

# Do you still think using the R-word ["retard(ed)"] is okay?

**Absolutely NOT!**  
Who still uses that word?

**NO**

**Thank you** for being an advocate for people with intellectual disabilities!

You've educated yourself on how this word hurts people with intellectual disabilities and those who care about them.

**That's true,**

so I will stop using the R-word out of respect for those who have an intellectual disability and for those who love and care about someone with an intellectual disability.

Everyone deserves to be respected, and while it is just one word, it carries some horrible memories about what life used to be like for people with disabilities. We need to move past the stereotyping and teasing, and our language should reflect that!

**Why wouldn't I?**

**YES**

**Why do you use it?**

It's freedom of speech. I can say what I want.

While you can choose the words you speak, do you really want to choose words that make you sound ignorant about and blatantly disrespectful to a population of individuals who have worked extremely hard to achieve equality and opportunities that you likely take for granted?

I didn't know it was hurtful or offensive. I didn't mean anything by it!

It is extremely offensive. While the word is in the dictionary and means "to be delayed," it has been used to tease, taunt and mock people with disabilities for many years. It's time to find a new word to use!

It's a clinical/medical term.

In 2010, a brave little girl and her family changed history when they moved to replace "mentally retarded" with "person with an intellectual disability," through an amazing movement called "Rosa's Law." The R-word has been eradicated from legal and clinical terminology, so how about you eliminate it from your vocabulary?

I don't say it to/in front of/around a person with a disability, so who cares?

It doesn't matter! Using the R-word is offensive to many people. The R-word has become a synonym for a person making a mistake or doing something in error. How would you like to be labeled that way?