

Words of Wisdom from The Words Workshop

Wordsworth says ... Oxymorons are almost definitely a bad idea.

Oxymorons are literary figures of speech usually made up of a pair of neighbouring contradictory or incompatible words. They can be used for dramatic effect, for example 'deafening silence', or for comic value, for example 'friendly argument'.

However, many people use oxymorons without realising. So, rather than purposefully using a contradictory phrase for effect, they are simply contradicting themselves. Oxymorons often used in this way include:

- Almost exactly
- Minor crisis
- Free gift
- Almost unique
- Awfully nice
- Clearly misunderstood
- Small fortune
- Exact estimate



When used to communicate irony all of these phrases are fine. However, when saying them in normal conversation or writing they become contradictory statements with the speaker or writer often being oblivious to his mistake.

Some of The Words Workshop's Favourite Oxymorons



- Political promise
- Wedded bliss
- Public School Education
- Family holiday
- Non-alcoholic wine

Wordsworth's management speak to avoid ...

This month Wordsworth brings you an annoying phrase rather than complicated management jargon. This month's management speak to avoid is the phrase, "Let's give 110%". This 'motivational' quote is not only cringe-worthy, it is also physically impossible. What's wrong with saying, "Let's try our best at this"?

Let us know if you can think of any more and we might feature your suggestion in the next Wordsworth.

Wordsworth's quote of the month ...

In a slight change of format, over the next few months Wordsworth will bring you the stupidest things ever said by politicians. Hold on to your hats guys, there are some crackers.

This month we bring you a classic from former Prime Minister **Tony Blair** who said:

"The single most important two things we can do..."

Rather topical seeing as this Wordsworth is dedicated to contradicting yourself.

Wordsworth is now **tweeting**.

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