

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1533 Hey, These Are Just Words – No Big Deal, Right? (Part 2)

Yesterday, we talked about idioms, terms that convey a certain meaning. At first, people may like them and even think they're cool. After prolonged use, those feelings may change and the word from the workplace jungle is that they have to go. I'm Jerry Roberts and I've got six more today that many people want to say "adios" to. They are coming next on The Extra Point.

You can grab the first six idioms we dealt with yesterday, by downloading transcript #1532 at guamtraining.com.

Those are:

- To be honest
- My bad
- Gamechanger
- Think outside the box
- Wear multiple hats
- On the same page

Now, on to today's list.

Take the bull by the horns. It is meant to say we should tackle a difficult or challenging task directly, and with strong determination.

It also may be met with the thought, "Hey, I've been gored by the bull repeatedly. Here's the matador's hat and cape — how about you giving it a shot?"

It also has the potential of sending the message that you may not think I'm proactive, that I'm sort of passively going about my business.

It's not rocket science. I use this one, you may use it, too. In a general sense and in a group setting, this is fine. Where you could get into trouble is when it's on a person-to-person basis, and it could be during a feedback session.

Maybe I'm just not getting something and you're frustrated, and you say, "C'mon Jerry, this ain't rocket science." Some people would

think you'd be questioning Jerry's intelligence. Was that your intent? Hopefully not. Maybe the better lead-in is, "I'm sure you've got this. Let's start from the beginning." Jerry explains his understanding and you know if he's right or there's a gap somewhere.

Stop drinking the Kool-Aid. You see this a lot in social media. It's a clear statement that you feel the other person is being fooled, and that they are incapable of seeing that.

It says their judgment isn't good, they're giving blind loyalty or unquestioning acceptance of an idea or viewpoint that the other person feels is unwarranted.

Need-to-know basis. This is the world of secrets and security clearances, and in that sense there's a place for it. Sensitive data shouldn't be in wide circulation. That being said, if stated in a general business and even government setting and in absence of valid reasons, it tells people that you're not in the exclusive club, and we don't think you have a need to know like we do."

Work smarter, not harder. "Wait, are you saying that I don't work smart? I try so hard."

It's just business, nothing personal. No matter what dirty trick is pulled and no matter how hurtful the results are, we can wash all accountability away with this phrase.

"Hey man, no offense, Maybe we went a little overboard and stretched the truth. Okay, we straight-out lied and it really messed you up. But you gotta know, we like you...it's not personal, it's only business."

Well, to the people doing the deed, it likely is not personal, but only because they aren't on the receiving end. If they were and if their business was damaged or taken down, do you think they'd still feel it wasn't personal? (Con't.)

If somebody messes you over and you have to lay people off, lives are impacted. That's nothing but personal.

To me, those words are insulting. I hope you're insulted by them, too.

Over the past two days, we've presented some common phrases used in the workplace. You can grab transcripts #1532 and 1533 at guamtraining.com.

Words matter, and sometimes carry a meaning that we don't intend to convey. Be careful out there.

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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