



# WHY ALGOSPEAK?



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:  
1CTA-M1L8-FH3H

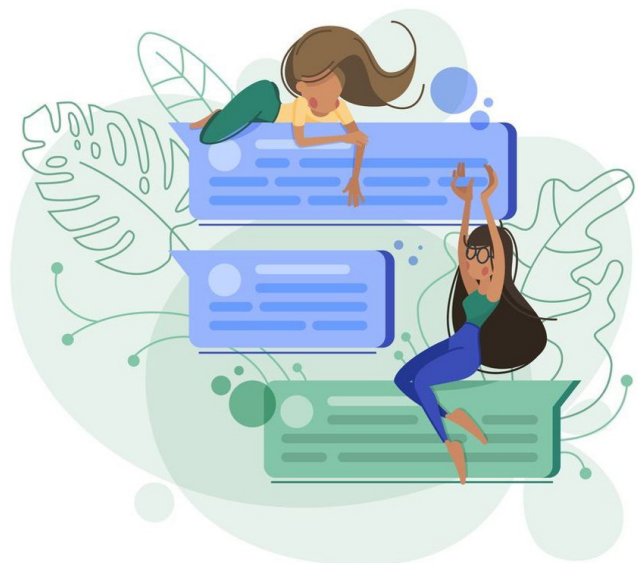


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## Warm up

Discuss the following questions.

1. Have you heard of algospeak? Do you know any examples?
2. What is some old internet slang you know?
3. What are some current terms you use or you've seen?
4. What do older people write or do differently when writing messages online?





## 2

**Focus on vocabulary**

**Part A: Match the vocabulary with their definitions.**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>inevitable</u> (adj.) | a. appearance of something  |
| 2. <u>grumpy</u> (adj.)     | b. the everyday style of a language spoken by people                                  |
| 3. <u>articulate</u> (adj.) | c. mark for attention   |
| 4. <u>emergence</u> (n)     | d. an aspect of something which is a little bit strange or unusual                    |
| 5. <u>flag</u> (v)          | e. an action against a rule or agreement  |
| 6. <u>violation</u> (n)     | f. in a bad mood and irritable  |
| 7. <u>vernacular</u> (n)    | g. suggest or hint at something negative or harmful in an indirect and unpleasant way |
| 8. <u>quirks</u> (n)        | h. expressing clearly in words, especially when speaking                              |
| 9. <u>insinuate</u> (v)     | i. something that will happen and cannot be avoided                                   |

**Part B: Complete the gaps using the words from above. You may need to change the form of the word.**

1. He eats bananas with a knife and fork. That's one of his \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When you are learning a new language, making mistakes is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. He tried to \_\_\_\_\_ that I was stealing by telling the boss to check my sales figures.
4. If you don't get paid for overtime, that's a wage \_\_\_\_\_.
5. She's in such a bad mood today. She's been \_\_\_\_\_ all morning.
6. I saw a video with fake news about the election so I \_\_\_\_\_ it. I hope they shut it down.
7. It's always fascinating to see the \_\_\_\_\_ of new trends in fashion.
8. He's a very \_\_\_\_\_ speaker. I could never express myself as well as he does.
9. In the \_\_\_\_\_ of American English, especially in the south, they use the term, 'y'all', meaning 'you all'.

## 3

**Listening comprehension: discussion**

Listen to the interview with a linguist and discuss the following questions.

1. Have you heard of this use of 'because'? Have you used it yourself?
2. Have you heard of algospeak? Do you know any of the terms mentioned?
3. Which other kinds of algospeak do you know?
4. Do you know any old internet slang that is not used much anymore?



## 4

**Language point: dependent conjunctions**

Part A: Look at the boxes below.

**Conjunctions**

- A conjunction is a word that links two parts of a sentence, clause, or phrase, eg:

*I like bananas **and** apples. I want to buy pizza **but** I don't have enough money.*

- A **dependent conjunction** links two clauses in a way where one is dependent on the other.
- **Reminder:** A clause contains a *subject* and a *verb*, eg: *He (subject) missed (verb)*. It may also contain an object, eg: *He (subject) missed (verb) the bus (object)*.
- An independent clause can stand alone, its meaning is complete.

*He missed the bus.*

- A dependent clause cannot stand alone, its meaning is incomplete.

*because he missed the bus* → here we are missing information. What happened because he missed the bus?

- A dependent clause, therefore, needs to be linked to an independent clause in order for the meaning to be clear.

*He arrived at work late*

(independent clause)

*because he missed the bus.*

(dependent clause)

- The role of a dependent conjunction and dependent clause is to give a time, place, reason, or some other condition for the main clause. There are many dependent conjunctions.
- It is possible to start a sentence with a dependent conjunction.

*"Because he missed the bus, he arrived at work late."*

- Note that in this case, a comma is required at the end of the first clause.
- Starting a sentence with a dependent conjunction is less common and can seem a little less formal. If in doubt, put the dependent conjunction second.



## Examples

**because** → He was fired **because** he arrived late to work too often.

**since** → I haven't seen her **since** she left the company.

**as** → **As** it was raining, we decided to cancel the picnic.

**when** → **When** the boss arrives, we can start the meeting.

**before** → I need to get it done **before** the boss arrives.

**after** → We can all go home **after** the meeting finishes.

**once** → **Once** the boss arrives, we'll start the meeting.

**until** → We can't start the meeting **until** the boss arrives.

**where** → I want a job **where** I can work from home.

**if** → I will go to the party **if** you invite me.

**unless** → I won't go to the party **unless** you come with me.

**in case** → **In case** it rains, I will take an umbrella.

**even though** → **Even though** he was tired, he continued reading.

**whereas** → I prefer tea, **whereas** my boyfriend prefers coffee.

(Note, when using **whereas** you should use a comma even if it appears in the second part.)







## 6 Activity

It is the year 2033. Some activities considered ordinary in 2023 have now become controversial. Social media platforms are now restricting the following words. You and your friends now need to come up with some algospeak terms for the following terms in order to bypass the moderator's algorithms.

*playing computer games*

*having a party*

*doing cosplay*

*reading a book*

*surfing the internet*

*hanging out in the park*

*having a birthday*

*cheating on a test*

*taking a selfie*

*going on a date*

*dyeing your hair*

*getting a piercing*

*going to the movies*

*singing*

*not doing your homework*

*going shopping with friends*

## 7 Homework/extension task

**Task A:** Find some other examples of algospeak online.

**Task B:** Find out the origins of the following words.

- internet
- website
- surfing the web
- scrolling