

Instead of X, Try Y

A Language-Hacking Cheat Sheet

Why?

- Words have power!
 - ...to evoke emotion (good or bad)
 - ...to challenge OR perpetuate stereotypes
- Empathy is a core value
- Better clarity and precision
- Level up your vocab & sound smarter 😊

I was reading a book which included the phrase “in these days of political correctness...” talking about no longer making jokes that denigrated people for their culture or for the color of their skin.

And I thought, “That’s not actually anything to do with political correctness. That’s just treating other people with respect.”

I started imagining a world in which we replaced the phrase “politically correct” wherever we could with “treating other people with respect” and it made me smile.

You should try it. It’s peculiarly enlightening.

I know what you’re thinking now. You’re thinking “*Oh my god, that’s treating other people with respect gone mad!*”

- Neil Gaiman

Search & replace FTV


Some common words have known bugs! 🐛

Suggested workaround:

If you would normally say X, maybe try...

lame

- tedious
- bad
- boring
- inadequate
- disappointing

- sad Christmas 
- inferior
- broken
- uninspired
- lackluster

retarded

- questionable
- asinine
- inane
- poorly thought-out
- poorly implemented
- backwards
- embarrassing
- misguided
- unfortunate
- foolish / naive
- a clown / bozo

bitch

- complain
- grumble
- kvetch
- yell at
- lean on
- put pressure on
- a real pain
- very difficult / annoying
- totally rockin'
- totally rad

crazy / insane

- bananas 🍌🍌🍌
- busy / chaotic / swamped
- ridiculous / outrageous
- nonsensical / confusing
- absurd
- Kafkaesque
- wild / wiggidy whack
- over-the-top / garish
- unbelievable
- counterintuitive / surprising
- incomprehensible / irrational
- drives me up a wall
- gets to me / gets my goat / sticks in my craw

derp / herp derp / duh

- d'oh!
- oops
- :facepalm:
- my bad
- sorry
- messing up
- dropping the ball
- flailing
- don't have their act together
- incompetent

guys

- folks
- y'all
- yinz
- everybody
- team
- gang
- crew
- squad
- colleagues
- people / peeps
- happies / devs
- fellow pirates / ninjas

pimp

- promote / vouch for
- give a shout-out to / give props to
- swanky
- snazzy
- trick out

OCD

- persnickety
- detail-oriented
- finicky
- meticulous
- painstaking
- particular

schizo

- mercurial
- dissonant
- unpredictable
- contradictory
- unexpected
- frenetic
- paradoxical

rape

- dominate
- crush
- trash
- destroy
- pwn
- decimate