

OVERUSED AND MISUSED WORDS

Word/Phrase	Consider That:	Consider Using:
Actually	<p>“Actually” should refer to something that is actual, or factual. Users of this word often choose it to express their opinions, not facts.</p> <p>“Actually, I think it would be better if we stayed in tonight.”</p>	<p><i>Actually</i>, consider not using any word at all!</p> <p>Instead of “Actually, I think it would be better if we stayed in tonight,” give your sentiment clarity and resolve by stating “I think it would be better if we stayed in tonight,” or, more to the point, “It would be better if we stayed in tonight.”</p>
Amazing/Awesome	<p>Something that is “awesome” inspires awe, as in causing someone to become genuinely awestruck. The Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) is an example of an event that is awesome. Users of this word often choose it to acknowledge a positive reaction.</p> <p>“This coffee is awesome.”</p>	<p>A word that accurately describes a characteristic of the person, place, or thing.</p> <p>Instead of “This coffee is awesome,” consider speaking to a specific quality like, “This coffee is giving me energy!”</p>
Basically	<p>“Basically” is an adverb that refers to the fundamentals of something—what it is in its most essential idea or form. Users of this word often add it to the beginning of a thought, where it is not needed as a qualifier.</p> <p>“Basically, I just needed to get groceries.”</p>	<p>Consider omitting “basically” except when you’re indicating the breaking down of an earlier, more complex statement.</p> <p>Instead of “Basically, I just needed to get groceries,” express the same thought with, “I needed to get groceries.”</p>
Epic	<p>The word “epic” refers to poetic works of great heroic deeds. Through overuse in popular culture, the original meaning has been obscured. Users of this word choose it to express a positive reaction. The popular use of the word is inaccurate.</p> <p>“That pizza was epic.”</p>	<p>A word that accurately describes a characteristic of the person, place, or thing.</p> <p>There is likely nothing heroic about a pizza. Instead of “That pizza was epic,” consider expressing a characteristic of the actual experience, like, “That was one of the tastiest pizzas I’ve had in a long time.”</p>

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