

## Language Corner—Ask George! July August 2010

### A Language Academy in London?

Surprisingly, *The Daily Telegraph* of 8 June states, in a title, that “**We need an Academy of English to save our beautiful language**”. The article is authored by Gerald Warner. He writes, among others: “Authoritative bodies exist to maintain the purity of the French, Spanish and Italian languages, but English has been left to fend for itself at a time when it is under unprecedented attack. /.../ Globalisation has meant that the **predominance of English** in computerised societies is making it **more vulnerable** to abuse than any other tongue. The advent of **texting has had a disastrous effect on literacy**, and the mass media are complicit in **bastardisation** of language. Then there is the omnipresent, nightmarish gibberish of **management jargon**. The worst problem, however, is **the collapse of literacy within our education system** – the forum that should have been the sturdiest bastion of correct practice. /.../ **illiterate pupils** have now been joined by a generation of largely **illiterate teachers**. /.../Aggravating the current crisis is **state-sponsored illiteracy**, with central and local government promoting politically correct Newspeak.” **George does not comment**. George **only** notes that **the day before** *The London Times* had published another article significantly entitled “**Do we need an Academy of English? The experts argue for and against**”.

**The Queen’s English!** What does She think of it all, wonders George.

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