

**THE PARCHMENT PAPER SERIES NO. VII:  
DISCRIMINATE. A COMPANION TO  
"DON'T". A MANUAL FOR GUIDANCE  
IN THE USE OF CORRECT WORDS AND  
PHRASES IN ORDINARY SPEECH**

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The Parchment Paper Series No. VII: Discriminate. A companion to "Don't". A Manual for Guidance in the Use of Correct Words and Phrases in Ordinary Speech by Samuel Fallows

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**SAMUEL FALLOWS**

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No. VII.

The Parchment Paper Series.

# Discriminate.

A COMPANION TO

“Don’t.”

*A Manual for Guidance in the Use  
of Correct Words and Phrases  
in Ordinary Speech.*

By CRITIC. pseud.

Samuel Fallows  
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## DISCRIMINATE.



DISCRIMINATE in the use of *A* and *AN*. *A* should be used before words beginning with an aspirated *h*, when the accent falls on the second syllable, and not *an*. Say "*a* historical novel," "*a* heroic act." The plea for this usage among us, although it may not always be euphonious, is based on the fact that in America the *h* is properly aspirated, while in England, where the *h* is often suppressed, *an* is generally employed. The article should be repeated in such sentences



as, "The knife had *an* elegant handle and rough-looking blade"; *a* rough-looking blade; "it had *a* rough-looking handle and elegant blade"; *an* elegant blade; "it was *a* rough and inelegant remark"; *an* inelegant remark.

Discriminate between ABILITY and CAPACITY.

*Capacity* is the power of receiving and retaining knowledge with ease. *Ability* is the power of applying knowledge to practical purposes. *Capacity* implies power to *conceive*, *ability* the power to execute designs. *Capacity* is shown in quickness of apprehension; *ability* in something actually done.

Discriminate in the use of ABORTIVE. Don't say, "A man *abortively* tried to steal some books"; use *unsuccessfully*, or *in vain*. *Abor-*

*tive* is used in respect to failure of plans, not of acts. "The scheme was *abortive*."

Discriminate between ABOVE and FOREGOING.

Don't say, "The *above* statement"; say, "The foregoing statement."

Discriminate between ABOVE and MORE THAN.

Don't say, "*Above* a mile distant"; say, "*more than* a mile distant."

Discriminate between ABOVE and BEYOND.

Don't say, "*Above* his strength"; say, "*Beyond* his strength."

Discriminate between ACCORD and GIVEN.

Don't say, "The information was *accorded* him"; say, "The information was *given* him."

Discriminate between ADAPT and DRAMATIZE.

To *adapt* a play is to modify its form or

construction; to alter it, so as to meet the public taste or demand. To *dramatize*, a production is to change a story from the narrative to the dramatic form. It is to make a story into a *drama*. The first-mentioned kind of work is called an *adaptation*; the second, a *dramatization*.

Discriminate between ADMINISTER and DEALT.

Don't say, "Blows were *administered* by the pugilist"; say, "*were dealt*."

Discriminate between ADOPT and TAKE.

Don't say, "What course will you *adopt*?" say, "What course will you *take*?"

Discriminate between ADOPT and DECIDE

UPON. Don't say, "The measures *adopted* by Congress did not give satisfaction"; say, "The measures *decided upon*." *Adopt* is