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 is owned by  
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**OUR GOAL:** Lanier County News is created proudly for the citizens of Lanier and the surrounding area by Good Shepherd Media in Lakeland, GA. Our goal is to produce a quality, community oriented newspaper that you, our readers, are proud of. We will reach this goal through hard work, teamwork, loyalty and a strong dedication toward printing the truth.

**OUR POLICIES:** Letters to the Editor are welcome. Please sign and include address, telephone number and e-mail.

•Liability for an error in advertising will not exceed the cost of space occupied by the error.

•All pictures are filed after publication, but may be picked up by the owner at Lanier County News office in Lakeland.

**DEADLINE:** the deadline each week for all news and advertising copy is Monday at 5:00 p.m. Submittals can be placed in the drop box located by the door of the Lanier County News office.

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# OPINIONS & VIEWPOINTS

## A word, please

By June Casagrande

“I’ll dress warm,” I wrote to friends recently in a group email about a get-together on the patio of a local café.

What happened next will sound familiar to every careful user of the English language: I second-guessed my own grammar. “Is ‘warm’ OK instead of ‘warmly?’” I wondered. “How do those rules work again? And, even if I got it right, do I have to worry my friends will think I was wrong? Can I defend my choice? Will I have to?”

If you know people who don’t care a whit about their grammar, don’t look down on them. Envy them. These folks not only sidestep a lot of this anguish, but, ironically, their nonchalance often ensures good grammar. After all, natural language is where grammar rules come from.

Winging it prevents hypercorrection, which is what happens when you work too hard to speak grammatically and, as a result, make a mistake. “Between you and I” is a good example. The more grammatically correct form is “between you and me,” since “between” is a preposition and prepositions take object pronouns. But people trying to be proper use “I,” ironically making their choice less proper than the people who didn’t try so hard.

That goes double for adverbs. Consider the sentence: Slice the onions thinly. To someone who’s fretting over grammar, the adverb “thinly” might seem necessary, since you’re talking about an action: slicing. But you’re not describing an action. You’re describing a noun: the onions.

“One must analyze the sentence,” advises Bryan Garner in Garner’s Modern American Usage.

In this case, he explains, “slice” is a verb, “the onions” is the object of the verb, and the word that follows is the object complement — that is, a word modifying the object. So when choosing between “thin” and “thinly,” you have to understand that you’re describing not a verb but a noun: the onions. And describing nouns is the job of adjectives, not adverbs. Thinly isn’t the manner of slicing. Thin is the state of the onions when you’re done. So the correct form is “slice the onions thin.”

In “I’ll dress warm/warmly,” these relationships aren’t as clear. Yes, I want myself, a noun, to be warm. But you could also consider this a manner of dressing: dress warmly. So in this case, it’s up to the speaker to decide whether she wants to modify the verb, to dress, or the noun, herself. There’s no wrong answer.

Sentences like “I feel bad” are a little different. Here, there’s no object of the verb because this isn’t a transitive verb. It’s a linking verb, whose job is to point back to the subject. This dynamic is clearer in “Jane is happy,” “Joe seems nice” and “The dog acts innocent.” Because these are linking verbs, you need adjectives like “happy” to describe the nouns in the subject. Whereas in “slice the onions thin,” you’re describing a noun not in the subject but in the object.

But even if you were slicing thinly or dressing warmly — if you really meant to describe the action — you could still say “thin” or “warm” if you wanted to. Why? Because of flat adverbs.

Flat adverbs are words used as adverbs in which you just drop the “ly.” “Drive slow.” In this example, there’s no question that you’re describing an action and that you need an adverb to do so. But “slow,” when you use it as an adverb, is an adverb. Yes, even without the “ly” ending. That’s why “drive slow” is grammatical.

Of course, “drive slowly” is more proper. So avoid flat adverbs when they might raise eyebrows. But my email with “I’ll dress warm” wasn’t going to ruffle any feathers, so I stuck with it.

— June Casagrande is the author of “The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know.” She can be reached at JuneTCN@aol.com.



## Valdosta Monkey’s Thoughts & Opinions

Send your questions for

Valdosta Monkey to

Publisher@

laniercountynewsline.com



## Weather Warnings: Who’s responsible?

I didn’t get my warning! Who’s to blame? In a nutshell...you are.

In today’s world there is absolutely no reason to be caught off guard when storms approach. In wake of the last few weather outbreaks here in Lanier/Lowndes County I’ve read where many of you humans seem to be looking for someone to blame because you were caught with your proverbial pants down.

Hurricanes/Tropical Systems often times come our way. We watch them for days sometimes a week or more while they develop out in the Atlantic Ocean just off the coast of Africa. There is no reason for a Hurricane/Tropical System to catch anyone off guard.

Pop-up evening Thunderstorms might catch some of you off guard and rightfully so because they’re sneaky and just kinda pop up.

Tornadoes can be sudden or part of an advancing weather system that already has a history of producing tornadoes.

If a weather system is advancing on your locale then you probably should be concerned about the possibility of a tornado and consider yourself under a self-imposed “Tornado Watch”

I’ve seen the posts and heard the talk about the obsolete siren system here in Lakeland/Lanier County. I understand the desire to feel safe but shouldn’t that be everyone’s responsibility and not just government officials?

I’ve heard people say that they can’t hear the sirens inside their home...well guess what? The sirens are telling people to GO INSIDE and SHELTER not step outside to listen to the siren and gawk at the sky.

The other evening when the weather conditions changed rapidly I got one Tornado Warning and 10-20 seconds later I lost my electricity.

What did I do? I got my humans and their beloved dog Izzy into their safe space, I made a post which simply read “TORNADO WARNING—SEEK SHELTER NOW!! THIS IS NO MONKEY BUSINESS!” I then sent a handful of text messages warning of the coming twister. Then I listened for on oncoming train.

All that happened in a matter of just a couple to three minutes.

My point?

Warnings, Sirens, Alerts, etc...are all good and work best when all are utilized. However, depending on where a funnel cloud is when it dips down and makes contact with the ground and becomes a tornado and where you are when that happens may not leave time for a warning to go out. In other words, your ONLY warning might be the sound of that freight train heading straight for you and your family.

What I’m saying is that you humans need to learn to start showing some personal responsibility for your own well being.

Be alert to your regional weather and forecast for your area.

Buy a weather alert radio. Follow Weather Heads on social media, like Valdosta Monkey, check out Georgia Storm Troopers (GST) on Facebook, listen to your local weather forecast.

If you really want advanced weather alerts you should use “Zello” (an App in the App Store) and join GST there and you’ll get weather alerts before your local TV station has a chance to work them into their lineup.

If you have questions or want to learn more about Georgia Storm Troopers, just search for Valdosta Monkey on Facebook, inbox him and ask to speak with Weather Monkey and he’ll hook ya up with me.

You are invited to “Like” and “Follow” Valdosta Monkey on Facebook and visit his webpage at [www.valdostamonkey.com](http://www.valdostamonkey.com)

