


Hello everyone! The topic for today's class is "Politically Correct" Language

Living in a new culture, it can be confusing to know what is acceptable or unacceptable language. In the U.S. we use the term "politically correct" (*also know as PC*) to describe language that is used to **avoid offending another person or group**.

Activities:

1. Large group: review what is "politically correct"
2. Small groups: PC Vocabulary
3. Large group: wrap up discussions



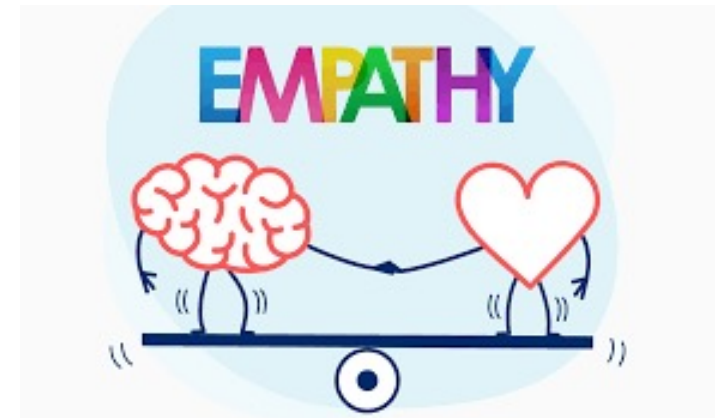


POLITICAL CORRECTNESS
WORDS HAVE POWER

What is “Politically Correct” language?

Avoiding words and actions that might offend someone or cause disadvantage.

- Using polite words and phrases.
- Used to replace potentially derogatory or insulting language.
- Allows for negative or controversial conversation without causing offence.
- The aim is to promote empathy, fairness and justice.



Politically Correct Language

Being extremely careful not to offend or upset any group of people in society based on:

Age
Appearance
Gender
Health
Race
Relationship status
Religion
Social status
Work



To be politically correct you need to avoid using:

- **Male-only Terms, Pronouns or Titles:**

Mail carriers do not work on Sundays. NOT: Mailmen do not work on Sundays.

- **Stereotypes of Women**

She is an astronaut. NOT: She is a female Astronaut.

- **Victimization**

He is living with lung cancer. NOT: He is a lung cancer victim.

- **Assumptions About the Sexual Orientation of Significant Others**

Does your partner like to travel? NOT: Does your husband/wife like to travel?

- **Generalizations of ethnicity and race:**

Be specific – He Is Japanese. NOT: He is Asian.

PC terminology can change over time!

~~ESL – English as a Second Language~~

ELL – English Language Learners

TEFL – Teaching English as a Foreign Language

TESOL – Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages



PC terminology can change over time!

~~Crippled~~
~~The Handicapped~~
~~The Disabled~~
Person with a disability

~~Mr. Mrs. Miss~~
Mr. Mrs. Ms.
Mx.

Ms. Mr.
 Mrs. Mx.



~~Redman (redskin)~~
~~Indian~~
~~American Indian~~
~~Native American~~
Indigenous American
Indigenous peoples of America



What if I unintentionally make a mistake?

If someone corrects you:

- Consider it a learning opportunity!

You might say:

"Thanks, I'll be sure to use that term going forward."

"I had no idea, thank you for telling me."

"I'm sorry, I did not know that. Thanks for educating me."

- Respect their preferences and don't get defensive.

mistake
+
correction
=
learning

What if I'm not sure what to say?

It is always ok to ask:

“What do you like to be called?”

“What is it that you would like me to know about you?”

“Do you have any eating or drinking preferences?”



Breakout Room Exercise –go to eslann.com

Each word below is (possibly) politically incorrect

Can you think of a substitute word that would be more politically correct?

For example: *Mailman* – *Mail Carrier* or *Mail Person*

Businessman

Fat

Illegal alien

Mankind

Oriental

Policeman

Secretary

Dead (person)

Old people

Waiter/Waitress

Janitor

Drug addict

Stewardess

Broken home

The homeless

ESL



Questions for discussion:

1. What does being PC mean to you?
2. Have you had any experience with political correctness?
3. Do you have similar issues with your native language?