cease to raise a single hackle. Paul Harvey looks it 'language awareness' proper, in its social and educational setting, and George Wiley describes some effects that the approach has been having on examinations in England and Wales. We would be glad to hear about more such effects, on examinations, syllabuses, institutions and the like, from other sources.

The format of our magazine-cum-journal may be new, but the intriguing mix of information about the language at large continues in the same form and richness as before. A great deal of that wealth of material and information now comes in from readers in 50 or more countries around the world, evidence that many people have made *ET* their own, whatever its shape may be.

Tom McArthur

A call for papers: In *ET*'s files we have cuttings/clippings from a wide range of British and North American newspapers, and a scattering of material from many other sources. If readers would care to add to our files by sending in occasional (titled and dated) materials from their local newspapers, etc., or even the odd complete sample of a specially interesting periodical, this would be a great help in widening the range of usage which we can quote in *From Our Files*.

The editorial policy of *English Today* is to provide a focus or forum for all sorts of news and opinion from around the world. The points of view of individual writers are as a consequence their own, and do not reflect the opinion of the editorial board. In addition, wherever feasible, *ET* leaves unchanged the orthography (normally British or American) and the usage of individual contributors, although the editorial style of the magazine itself is that of Cambridge University Press.



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