

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1584 Mindset Matters — Redefining Common Words

In the 1970s and 1980s, a number of positive thinking, self-help gurus popped up, telling us that the only thing holding us back from what we wanted in life was...us and our negative mindset. All we had to do was change that and we'd be on our way. I'm Jerry Roberts, and the funny thing is, there's an element of truth to that. Today, we're going to focus on common words heard in the workplace, which seem negative, but could carry other meanings if we just thought about them differently. That's coming next on The Extra Point.

You've fallen behind in your work, and the boss call you into the office and tells you that you need to do more, or you're likely to fail.

Because you incessantly read those self-help, mindset-expanding books, you get a big smile across your face, sit up straight in your chair, puff out your chest, and say, "Why, thank you boss. I appreciate you recognizing me for that."

The boss, startled, wonders how you seem so happy about being told your work is going down the tubes. "Uhh, maybe I didn't make myself clear. Fail, I said, I think your work is going to be a big fail."

You respond, "No problem. Boss, you know what the letters in the word fail spell out, don't you?" To which the boss grunts, "No!"

To which you gleefully reply, "F.A.I.L., first attempt in learning."

To which the boss replies, "Well, you've been doing a lot of that."

To which you reply, "Well, then I guess it would be frequent attempts in learning."

To which the boss says, "You know what terminate stands for? You reply that you don't, and the boss says, T.E.R.M.I.N.A.T.E. Transition Employees Respectfully, Maximize Insights, Nurture Alignment, Transform into

opportunities Elsewhere! To which you gulp and get back to work.

Still, the effort ought to draw a smile, even if not praise in this case. We're looking for a bit of a mindset change here, right?

If the worker doesn't see F.A.I.L. as the first attempt to learn, and instead figures it's the end of the line for the project and maybe his/her employment, this takes us into a very different way of looking at things.

The positive mindset, though it irks some people who see it as a phony way of viewing reality, does one thing. It keeps people in the game longer. It gives the manager another shot at helping them turn things around, and that's worth something.

There are other words which carry hidden meanings. Let's try the following:

E.N.D. Effort Never Dies. Or, Explore New Directions. How about Embracing New Dreams?

There's the N.O. Is it simply the negative end of a conversation? Nope. In reality, N.O. is New Opportunities, Navigate Onward, or Necessary Obstacles.

U.R.G.E.N.T. is more than do it now. It's also Unify Resources, Gain Energy, Navigate Transitions.

So, I began to dig a little on this concept, and came up with one for micromanagement. Somebody racked their brain to flip what is generally considered to be a big negative, into a positive with their acronym.

M.I.C.R.O.M.A.N.A.G.E.M.E.N.T. Ready? Meaningful Involvement, Collaboration, Regular Oversight Maintains Accountability, Nurtures Alignment, Guides Excellence, Motivates Engagement, Nurtures Trust.

(Con't.)

Here's something to do at work today, to add a little fun. Tell your coworkers about this little exercise and see what they and you can come up with, taking familiar words and making acronyms for them. See how creative you can be.

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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