



The art of using difficult words in your writing

FAISAL BIN IQBAL

The idea or tendency to use difficult vocabulary in order to enhance a write up is not uncommon. In fact, it is something that many people believe to be the integral part of a standard, modern-day article. Although this is not true, there is no hard and fast rule that disallows the use of such hard words. However, it is the application of these vocabs that many people often fail to understand properly and hence, they should follow a few simple guidelines to get things right. A word will sound difficult only when the reader is unaware of its meaning or has never heard of it before. For our convenience, we'll be proceeding with this very definition.

THINK ABOUT YOUR READERS

The first thing you as a writer should know is who will be reading your articles. This is where you get to decide whether it is appropriate or not to use difficult language. For instance, if your reader base is below 10 years of age, it's natural that they will be unfamiliar with most of the vocabs you learnt during your IBA admission prep. So there is absolutely no need to use such words in the first place. As the target age increases, you can go on to use comparatively difficult words.

MAINTAIN A RATIO

Too many difficult words can often tick people off. Especially if you use them frequently in one sentence or

in a small paragraph. A difficult word is like an *elachi*. It's used to add fragrance to your food and drinks but you wouldn't want to bite on one while enjoying a plate of biryani would you? Too many of hard vocabs might just spoil the entire thing. To avoid such mis-haps, it's always wise to maintain a proper ratio while using such words. I personally prefer using one difficult word every 50 words and at the same time, I avoid using more than one in a single sentence. This may vary depending on the topic or size of the article, but it's a good practice to maintain such ratios.

DON'T JUST DROP THE WORDS

Replacing words with their comparatively difficult synonyms is also a common practice among writers who tend to make their work more appealing. However, despite being similar, it's not true that the synonym you've used will make sense in the sentence or context. It's something even I end up doing unconsciously while writing. To come out of this problem, the easiest solution is to check whether the word you plan on using will actually fit in your sentence or not. To do this, you can Google for sentences which use that particular word or you can also directly check online dictionaries. Another website is wordsinasentence.com which can also be helpful for this purpose.

Send your feedback to the writer at abir.afc@gmail.com

THE DECENT WAY TO PUBLICLY APOLOGISE

MATILDA

Humans make mistakes, and in the age of social media, humans make mistakes in public. It is a common enough phenomenon so you would think people would learn to apologise publicly in a proper way but that has not really been the case. Therefore, this guide on how to apologise publicly.

EXCUSES

Come out clean and take responsibility for your mistakes. Admit that you were ignorant, not thinking clearly, didn't get the gravity of your words or actions or whatever your situation was. State your intentions then and state your stance on the situation now. Acknowledge the pain you've caused and accept and confess your fault graciously without trying to find a way out. Make your apology to the point and free of excuses like Kanye West did on the Jay Leno show when talking about his behaviour during an awards ceremony, "It was just very rude, period."

BLAMING EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING BESIDES YOURSELF

This is similar to making excuses but is irksome and prevalent enough to be a separate point. Making it seem like it was out of your control when it wasn't shows you don't really accept that you had a role to play in what occurred. You made a bad choice, own it. Don't pin it on society, people, or an industry. If you insult someone for something and then apologise saying something like you hope they understand it's only show business or whatever you tell yourself at night to be able to sleep better, you completely deserve it, if trolls and keyboard warriors make it their business to teach you a lesson.



TIMING

The longer you wait, the worse it gets, especially if your apology comes only after severe public outrage and outing of evidence.

TRYING TO BE A VICTIM

When apologising, the focus should be on your mistake, your realisation, the damage caused, and the remedy or steps you are

taking to prevent such a mistake from occurring again. Don't spend time and effort trying to make people feel sorry for you instead. If you are genuinely remorseful, people might just forgive you and move on. But if you appear on an interview or other public platform with tears glistening on your face and a quivering and weepy voice so people sympathise with you even though the incident you're apologising for happened two months back, you come across as fake and insincere. We believe that you would never intentionally hurt someone but please save the waterworks. The fact that you are trying to do the right thing by apologising should be enough; theatrics aren't necessary.

PUBLICISING THE REMEDY

So you've repented and taken steps to rectify your mistake, but now you want to show people what you've done. Making a video or sharing a picture of a handwritten letter you took the time to write isn't exactly laudatory. If you've said sorry, your part is done. Whether they forgive you or not is up to them.

SENSE AND SENSITIVITY

You would think that it is common sense to not use an emoji or a hashtag for something like your squad or team when apologising for something as serious as suicide but human beings can be surprising. Advertising your merchandise and asking people to share your apology are also some things that are not acceptable.

Matilda likes to pretend she is invisible and inconspicuous. Tell her you can read right through her at matilda.tilda1234@gmail.com