

100 POLITICALLY CORRECT (PC) EUPHEMISMS

Do you speak English (politically) correctly? These euphemisms help us to avoid discriminating against other people on the grounds of: **a) age, b) appearance, c) gender, d) health, e) personality, f) race, g) relationship status, h) religion, i) social status, and j) work.** Can you categorise each phrase? For example: **1. d)** There are 5 phrases (in blue) that don't fit any category.

DON'T SAY: DO SAY:

- able-bodied > non-disabled
- actress > actor
- Australian Aborigine > Native Australian
- bald > follically challenged
- barman > bar attendant
- bin man > cleanliness technician
- black bag > bin bag
- black person > Person of Colour
- black sheep > pariah
- blackboard > chalk board
- blacklisted > banned
- blind > sight impaired
- blind drunk > very drunk
- boring > differently interesting
- broken home > dysfunctional family
- brother / sister > sibling
- chairman > chair
- Christian name > first name
- Christmas > Winter Festival / Winterval
- cleaner > facility manager
- clumsy > uniquely coordinated
- confined to a wheelchair > wheelchair user
- dead > passed away / terminally unavailable
- deaf > hearing impaired
- deforestation > forest management
- diabetic > person with diabetes
- dinner lady > mealtime supervisor
- disease > disorder
- drug addict > person with a chemical dependency
- drug habit > substance use disorder
- English > British / UK citizen
- Eskimo > Inuit
- fat > overweight / big-boned
- fireman > firefighter
- forefathers > ancestors / forebears
- Frenchman > French person
- get the sack > be part of a restructuring
- guys > folks
- hairdresser > stylist
- headmaster / headmistress > director
- homeless > residentially flexible
- homosexual > same-sex
- housewife > homemaker / stay-at-home mum
- husband / wife > spouse / significant other
- idiot / class clown > behaviourally challenged
- illegal alien / illegal > undocumented worker
- Indians > Native Americans
- job losses > restructuring
- junkie > person with a drug dependency
- juvenile delinquents > children at risk

DON'T SAY: DO SAY:

- ladies and gentlemen > everybody
- lost > geographically disorientated
- male nurse > nurse
- man in the street > average person
- man up > be brave
- manhole > maintenance hole
- mankind > humankind
- man-made > synthetic
- manpower > workforce
- men / women > people
- Merry Christmas > Happy Holidays
- midget / dwarf > little person
- minority group > numerically challenged group
- Miss / Mrs > Ms
- nut > person with a mental health condition
- Oriental > Asian
- plastic surgery > cosmetic surgery
- policeman > police officer
- poor > marginalised
- postman / mailman > postal worker / mail carrier
- prison cell > custody suite
- problem > opportunity / challenge
- promiscuous > sexually liberated
- prostitute > sex worker
- salesman > salesperson
- secretary > administrative assistant
- sex change > sex reassignment surgery (SRS)
- short > vertically challenged
- single > flying solo
- skinny / thin > (very) slim
- slum > economically deprived area
- spokesman > spokesperson
- sportsmanship > fairness
- steward / stewardess > flight attendant
- suffers from / victim of... > has... [condition]
- tax man > tax officer
- the disabled > disabled people
- the elderly / old people > senior citizens
- Third World > Developing Nations
- to lie > to misspeak / be economical with the truth
- to man sth > to operate / crew / run sth
- ugly > unconventional-looking
- unemployed > involuntarily leisured
- used (goods) > pre-owned / pre-loved
- waiter / waitress > server / waiting staff
- warehouse worker > warehouse operative
- white European > Caucasian
- woman priest > priest
- workman > worker
- wrong > differently logical