

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 1532 Hey, These Are Just Words – No Big Deal, Right? (Part 1)

They are called idioms, expressions that convey a certain meaning. While they may initially be acceptable and even celebrated by some, it's quite possible idioms will eventually wear out their welcome and somebody will sound the alarm that they need to go. I'm Jerry Roberts and I've got some that are now under fire. I'll share them, next on The Extra Point.

Idioms are commonly used in everyday conversations, literature, and various forms of communication to add color, depth, and cultural context to the language. We create idioms when we don't want to use normal and accepted language to describe something.

Idioms have their place. Until they don't. Some folks think the following should be retired. Here we go.

**To be honest.** Supposedly, the intent here is to say "I'm getting straight to the point." However, in the mind of the person you are speaking with, another possibility pops up. "Oh, you're going to be honest now, which means you normally are dishonest. Got it."

**My bad.** Obviously, this says "My mistake, and I'm sorry." It may read that way, but think about it...when you hear someone say this, doesn't it come out like, "My bad, let's move on"? We're not getting a sincere apology here, or someone accepting responsibility.

"My bad" is regret, moving at the speed limit. I admit to it without admitting to it.

**Gamechanger.** The term "gamechanger" is supposed to describe a massive positive shift brought about by an event or an idea. Here's a few that qualify: Atomic energy. Gamechanger. Personal computing. Gamechanger. Cell phones, air travel, telemedicine, antibiotics, the Internet. Now artificial intelligence. All were and continue to be gamechangers.

Of course, all of those things step aside for the app that allows you to find lost socks. Uhh,

gamechanger? How about a self-stirring coffee mug? Like most words and phrases that have the intent to convey a strong sentiment, we overuse them, then abuse them for marketing purposes.

**Think outside the box.** What's the problem here? It sends the message that you think they're not really thinking at the depth that you think they should be thinking at. What do you think?

**Wear multiple hats.** This one says that multi-tasking is welcome here. At some point, saying that you wore multiple hats was a badge of honor, and to signify how valuable you are to the operation.

In the workplace environment following COVID, asking employees to wear multiple hats is met with the immediate thought of "Okay, how about multiple paychecks?"

One more for today.

**On the same page.** Executives like to use this one a lot. "In order for this company/agency/unit/organization/squadron/battalion/command/whatever to be successful, we all need to get on the same page!" I always wanted to say, "Uhh, what page are you on?"...or, "Since you're the one flipping through the book, aren't you responsible for us being on different pages?"

It likely would have resulted in a spectacularly memorable termination. Watch out for idioms. More on this tomorrow.

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3FM, the Ray Gibson Show, and First Hawaiian Bank, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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