

Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Dear David,

Great to have you back as we end the month on a high-note.

In this issue's **Self-Development** column we explore the importance of having a good vocabulary.

In the **Elephant in the Room** column I take a high-level look at the significance of Leftism and explain why Donald Trump is not their real target.

The **From Ara's Journal** column explores themes of building and destroying.

And of course, the **World of Words** column does not disappoint.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

Your Vocabulary

[William F. Buckley](#) was a great American with a fabulous mind. His vocabulary was splendid. On one occasion he used the word *irenic*. An annoyed critic asked him to define the word. Buckley said, "It means peaceful." "Why didn't you just use the word *peaceful* instead?" demanded his critic. Buckley deadpanned, "I preferred the additional syllable."

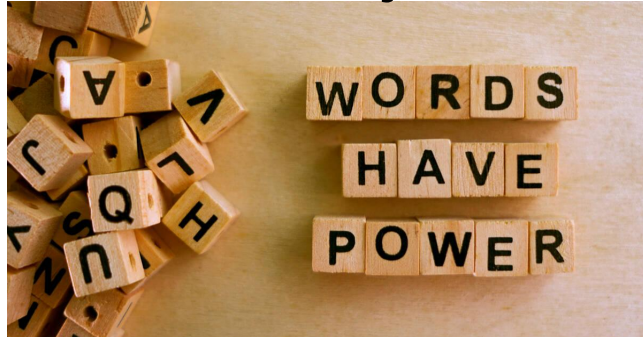
Certainly clever and not without some good humor. But also instructive.

The wider our vocabulary, the greater the precision of our expressions. Words have meaning. And the English tongue, with its vast collection of 171,476 specific words in common use, gives us plenty of word choices to employ.

The average English speaker only uses somewhere between 20,000 and 30,000 words (or about 12% to 17% of that common use total). And yet, the English language may contain the most massive collection of total words of any of the 6,909 distinct languages found on earth.

While Spanish employs around 100,000 words, and German boasts about 135,000 words, Russian has 200,000 and Italian has over 270,000. French has over 350,000 total words. But don't be too impressed. Both Japanese and Korean each have over 500,000 words. Yet when one accounts for a comprehensive and complete reckoning of the English language, including its collection of jargon, slang, and archaic words, the number exceeds 1 million words. That's a lot of words to choose from!

My belief is that a truly civilized and educated people should build their vocabulary to the best of their ability. Being able to understand and use elegant words enables one to be precise with their expressions, but also to think and communicate in elevated ways. When you know words like *Gelatinous*, *Variegated*, *Kerfuffle*, and *Impudence*, or when you can correctly employ words such as *Permutation*, *Sublimate*, *Smarmy*, or *Accoutrements*, one has acquired an ability that is to be treasured - the ability to express oneself with exactness. That is one reason why each issue of *Uncommon Sense* ends with a column I call ***The World of Words***.



Continue to build your vocabulary. Not only know and understand the rich vocabulary that is possible, but employ such words in your speaking and writing. People will be of the opinion that you are a force to be reckoned with, that you are informed and astute, and their beliefs may well open doors for you that might not have been opened in any other way.

The Elephant in the Room

The Radicalization of the Left

When Donald Trump won the 2016 election, a friend of mine, SS, posted an article written by a radicalized Leftist fellow who suggested that in his opinion, all people who voted for Donald Trump [deserved to die](#). This is probably the first time a Leftist actually vied for the death penalty, and it reveals much about the mindset of this Leftist. He would not want to put a rapist to death. He would not want a child molester to be put to death. He would not want someone who tortured others to be put to death. He would not even want to put a murderer to death. But persons who exercised their right to cast a vote for the candidate they wished, . . . that was worthy of death if they voted for the Republican nominee.

Thinking that viewpoint must have been an aberration, I asked SS if she posted that article because she wished to point out how radical and insane the author was. She surprised me by stating that she shared his view. When I informed her that I, a friend of hers, had voted for Mr. Trump, she reaffirmed her view that I, and about half the country, was worthy of death. And she meant it.

It is an amazing thing that is happening in America today. Seemingly normal people (meaning, they hold jobs, they have driver's licenses, they walk among us, and they are not in a straight-jacket sitting in a rubber room) have somehow

rewired their brains in such a way that it is now seen as a normal, or worse, as a badge of honor, to openly confront Trump supporters [in restaurants](#), to wantonly shout down invited guest [speakers at colleges](#) and universities, to [physically assault](#) Conservatives, to mock and belittle, and to behave like deranged militants.



How did this happen? What brought this about? It can't possibly be just about Donald Trump. Donald Trump was not an enemy of half of the country on June 15th, 2015. Only until he announced his run for the presidency on June 16th, 2015, did the Left begin to go a little haywire. And the levels of pathology among the Left in the United States have continued to devolve with the passing of time. Worse, there are other people who, while not deeply Leftist in their ideology, have convinced themselves that it is Conservatives, not Leftists, who are running around terrorizing everyone. Such people have it exactly backwards, but do not realize it.

Thus, I see President Donald Trump as more of a symbol, not as the literal target of Leftist hatred. Trump, of course, exacerbates matters by not being afraid of the Left, of openly mocking them, of being confrontational, etc. (Mind you, I'm not chiding the President for doing this; I am merely pointing out the effect it has.) But the real target of the Left is America itself, and the Conservative values on which America was built. The Left hates order, normalcy, decency, goodness, God, liberty, law, capitalism, success, and America. To the degree that Donald Trump stands for such ideals, the Left will spend every waking hour trying to destroy him (which explains CNN.) Remove Trump and replace him with Pence, or Rubio, or Cruz, or any conservative who has the backbone to stand up for America and its values, and the reaction will be precisely the same: rage, hatred, villainy, persecution, vitriol, and general insanity.

For the Left, Trump is not the real target. America is.

* * * * *

And that, my friends, is the latest elephant in the room.

Check out [my website](#) for tools to help you with your career, your presentations, and other matters.

Norwood Delivers!

A client of mine in Los Angeles recently contracted with me to design a comprehensive, multi-day training workshop for all of their employees. The program theme focused on sales and service. It was a daunting undertaking and had to be completed quickly. So I pulled out all the stops and designed, from scratch, a brand-new, totally original program that was robust and engaging.

Little did I realize this client would then book me to deliver the pilot program of this training along with one of their C-Level executives. The timing was interesting because on the days that I was to co-facilitate the program, I had lost my voice. But the show must go on, so I put myself out there and delivered, even though my voice was in tatters. (Truth be told, on the final day, I did get my voice back.)



The evaluations were solid, as the participants who went through the training rated the content and the presentation both at 4.6 on a 5-point scale. Sample comments from the participants included:

- *I liked how each pillar of the program was explained and how they aligned with our Core Values.*
- *I loved the energy the instructors brought! The jokes and laughs kept the class entertaining! I really liked how we were asked to participate, as it really made the class fun.*
- *I liked the variety (reading, videos, discussion, role-playing, exercises, etc.)*
- *I really enjoyed the psychological approach to this training. I firmly believe this will work as long as we incorporate the content into our work and daily lives.*

The client was so pleased, they have contacted me again this week to book me a second time to deliver the program to a new audience.

If your organization needs a jump-start with your people-development, I can be reached at this email address: ara@aranorwood.com.

It is so taxing and time consuming to build. Whether we are building a high-rise condo, or a bridge, or a company culture, or a person's character, it takes significant time to raise up something worthwhile. Yet to tear down something (again, a building, a bridge, a culture, or a person's confidence) takes very little time. Chaos comes about very quickly. Order is markedly slower. Creating is a long process; destroying takes much less time.



What I take from this is that it's usually the hard things, the difficult things, that produce lasting value. Cutting corners, being lazy, being mindless, being selfish, . . . all such tendencies usually lead to things of no value.

Granted, some things need to be destroyed: cancer cells; bad and destructive ideas; rotten food; computer viruses; terrorists; mass murderers or others guilty of heinous, unspeakable crimes. I stand up and confront evil on a regular basis and intend to continue to do so. Still, I remain a reluctant warrior. I prefer peace and tranquility. I prefer repose and uplifting music. Yet in this somewhat barbaric world of ours, I recognize the need, as occasion demands, to confront wickedness and crush lawlessness. Would that things were more idyllic. But idyllic instances only come around on a now-and-then basis.

The World of Words

Discomfit(ed)

Building Your Power of Expression

Discomfit(ed), v.

Pronunciation: 'diskəmfit (əd)



Meaning: To be discomfited is to be rendered embarrassed or to be made to feel uneasy or uncomfortable.

Usage:

- *He was not noticeably discomfited by her tone.*
- *And yet, he felt a strange shiver of discomfit at the odd reaction of the judge.*
- *They can continue debating the issue, but they do not discomfit me in the least.*

New subscribers, the Special Report "11 Ways to Beat the Odds" should have been sent out to you already. If you have not received it, please communicate that to me via email (ara@aranorwood.com).

For more information on my work, follow me on Twitter ("Ara Norwood"), or on Facebook (keyword "Leadership Development Systems") or via my website: www.aranorwood.com

Sincerely,

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