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Dear Reader,

We've received many responses from readers about their pet language peeves, so here's another hit list of overused expressions, annoying contractions and just plain errors. This time the focus is on the spoken rather than the written word.



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More Pet Peeves

1. **As time progresses:** Events may progress in time, but time itself just *passes* (or as the song says, *goes by*).
2. **Convo:** *Info* and *intro* are pretty well entrenched now, but *convo*, as in "I had a convo with..."?? If syllables are in short supply, "I talked to..." should do the job (but please save us from "we conversated").
3. **Decimate:** Considering the origins of *decimate* in ancient Roman military practice, fewer than one in ten examples of its common usage today deserve to be spared.
4. **Have yourself a nice day:** Do yourself a favour and offload "yourself". "Have a nice day" is lame enough as it is.
5. **Intel:** As in "I've got the intel on Intel". Sounds like a top-secret intelligence operation rather than some information, news, or even gossip you've just heard.
6. **Irregardless:** *Regardless* or *irrespective* of what you might think, *irregardless* is wrong (and really irritating).
7. **Needless to say:** Needless to say, this is superfluous.
8. **RSVP:** As in "I already sent an RSVP" or "I RSVP'd yesterday". RSVP comes from a French expression literally meaning "Please respond". But you don't hear many people saying "I already sent a please respond" or "I please responded yesterday", do you?

Parting Words

"The safest words are always those which bring us most directly to facts."

– Charles H. Parkhurst, reformist clergyman