

## B. Apply the Reading Skill

Read the article below. Fill in each blank with a supporting detail or example from the list.

- In English, there are certain terms that you may want to avoid when referring to people's ethnicities or economic status.
- There are also politically correct terms for different groups of people.
- Your audience may be less likely to want to hear what you have to say or read what you have to write if your language is potentially offensive.
- It's also important to refer to adult women as "women" rather than "girls".
- Instead, you should use the word "Asian;" or the term for people from a specific country, such as "Japanese" or "Korean":

### Watch Your Language

To communicate your ideas clearly, it's not only important to use the right vocabulary, it's also important not to use words that might offend your audience.

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In recent decades, this fact has brought about the necessity of politically correct terminology.

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For example, the term "oriental" is offensive to some people.

3

When referring to the native people of North America, the term "Indian" is considered politically incorrect and has been replaced with the term "Native American." And when referring to countries that don't have a lot of money or industry, the term "developing country" is preferred over "third-world country".

4

For example, people tend not to use the term "handicapped person" anymore. Instead, they use the phrase "people with disabilities." When referring to elderly people, it's more polite to say "seniors" than "old people".

5

Of course, sometimes you may find yourself talking to a group of people who aren't

bothered by these terms that are considered politically incorrect, and you yourself might not find these terms offensive. But it's still useful to be aware of the differences for those times when your audience is sensitive to politically incorrect terminology.

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### Discussion Et Writing

.1Language is constantly changing. New words are always being introduced, and existing words often start being used in new ways. For example, young people often use words and expressions that their parents don't understand.

With a partner, make a list of these words and expressions. You can include examples from English or any other language that you know.

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.2Write a paragraph about two or three words and expressions that are new.

In your paragraph, explain what these words and expressions mean and when they are used.

### Example

There are a few expressions that my friends and I use and my parents don't understand. For example, my friends and I often say "no drama" when someone apologizes for something. It means "that's Ok" or "it's not a problem." My mother wanted to know what it meant so I told her. Then she tried to use it once. It sounded so funny when she said it...

.3Read your paragraph to the class.

### Words to Remember