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A Reader's malapropism

Thanks to Juliana Tan who sent us this contribution:

Colleague: "I don't eat apparatus."

Me: "Huh? Who eats apparatus?"

Pause.

Me: "Oh, you mean asparagus!"

This confusion probably came about because apparatus was wrongly pronounced as apPAIR ratus instead of the correct ap pir RAY tirs.

Poor English: I promise not to forget you when I touch 4D.

Standard English: I promise not to forget you when I win something on the 4 D.

[Four digit lottery]

We will answer some of your spoken English language questions in this column, and a book prize will be awarded weekly for the question, anecdote or suggestion most useful to our readers.

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