

Strange Language

by

Simon Wiedemann

© 2020

I don't mean to sound arrogant (no really, but that doesn't mean I'm not), but I like to think of myself as a modern-day George Carlin. Sure, his comedy is kinda more intellectual and factual than mine, but that's not going to stop me from ripping into some words and phrases that don't make sense. First of all what the hell is 'disturbed' supposed to mean? As in 'some guy knocked on my door when I was working and took my turb away'. Does that sound right to you? On a darker note, what is 'mentally disturbed' supposed to mean? Someone has taken someone's turb away mentally? Speak English! Ok, let's be fair, I've just Googled the word 'turb' and it does appear to be a real one. Apparently it means 'a number of individuals or units gathered together.' So when someone gets distracted from accounting or whatever, they get groups (of what I don't know, let's say calculators) taken away. Does THAT make sense? No. I guess it could ALMOST make sense in special situations, depending on what the groups are, but the ambiguous phrase as it stands is balls.

Now I'm going to move onto to slang which I previously assumed is easier to criticise. (Maybe not. 'Turb'???) So, I've heard people say the word 'game' for a whole number of reasons, and I don't fully understand why. As far as I can work out, 'game' really doesn't mean anything, it just sounds cool. For example, 'I'm all about the pizza game', simply means 'I'm all about pizza.' You can also have 'I've upped my gym game (I'm working out harder), 'I've upped my concentration game' (I'm concentrating harder) or my personal favourite, the silly but perhaps popular 'I've upped my bath game'. (I'm spending more time in the bath). Interestingly I have upped my bath game after upping my gym game, because it's good practice to warm your joints up. Do I sound cool now? Apparently, yes. Is there anything that should be done about the saying? I mean if it makes people happy, sure, let them say 'game' for no reason whatsoever, but is it efficient language? Nope, it's pointless.

Now it's back to more flawed, traditional language. (You'd really expect better from the kind of stuff Shakespeare used, right?) What's 'confusing' supposed to mean? As we all know, 'con' means a rip off and 'fusing' means moulding together two or more objects as one. So we have 'ripping off moulding'. Again, that CAN make sense hypothetically speaking in very unusual situations, but certainly not in the form it is usually used. 'All this advanced algebra is so ripping off the fusion'. Gibberish. Interestingly the word 'confusing' is confusing, so in that respect I guess it works. At the risk of sounding random I'll move onto hair cuts, and in particular, sideburns. Sure, they're on the sides of people's heads, but do they burn? Nope. They may warm you up ever so slightly, that's all. If your head is burning it will be because of illness or the weather (or someone put you in an oven, but let's hope that hasn't happened). If so, getting a shave will not help you.

What is this phrase supposed to mean 'take with a pinch of salt'? Apparently, it means to not completely believe something, because it is unlikely to be true. So salt is a liar, now? What kind of slander is that? Making things worse that saying is ultra-confusing in more ways than one. There is another phrase out there that goes 'he's worth his salt', and that means the man in question is skilled. So salt is good and bad? It's dishonest yet able? Personally it's just a seasoning to me, I've never noticed it having any kind of human characteristics. But things only get more baffling, a man who is the 'salt of the earth' is good and honest!!... !! Get your head around THAT. A skilled liar who is good natured. If you can deal with such an abstract concept, you may be able to find a very lucrative career breaking codes. You may even save the world from baddies. How about that? Anywhooooo... Bye!