

Urban Grammar

:: Quick Fixes ::



What You
Should
Say
and Why



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Dedication

A very special thanks to my mother, Rita Hampton.
Thanks so much for being my first teacher by
modeling good reading and speaking habits
BEFORE I attended kindergarten.

To Rhemona Moore for creating the first
Urban Grammar Lady image.
To my sister, Ahnna Hampton
for the suggestions for entries and all
the funny conversations
that followed.

“antisociable”

antisocial

Example: • The lady at the party was **antisociable** and refused to talk to anyone.

Correction: • The lady at the party was **antisocial** and refused to talk to anyone.

Explanation: **Antisociable** is not a word! I recently listened to a blues show and heard the host say this during his banter with the audience. I realize that many older southerners were raised to speak a particular way that is not always grammatically correct. So, no judgment here. Just know the correct phrasing.

“conversate”

converse

Example: • Let's get dinner, chill and **conversate** about taking our relationship to the next level.

Correction: • Let's get dinner, **relax** and **converse** about taking our relationship to the next level.

• Let's get dinner, **relax** and **talk about** taking our relationship to the next level.

• **Other alternatives:** speak, confer, discuss, chat.

Explanation: **Conversate** is not a word, regardless of what Amber Rose teaches her toddler son! Recently, my sister told me that one of her graduate instructors, (a white lady), uttered this word during one of her lectures. Remember, urban grammar is not relegated to one race or ethnic group. Either way, my Harvard educated professor of English and former Director of the *Donaghey Scholars Program*, Dr. C. Earl Ramsey, would have passed out if I had formed my lips to say **conversate**, which also drives Judge Judy crazy. Please say **converse** or use one of the correct alternatives.

“irregardless”

regardless

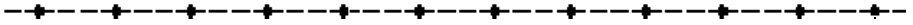
Example: • Every child deserves a quality education **irregardless** of their race or socioeconomic circumstances.

Correction: • Every child deserves a quality education **regardless** of their race or socioeconomic circumstances.

Explanation: **Irregardless** is not a word! The fact that many prominent, educated people say this all the time does not make this a viable word. Always use **regardless**, which means “*in spite of*” in this example.



“isammo”



am I going to

Example: • When **isammo** get my 15 minute break?

Correction: • When **am I going to** get my 15 minute break?

Explanation: **Isammo** is a very interesting condensation of the inquiry **am I going to**. Although slang or colloquial phrases are quick and easy to say, they are largely inappropriate not only in academics, but in day-to-day affairs as well. Please practice saying all of the words, so that you do not slip into urban grammar at the wrong time.