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**Date:** June 05, 2007 01:58 PM

**Author:** Joan Marshall ([jf\\_marshall@comcast.net](mailto:jf_marshall@comcast.net))

**Subject:** mispronunciation

I'm not sure what I should do with this. This is a videotaped depo so do I have to put in this horrible mispronunciation? Very nice witness, older guy, rancher, and he says "ver-ber-bin" instead of verbatim. His attorney was sitting right across from me and when the witness said that and I sort of blinked, he smiled at me knowingly. I hate to make him look like a fool, but it will be on the video. What do I do??

Edited to add: Not that a mispronunciation actually makes a person a fool. I know all of us cringe, but some very intelligent people have a hard time with some words -- unfortunately for us!

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**Date:** June 05, 2007 07:33 PM

**Author:** Amanda Leigh ([amanda.leigh@tx.rr.com](mailto:amanda.leigh@tx.rr.com))

Yeah, I'd put "verbirbin [phonetic]" and not think another thing about it. If it happens more than

once, I'd just do the [phonetic] the first time.

If you feel so badly for this guy, you could always leave out the "[phonetic]" and let the guy think (and the attys, maybe) it was the reporter's fault--she misspelled "verbatim"!

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**Date:** June 05, 2007 07:46 PM

**Author:** Joan Marshall ([jf\\_marshall@comcast.net](mailto:jf_marshall@comcast.net))

**Subject:** mispronunciation

What if I just put "verberbin" in quotes like that and left out the phonetic part? Wouldn't people get the drift in a nicer way?

In the same case a CHP officer said, "Based upon the totalitary of the cirucumstances." I didn't even put "totalitary" in quotes, just stuck it in as said. Sometimes I feel like we split hairs to try and do things right. At least in the case of "totalitary" it sort of sounds right.

Edited to add: Okay. What's good for one is good for all. I went back and put quotes around "totalitary." At least the officer waived signature so he'll never know.

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**Date:** June 05, 2007 08:03 PM

**Author:** Amanda Leigh ([amanda.leigh@tx.rr.com](mailto:amanda.leigh@tx.rr.com))

Yeah, that'd be one way to do it, a little kinder and gentler. I would probably just either spell it incorrectly and leave it and let them think it's me (if I cared about not upsetting them or making them look foolish), or I would just [phonetic] it and let 'em take their lumps (they probably really won't care anyway).

You know, sometimes I have put [sic] on the witness when they mispronounced because I knew they'd not know what [sic] meant (haha).

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**Date:** June 05, 2007 09:29 PM

**Author:** Lillian Freiler, RMR ([CrtRptr@AOL.COM](mailto:CrtRptr@AOL.COM))

**Subject:** mispronunciation

I'd suggest NOT putting it in as the mispronounced word. Video or not, it's simply a mispronunciation.

Lillian

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**Date:** June 06, 2007 10:18 PM

**Author:** John Gales ([jgales@bgreporting.com](mailto:jgales@bgreporting.com))

**Subject:** mispronunciation

When it comes to spelling a word, I don't think it matters how a person pronounces it. If you know the witness is trying to say verbatim, I say spell it correctly.

John

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**Date:** June 07, 2007 10:33 PM

**Author:** Lisa O'Sullivan ([speedywriter@ca.rr.com](mailto:speedywriter@ca.rr.com))

I agree with Lillian and John: verbatim. I treat it as a form of accent when it's this obvious what was meant. Of course, if someone else on the record follows up on it -- e.g., Did you say verberbin? -- then I'd use the phonetic. But in either case, no quotes.

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**Date:** June 08, 2007 01:56 PM

**Author:** Amanda Leigh ([amanda.leigh@tx.rr.com](mailto:amanda.leigh@tx.rr.com))

I'll never forget one of my clients mentioning to me that a deposition I had previously taken for him, the witness kept saying 'pecific and he noticed. He also noticed that I put "specific" in the record. "Why?" That's when I started getting a little more verbatim when it comes to mispronunciations.

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**Date:** June 08, 2007 03:08 PM

**Author:** Lisa O'Sullivan ([speedywriter@ca.rr.com](mailto:speedywriter@ca.rr.com))

So you don't like attorneys asking, "Why?" :)

If you're comfortable with your position, why not just explain why. If not, you can always say, "Work product." ;)

As far as your example here, it sounds like a case of Ebonics, which, as a regular and repeated style, seems different to me from a single mispronounced word. I keep in Ebonics, although I've never spelled your example as 'pecific. I think that's very generous of you :)

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**Date:** June 08, 2007 06:06 PM

**Author:** Lillian Freiler, RMR ([CrtRptr@AOL.COM](mailto:CrtRptr@AOL.COM))

**Subject:** your style

Amanda,

Why didn't you just tell him that's your style, that's the way you do your transcripts?

Lillian

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**Date:** June 09, 2007 12:51 PM

**Author:** Amanda Leigh ([amanda.leigh@tx.rr.com](mailto:amanda.leigh@tx.rr.com))

Hey, Lillian and Lisa. Well, telling someone that I changed the record to reflect what I believed was meant from what was actually said because it was my style never occurred to me. I'm no shrinking violet and had I felt I did the right thing by changing the record, I would have said so. This happened pretty early in my career and I didn't think I had done the right

thing when he asked me why I did it--it was certainly not a position I would defend (I just changed it to be nice). I still feel that there is no good argument for changing the record to make it more readable or to be nice or for whatever reason, and now I leave it that way: 'pefic.

As Lisa says above, I'm pretty generous about putting it 'pefic instead of pacific. Guess that's my compromise within myself. I don't put everything exactly verbatim (I rarely put in ebonics, like ax for ask, cuz for because, and the like), but when someone mispronounces a word (especially if they do it over and over again), I put it in the way they said it because I figure someone noticed--and, hey, that's what they said; why should I fix it? If they mispronounce it only once and say it correctly other times, then I may change it to be correctly spelled on that time they got tongue-tied.

With ebonics I mainly don't worry about those because that would just take way too much of my time to listen for every one. I'm just not going to spend that kind of time. I don't put gonna or wanna or cuz or ax, but I think I would if I had a witness who was particularly gansta.

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**Date:** June 09, 2007 03:32 PM

**Author:** Lisa O'Sullivan ([speedywriter@ca.rr.com](mailto:speedywriter@ca.rr.com))

Hi, Amanda:

- > Well, telling someone
- > that I changed the record to reflect what I
- > believed was meant from what was actually said
- > because it was my style never occurred to me.

Point taken ;)

- > I'm no shrinking violet and had I felt I did the
- > right thing by changing the record, I would have
- > said so. This happened pretty early in my career
- > and I didn't think I had done the right thing

- > when he asked me why I did it--it was certainly
- > not a position I would defend (I just changed it
- > to be nice).

Not feeling able to defend the position, yeah, I can see how that would be different.

As far as the 'pecific, you've given me something to think about there :)

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