**Avoiding Sexist and Offensive Language**

The rights of women have changed dramatically over the past few decades. Slowly, written English has started to reflect those changes. No longer is it considered appropriate to refer to a "female engineer" or a "male nurse." It is also unacceptable to refer generically to a doctor as "him," a teacher as "her," or a politician as "him." Such usage is considered to be **sexist language**. You can use acceptable **non-sexist language** by using passive voice, using plural formats, eliminating pronouns, switching to direct address, and choosing non-sexist terms whenever possible. An option of last resort is to use "his or her," "his/her," "her or his," or "her/his" or even to alternate "his" and "her" throughout a text, though this path is stylistically awkward and usually unnecessary given the other options available to you.

**Using Plural Format**

By using plural nouns instead of singular nouns, you can switch from sex-specific singular pronouns to **gender-neutral pronouns**.

* **Example of sexist language using singular pronoun:** A *family member* who misses a holiday dinner will find *he* has missed more than the food.
* **Example of non-sexist language using plural pronoun:** *Family members* who miss holiday dinners will find *they* have missed more than the food.

**Revising to Eliminate Pronouns**

Since English includes many singular **gender-specific pronouns**, another way to eliminate sexist language is to eliminate the use of pronouns.

* **Example of sexist language using singular pronoun:** A *family member* who misses a holiday dinner will find *he* has missed more than the food.
* **Example of non-sexist language due to elimination of pronoun:** A *family member* who misses a holiday dinner misses more than the food.

**Using Direct Address**

Sometimes you can simply switch from third-person singular to second-person singular or plural and in the process make your tone more engaging.

* **Example of sexist language using third-person pronoun:** A student who forgets to bring his book to class will be assessed a ten-point penalty for his daily work.
* **Example of non-sexist language using second-person pronoun:** If you forget to bring your book to class, you will be assessed a ten-point penalty for your daily work.

**Choosing Non-sexist Terms**

One of the best methods of solving the sexist language problem is to choose non-sexist terms. With a little practice, you can learn to naturally use the currently preferred non-sexist language rather than terms that are no longer acceptable. Study the following table for some examples.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Formerly Acceptable** | **Currently Acceptable** |
| businessman, businesswoman | businessperson, business executive |
| chairman, chairwoman | chairperson, chair, head, leader |
| congressman, congresswoman | congressperson, legislator, member of Congress |
| fireman | Firefighter |
| mailman | mail carrier, mail delivery person, letter carrier, postal worker |
| man, mankind | humankind, humans, people, *Homo sapiens*, humanity, the human race |
| policeman, policewoman | police officer, officer of the law, trooper |
| salesman | sales associate, salesperson, seller, vendor |

**Avoiding Heterosexism**

It should be obvious that it is deeply offensive to use slurs when referring to gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender people. Such slurs are likely to not only offend the targeted groups, but the vast majority of potential readers. However, even when offense is not intended, a writer might unintentionally or thoughtlessly employ heterosexist language. Consider the following sentence: "Every woman yearns for a man who will sweep her off her feet and steal her heart." The writer of such a sentence is over-generalizing, suggesting that all women are heterosexual. In doing so, this language reflects a heterosexist bias, even though it isn't likely intended to offend. At the following link, Professor Joseph DeVito of Hunter College provides a thoughtful lesson on [how to avoid heterosexist language.](http://tcbdevito.blogspot.com/2011/05/communication-strategies-how-not-to.html)

**Avoiding Other Offensive Language**

Whether language is offensive depends entirely on the audience. If the audience or part of the audience views the wording as offensive, then the wording is offensive. To avoid inadvertent offensive text, adhere to the following general guidelines:

* Use currently accepted terminology when referencing groups of people. If you are writing about a group of people and you are unsure of the proper terminology, research the most recent usage patterns before you write.
* Be sensitive when referencing people with disabilities by using a "**people first**" approach. For example, say "a person who uses a wheelchair" instead of "a wheelchair-bound person."
* Do not use profanity or vulgar words of any kind. When in doubt, don't use the term, or if you must use it as part of a quotation, make clear that you're quoting it.
* Avoid **stereotyping** (ascribing positive or negative attributes to people based on groups to which they belong).

### [black](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/black_2%22%20%5Cl%20%22black_2__5%22%20%5Co%20%22black)

* noun
* offensive a [black](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/black_1) [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person). This [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) is sometimes [considered](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/considered) [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1), so you should be very [careful](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/careful) about [using](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/use_1) it.

### [colored](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/colored%22%20%5Cl%20%22colored__1%22%20%5Co%20%22colored)

* the American [spelling](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/spelling) of [coloured](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/coloured_1)

### [coloured](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/coloured_2%22%20%5Cl%20%22coloured_2__1%22%20%5Co%20%22coloured)

* noun
* offensive a [black](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/black_1) [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person)

### [coolie](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/coolie%22%20%5Cl%20%22coolie__1%22%20%5Co%20%22coolie)

* noun
* offensive an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) [used](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/used) in the [past](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/past_1) for a [worker](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/worker) with no [special](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/special_1) [skills](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/skill) in [China](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/china), India, and other [parts](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/part_1) of Asia

### [dago](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/dago%22%20%5Cl%20%22dago__1%22%20%5Co%20%22dago)

* noun
* offensive an [extremely](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/extremely) [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for a [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person) from Italy, Spain, Portugal, or [South](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/south_1) America

### [Eskimo](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/eskimo%22%20%5Cl%20%22eskimo__1%22%20%5Co%20%22Eskimo)

* noun
* old-fashioned a member of the Inuit people. This word is now sometimes considered offensive.

### [feringhee](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/feringhee%22%20%5Cl%20%22feringhee__1%22%20%5Co%20%22feringhee)

* noun
* Indian English someone from a foreign country, especially a white person. This word is sometimes used as an insult.

### [frog](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/frog%22%20%5Cl%20%22frog__3%22%20%5Co%20%22frog)

* noun
* offensive an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for a French [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person)

### [gook](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/gook%22%20%5Cl%20%22gook__2%22%20%5Co%20%22gook)

* noun
* Americanoffensive a very [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for someone from Asia

### [goy](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/goy%22%20%5Cl%20%22goy__1%22%20%5Co%20%22goy)

* noun
* offensive someone who is not Jewish

### [gringo](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/gringo%22%20%5Cl%20%22gringo__1%22%20%5Co%20%22gringo)

* noun
* an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) [used](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/used) by some [people](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/people_1) from [South](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/south_1) America for someone from another [country](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/country) who [speaks](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/speak_1) English, [especially](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/especially) someone from the US

### [gypsy](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/gypsy%22%20%5Cl%20%22gypsy__1%22%20%5Co%20%22gypsy)

* noun
* offensive a Romany

### [half-breed](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/half-breed%22%20%5Cl%20%22half-breed__1%22%20%5Co%20%22half-breed)

* noun
* offensive an offensive word for a person who has parents of two different races, especially someone with one white parent and one Native American or black parent. A more polite expression is person of mixed race.

### [half-caste](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/half-caste%22%20%5Cl%20%22half-caste__1%22%20%5Co%20%22half-caste)

* noun
* offensive an offensive word for someone who has one white parent and one black parent. A more polite expression is person of mixed race.

### [honky](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/honky%22%20%5Cl%20%22honky__1%22%20%5Co%20%22honky)

* noun
* mainly Americanoffensive an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for a [white](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/white_1) [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person)

### [Indian](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/indian_1%22%20%5Cl%20%22indian_1__2%22%20%5Co%20%22Indian)

* noun
* old-fashioned a [Native](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/native_1) American

### [Jerry](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/jerry%22%20%5Cl%20%22jerry__1%22%20%5Co%20%22Jerry)

* noun
* offensiveinformal an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for a German

### [jock](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/jock%22%20%5Cl%20%22jock__2%22%20%5Co%20%22jock)

* noun
* Britishoffensive an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for someone from Scotland

### [kaffir](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/kaffir%22%20%5Cl%20%22kaffir__1%22%20%5Co%20%22kaffir)

* noun
* South Africanoffensive a [black](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/black_1) [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person)

### [kafir](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/kafir%22%20%5Cl%20%22kafir__1%22%20%5Co%20%22kafir)

* noun
* offensive a [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) [meaning](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/meaning_1) ‘non-believer’, [used](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/used) by some Muslims to describe someone who is not a Muslim

### [Kraut](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/kraut%22%20%5Cl%20%22kraut__1%22%20%5Co%20%22Kraut)

* noun
* offensive an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for a German

### [makwerekwere](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/makwerekwere%22%20%5Cl%20%22makwerekwere__1%22%20%5Co%20%22makwerekwere)

* noun
* South Africanoffensive a [term](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/term_1) [used](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/used) in [South](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/south_1) Africa for [foreigners](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/foreigner) from the rest of Africa

### [mick](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/mick%22%20%5Cl%20%22mick__1%22%20%5Co%20%22mick)

* noun
* Britishoffensive an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for an Irish [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person)

### [mulatto](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/mulatto%22%20%5Cl%20%22mulatto__1%22%20%5Co%20%22mulatto)

* noun
* offensive an [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for someone who has one [black](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/black_1) [parent](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/parent) and one [white](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/white_1) [parent](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/parent)

### [native](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/native_2%22%20%5Cl%20%22native_2__5%22%20%5Co%20%22native)

* noun
* offensive an [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for someone [belonging](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/belong) to a [group](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/group_1) who [lived](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/live_1) in a [place](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/place_1) before Europeans [arrived](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/arrive) there

### [negress](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/negress%22%20%5Cl%20%22negress__1%22%20%5Co%20%22negress)

* noun
* offensive an [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for a [black](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/black_1) [woman](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/woman)

### [negro](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/negro%22%20%5Cl%20%22negro__1%22%20%5Co%20%22negro)

* noun
* offensive a [black](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/black_1) [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person). This [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) is now [considered](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/considered) [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) but until the [second](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/second_1) [half](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/half) of the 20th [century](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/century) it was an [accepted](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/accepted) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1), [used](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/used) by [black](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/black_1) [people](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/people_1) as well as [white](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/white_1).

### [nigger](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/nigger%22%20%5Cl%20%22nigger__1%22%20%5Co%20%22nigger)

* noun
* offensive an [extremely](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/extremely) [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for a [black](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/black_1) [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person)

### [non-white](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/non-white%22%20%5Cl%20%22non-white__1%22%20%5Co%20%22non-white)

* adjective
* offensive [used](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/used) for [describing](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/describe) [people](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/people_1) who are not [considered](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/considered) to be [members](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/member) of the [race](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/race_1) of [people](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/people_1) who have [pale](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/pale_1) [skins](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/skin_1). This [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) is [usually](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/usually) [considered](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/considered) [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) because it [suggests](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/suggest) that the [white](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/white_1) [section](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/section_1) of the [population](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/population) of the [world](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/world) is more [important](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/important) than any other.

### [oriental](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/oriental_2%22%20%5Cl%20%22oriental_2__1%22%20%5Co%20%22oriental)

* noun
* old-fashioned someone from eastern Asia, especially China or Japan. This word is now considered offensive.

### [Paddy](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/paddy_2%22%20%5Cl%20%22paddy_2__1%22%20%5Co%20%22Paddy)

* noun
* offensive an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for an Irish [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person)

### [pakeha](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/pakeha%22%20%5Cl%20%22pakeha__1%22%20%5Co%20%22pakeha)

* noun
* New Zealand a [white](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/white_1) [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person) in [New](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/new) Zealand, [especially](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/especially) someone whose [family](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/family_1) [originally](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/originally) came from Europe

### [Paki](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/paki%22%20%5Cl%20%22paki__1%22%20%5Co%20%22Paki)

* noun
* Britishoffensive an [extremely](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/extremely) [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for an Asian [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person)

### [pickaninny](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/pickaninny%22%20%5Cl%20%22pickaninny__1%22%20%5Co%20%22pickaninny)

* noun
* offensive a black child. This word is sometimes used by older white people but most people consider it offensive.

### [pom](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/pom%22%20%5Cl%20%22pom__1%22%20%5Co%20%22pom)

* noun
* Australianinformal a [pommy](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/pommy)

### [pommy](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/pommy%22%20%5Cl%20%22pommy__1%22%20%5Co%20%22pommy)

* noun
* Australianinformal a [slightly](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/slightly) [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for someone from the UK, [especially](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/especially) someone from England

### [Pygmy](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/pygmy_1%22%20%5Cl%20%22pygmy_1__1%22%20%5Co%20%22Pygmy)

* noun
* a [member](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/member) of a [people](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/people_1) who are of less than [average](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/average_1) [height](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/height). Most [Pygmies](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/pygmy_3) [live](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/live_1) in [Central](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/central) Africa or [Southeast](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/south-east_1) Asia. This [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) is now sometimes [considered](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/considered) [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1).

### [Red Indian](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/red-indian%22%20%5Cl%20%22red-indian__1%22%20%5Co%20%22Red%20Indian)

* noun
* old-fashioned a [Native](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/native_1) American. This [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) is now [considered](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/considered) to be [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1).

### [redskin](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/redskin%22%20%5Cl%20%22redskin__1%22%20%5Co%20%22redskin)

* noun
* offensive a [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) [used](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/used) in the [past](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/past_1) to [refer](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/refer) to a [Native](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/native_1) American, now [regarded](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/regard_1) as very [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1)

### [savage](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/savage_1%22%20%5Cl%20%22savage_1__12%22%20%5Co%20%22savage)

* adjective
* old-fashioned an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) way of [describing](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/describe) someone or something from a [culture](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/culture_1) that is not [considered](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/considered) to be [advanced](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/advanced). This is now [considered](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/considered) [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1).

### [savage](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/savage_3%22%20%5Cl%20%22savage_3__2%22%20%5Co%20%22savage)

* noun
* old-fashioned an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for someone from a [culture](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/culture_1) that is not [considered](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/considered) to be [advanced](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/advanced). This is now [considered](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/considered) [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1).

### [spade](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/spade%22%20%5Cl%20%22spade__7%22%20%5Co%20%22spade)

* noun
* offensive a very [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for a [black](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/black_1) [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person)

### [squaw](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/squaw%22%20%5Cl%20%22squaw__1%22%20%5Co%20%22squaw)

* noun
* offensive an old word for a Native American woman. This is now considered offensive.

### [Taffy](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/taffy%22%20%5Cl%20%22taffy__1%22%20%5Co%20%22Taffy)

* noun
* offensive an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for someone from Wales

### [Uncle Tom](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/uncle-tom%22%20%5Cl%20%22uncle-tom__1%22%20%5Co%20%22Uncle%20Tom)

* noun
* an insulting word for a black person who the speaker thinks shows too much respect for white people. This word is used especially by other black people.

### [WASP](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/wasp_2%22%20%5Cl%20%22wasp_2__1%22%20%5Co%20%22WASP)

* noun
* mainly American [White](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/white_1) Anglo-Saxon Protestant: a [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for [people](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/people_1) who are [white](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/white_1) and have [money](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/money), [power](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/power_1), and [opportunities](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/opportunity) that other [people](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/people_1) do not have

### [wetback](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/wetback%22%20%5Cl%20%22wetback__1%22%20%5Co%20%22wetback)

* noun
* Americanoffensive an [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for someone from Mexico who [goes](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/go_1) to [live](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/live_1) in the US

### [whitey](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/whitey%22%20%5Cl%20%22whitey__1%22%20%5Co%20%22whitey)

* noun
* Americanoffensive an [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for a [white](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/white_1) [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person)

### [wog](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/wog%22%20%5Cl%20%22wog__1%22%20%5Co%20%22wog)

* noun
* offensiveBritish an [extremely](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/extremely) [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for a [black](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/black_1) [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person)

### [wog](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/wog%22%20%5Cl%20%22wog__2%22%20%5Co%20%22wog)

* noun
* offensiveAustralian an [extremely](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/extremely) [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for a [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person) from a Mediterranean [country](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/country)

### [wop](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/wop%22%20%5Cl%20%22wop__1%22%20%5Co%20%22wop)

* noun
* offensive an [extremely](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/extremely) [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for an Italian [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person)

### [Yank](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/yank_1%22%20%5Cl%20%22yank_1__1%22%20%5Co%20%22Yank)

* noun
* impolite an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for someone from the US

### [Yankee](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/yankee%22%20%5Cl%20%22yankee__1%22%20%5Co%20%22Yankee)

* noun
* someone from the US This [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) is often [used](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/used) as an [insulting](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/insulting) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for [referring](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/refer) to an American by [people](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/people_1) who are not from the US

### [yid](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/yid%22%20%5Cl%20%22yid__1%22%20%5Co%20%22yid)

* noun
* offensive an [extremely](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/extremely) [offensive](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/offensive_1) [word](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/word_1) for a Jewish [person](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person)