

Inclusive Tech Language

Avoid This	Use Instead
blacklist/whitelist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>allow/disallow, allowlist/denylist, safe senders list/blocklist</i>.
black box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>functional testing, acceptance testing</i>.
cripple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>hinder</i>.
digital native	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>Gen X, Gen Y / Millennial, or Gen Z</i> (but see this article for an argument against using “generation” labels at all).
disabled, differently abled, handicapped	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>has a disability, person with disability, or people with disabilities</i>.
diverse students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>students from diverse backgrounds</i>.
dummy value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>placeholder value</i>.
first-class citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>core concept, top-level</i>
freshman, freshmen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>first-year student(s)</i>.
grandfathered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The term is problematic because of age but primarily because of race. Use <i>legacy</i> or <i>preexisting</i>.
grayhat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>hactivist</i>.
hang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>stop responding, freeze</i>.
he/she, he or she, him or her	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use singular <i>they</i> as a person’s pronoun or to refer to one individual if their gender isn’t known.
hearing impaired	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>Deaf</i> (the community), <i>deaf</i> (audiological status), <i>partial hearing loss</i>, and/or <i>hard of hearing</i>.
housekeeping tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>maintenance, upkeep</i>.
kill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>halt, stop</i>.
male/female	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>plug, socket/jack</i> when referring to cable connectors.
manhours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>hours of effort, engineer hours, employee hours</i>.
mankind, manpower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use gender-neutral <i>humankind</i> or <i>people</i>.
master/slave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>primary/secondary, main/subordinate</i>.
native feature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>built-in feature</i>.
preferred pronouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pronouns are not preferences; they are words that accurately describe a person. Use <i>pronouns</i> or <i>gender pronouns</i>
sanity check	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>quick check, confidence check, or coherence check</i>.
visually impaired	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>blind, legally blind, or low vision</i>, or refer to the person as a <i>screen reader/magnifier user</i>.
white box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>glass box testing, clear box testing</i>.
whitespace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <i>blank space, empty space</i>.