

Bad English by Cricket Commentators

On 21 August 2004 Francis Bennion sent the following three emails to the Channel Four programme broadcasting commentary on the Fourth Test, England v West Indies.

Mike Atherton made three errors when covering the last Test Match.

1. He used 'criteria' as a singular noun when it is a plural. The singular is 'criterion'.
2. He pronounced 'schedule' as skedule, which is the American way. The English way is shedule.
3. He pronounced 'debacle' as debbacle. This word is of French origin, and is pronounced daybarkle.

1. Geoff Boycott has just talked about conditions 'deteriating'. Surely he knows that the word is 'deteriorating'.
2. Geoff certainly knows that the word 'hand' is spelt with four letters. Why does he constantly speak as if there were only three?

I wouldn't trouble to mention the above if it were not that there are thousands of impressionable boys watching him. Does he want them to grow up illiterate?

Dermot Reeve has just mentioned 'latitude and longtitude'. The latter word is 'longitude'.