

Babble 101

By Marilyn Reeves

Good afternoon, students! Welcome to Babble 101. This course replaces the archaic ... you don't know what "archaic" means? Look it up. Oh, you can't? Never mind, then. Anyway, Babble 101 replaces the old language course that your grandparents used to study called English 101. Some of you may have heard of it, even though it's a dead language. You can't imagine how difficult it was to study *that* language! It actually had rules you had to learn. And most of those the rules made sense, as they contributed to communication. In those days, educated people were actually able to say what they meant and meant what they said, can you believe it? But somewhere along the line those rules got thrown out the window as an unnecessary nuisance. Well, no need to worry about rules now. There are only a few rules in Babble, and they are primarily to completely do away with the *old* rules!

For instance, there used to be a term for words such as *to, for, over, around, and about*. They were called Prepositions. And words such as *me, us, and them* were called the Objects of a Preposition. We've done away with those terms, however, because people have forgotten what they meant. Our grandparents would say things like, "He gave it to her; he gave it to me. He gave it to her and me." But somewhere along the line, whenever there was more than one person on the receiving end, it was changed to, "He gave it to she and I."

See, here's the thing. Words like "she" and "I" were originally the *subject* pronouns ... pardon? Oh, a *pronoun* is a little word that is used to substitute for the name of a person, place or thing. May I go on? Alright. Where was I? Oh, yes. People used to say things like, "She and I went to town." Then it became, "Me and her went to town." Then it got to be that even the teachers didn't know the correct way of saying things because nobody else did either!

Even public speakers, like world news announcers and politicians have gotten all mixed up. Now most of them don't normally say, "Me and her went to town," but most of them *do* say, "He gave it to she and I." And it's all become so confusing that people have stopped worrying about the rules and have simply thrown out the old text books. "Anything Goes" has become the Rule of the Day.

The only rule you need to remember in Babble 101 is: If in doubt, abbreviate! Even if people don't know what the heck you're talking about, that's okay, because you probably don't know what you mean either. Oh, and one more: Whenever you use the word "is" be sure to double it. Always say "is-is" as the notable public speakers do. It's funny because they don't usually say "was-was," but they nearly always say "is-is."

It is-is the acceptable thing to do!