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| **A Way with Words** | |
| **Words to Watch** | **Acceptable Alternative** |
| * Abnormal, subnormal *(negative terms that imply failure to reach perfection)* | * Specify the disability |
| * Afflicted with *(most people with disabilities don't see themselves as afflicted)* | * Say "the person has...(the disability)" |
| * Birth defect, also congenital defect, deformity | * Say "the person with a disability since birth", "person with congenital disability" |
| * Blind (the), visually impaired (the) | * Say "person who is blind", "person with vision impairment" |
| * Confined to a wheelchair, wheelchair-bound *(a wheelchair provides mobility not restriction)* | * Say "uses a wheelchair" or is a "wheelchair user" |
| * Cripple, crippled (these terms convey a negative image of a twisted, ugly body. Avoid) | * Say "has a physical or mobility disability" |
| * Deaf (the) | * Only appropriate when referring to the Deaf community; say "person who is deaf" |
| * Deaf and dumb (the inability to hear and speak does not imply  intellectual disability. Avoid) | * Say "hearing impaired" ; lack of speech usually results an from impaired hearing |
| * Defective, deformed  (degrading terms. Avoid) | * Specify the disability |
| * Disabled (the) | * Say "people with a disability"; "the disability community" |
| * Epileptic | * Say "person with epilepsy" |
| * Fit, attack, spell | * Say "seizure" |
| * Handicapped (the) | * Say "person with a disability" unless referring to an environmental or attitudinal barrier, in such cases "person who is handicapped by a disability" is appropriate. |
| * Insane (also lunatic, maniac, mental patient, mentally diseased, neurotic psycho, psychotic, schizophrenic, unsound mind and others are derogatory terms. Avoid) | * Say "person with a psychiatric disability" or a specific condition . |
| * Invalid (the literal sense of the word is "not valid". Avoid) | * Say "person with a disability" |
| * Mentally retarded (also defective, feeble minded, imbecile,  moron and retarded are offensive and inaccurate terms. Avoid) | * Say "person with an intellectual disability" |
| * Mongol (outdated and derogatory) | * Say "has Down Syndrome". |
| * Patient (only use in context of doctor/patient relationship or in hospital) | * Say "person with a disability". |
| * Physically/intellectually/vertically challenged,  differently abled, ( ridiculous euphemisms for disability. Avoid) | * Say "person with a disability" |
| * Spastic (usually refers to a person with cerebral palsy or who has uncontrollable spasms. Derogatory, often term of abuse, should never be used as a noun) | * Say "person with a disability". |
| * Suffers from, sufferer, stricken with (Not all people with disabilities actually suffer. These terms should not be used indiscriminately.) | * Say "person with a disability". |