

The Rules of English



Verse: Now when I was a boy one was taught Eng - lish Gram - mar, These days



stan - dards have gone down the drain. We



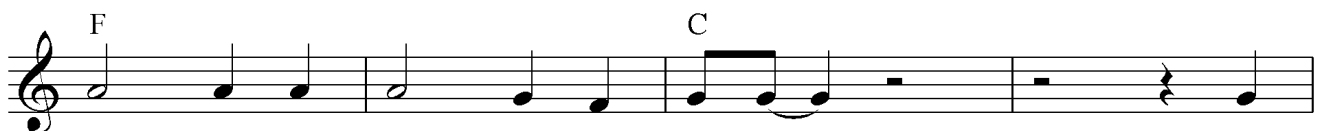
had it banged in - to us with an un - sub - tle ham - mer, Now it's



firm - ly lodged in - to my brain. There's a



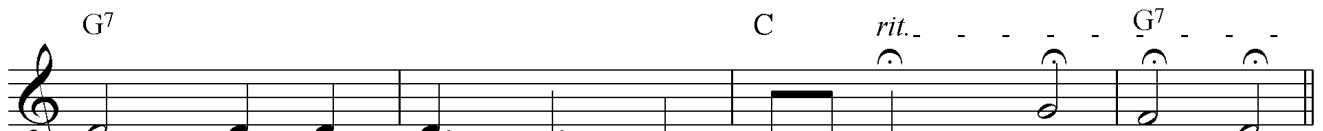
mil - lion mis - takes that you see peop - le make, now and



then there's an ab - so - lute whop - per! So



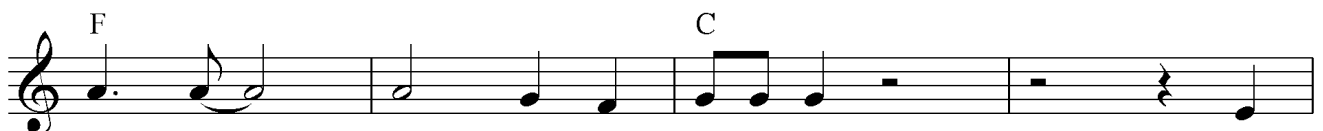
here's a few tips to a - void fu - ture slips, To



help you all speak and write pro - per! Chorus: Be sure to



ne - ver split an in - fi - ni - tive,



Don't use no doub - le neg - a - tives, And

ne - ver___ gen - eral - ise, that's a rule you'll see ev - ery - one

break,_____ Be

clear as a bell, prof - read ev - ery - thnig well, Be

more or less spec - if - ic,___ Don't be vague, And a -

void_____ cli - ches like the plague. (It's in)-

Now when I was a boy one was taught English grammar
 These days standards have gone down the drain
 We had it banged into us, with an unsubtle hammer
 And it's firmly lodged into my brain
 There's a million mistakes that you see people make
 Now and then there's an absolute whopper
 So here's a few tips to avoid future slips
 To help you all speak and write proper:

Be sure to never split an infinitive
 Don't use no double negatives
 And never generalise, that's a rule you see everyone break!
 Be clear as a bell, profread everythnig well
 Be more or less specific, don't be vague
 And (last but not least) avoid clichés like the plague!

It's incumbent upon us to eschew obfuscation
 And where feasible to employ the vernacular
 Never use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice
 And understatement is absolutely spectacular
 Use language that's inclusive of all men
 And here's something else you should know
 The use of foreign words is just not de rigeur
 Nor is it apropos

Always avoid awkward annoying
 Unattractive affected alliteration
 Avoidification of George Bushian neologisms
 Will strengthenify your prosification
 If you see a mixed metaphor take the bull by the horns
 And knock it right off of its perch
 And vary your words variously
 So that you use various words

Exaggeration is a trillion zillion times worse
 Than just stating the plain simple facts
 And use words correctly, irregardless of what others do
 To show you've got the language knack
 The passive voice should always be avoided
 Heed should be taken of that suggestion
 And what I now ask of all of you is:
 "Who needs rhetorical questions?"