

Pet Peeve 12:

Writing “kinda,” “sorta,” and “hafta” instead of *kind of*, *sort of*, and *have to*

In everyday speech, many people say something that sounds like *kinda*, as in “I’m kinda hungry.” “Kinda” is really just a sloppy version of *kind of*. When writing, use *kind of*, not “kinda.” Also use *sort of*, not “sorta,” and *have to*, not “hafta.”

If you are thinking, “My best friend Claire isn’t going to care if I write her a note about the ‘kinda’ funny thing that happened at lunch,” you are probably right. She also won’t care if you show up at her house for dinner in a torn T-shirt and dirty jeans. That’s because she’s your friend. People who aren’t your friends will just think you don’t know how to spell.

PRACTICE



Correct the following:

Maya kinda wanted to go, but, on the other hand, she kinda wanted to stay home. She thought that a quiet night watching TV might be better than a night at the mall hoping the guy she kinda liked would say “Hey!” to her like he had last Friday night. She kinda liked him, but she wasn’t sure. “He’s sorta weird,” she confessed to her friend Allison.

“Sorta?” cried Allison. “He’s the weirdest guy to set foot in the mall in the last ten years!” She saw the look on Maya’s face. “I meant that in a *good* way, of course.”

