

TASK1 Discuss the following questions with your partner.

1. How often do you swear?
2. Do you feel good when you swear?
3. Are there any swear words you'd never use? Why?
4. In what situations do you try to avoid swearing?
5. Are you ever offended, annoyed or upset when other people swear? In what situations?

TASK2 Work individually. What would you say in the following situations? Would you swear?

6. You take some milk out of the fridge, but drop it on the floor. _____
7. You take some wine out of the fridge, but drop it on the floor. _____
8. You are carrying two pints of beer in a bar. Somebody bumps into you and you spill the beer down your trousers. _____
9. You miss the buss to work by a few seconds. _____
10. Somebody drives in the back of your brand new car. _____
11. TP S.A sent you a phone bill. The bill is double the normal amount. _____

TASK3 Listen to the recording. Is the f-word a noun, adjective, verb or adverb? How many meanings does it have?

HISTORY OF THE WORD "FUCK"

by Monty Python

Perhaps one of the most interesting words in the English language today, is the word fuck. Out of all the English words beginning with the letter "f", fuck is the only word that is referred to as the "f-word". It's the one magical word. Just by it's sound it can describe pain, pleasure, hate and love. Fuck, as most words in English language, is derived from German, the word "flicken" which means to strike. In English, fuck falls into many grammatical categories. As a transitive verb for instance, "John fucked Shirley". As an intransitive verb; "Shirley fucks". It's meaning is not always sexual, it can be used as an adjective such as "John's doing all the fucking work". As part of an adverb; "Shirley talks too fucking much", as an adverb enhancing an adjective "Shirley is fucking beautiful". As a noun; "I don't give a fuck". As part of a word: "abso-fucking-lutely" or "in-fucking-credible". And as almost every word in a sentence: "fuck the fucking fuckers!". As you must realize, there aren't too many words with the versatility such as the word fuck, as in these examples describing situations such as:

- fraud: "I got fucked at the used car lot"
- dismay: "Oh, fuck it!"
- trouble: "I guess I'm really fucked now"

- aggression: "don't fuck with me, buddy!"
- difficulty: "I don't understand this fucking question"
- inquiry: "who the fuck was that?"
- dissatisfaction: "I don't like what the fuck is going on here"
- incompetence: "he's a fuck-off!"
- dismissal: "why don't you go outside and play hide and go fuck yourself?"

I'm sure you can think of many more examples.

With all these multipurpose applications, how can anyone be offended when you use the word?

We say, use this unique, flexible word more often in your daily speech. It will identify the quality of your character immediately. Say it loudly and proudly:

FUCK YOU!

TASK4 Read the two situations and decide if the sentences are true or false.

- 1) **Martha Johnson was sacked from her job.**
- 2) **Mr Slater feels that he has to swear at work.**
- 3) **John Ashford was arrested for swearing.**
- 4) **He is going to jail for 90 days.**

PART OF HIS PERSONALITY

A sales executive has taken her ex-boss to an industrial court claiming that his swearing forced her to quit her job. For over six months Martha Johnson 43, put up with the foul language of Jack Slater, managing director of a transport company, and his deputy Darren Wiggins. Both men swear continually, the court was told.

Yesterday Ms Johnson of Worthing Sussex, who has recently taken up a new job, said: "I had a really wonderful job with the company but I just had to do something about the awful language. At least now I am in a place where people show respect for each other."

Mr Slater told the court that bad language was part of his personality and also common in the transport business. "I can't stop swearing," he said. "I'm the fucking boss. My workers would all think I was fucking soft if I stopped swearing."

During the hearing the judge had to warn Mr Slater several times about his language. The case continues tomorrow.

A BIG SPLASH

The bad language used by John Ashford as he fell out of his boat into a river in Michigan has landed him in big trouble. He appeared in court for breaking a 100-year-old state law which forbids swearing in front of women and children. Families were picnicking nearby when the Accident happened.

His defence team argues that standards over the years have changed and that it is now perfectly acceptable to swear in extreme circumstances, such as falling into a river.

Mr Ashford, who faces up to 90 days in jail and a \$100 fine, was caught by two sheriff's deputies. They were fishing from the side of the river when he fell in.