You're blowing this way out of proportion. It's not a big deal. + Just let it go. Everybody's a little bit bigoted. + Nobody likes the language oversensitive + you know what I mean + I'm not racist, but... + Don't make a big deal out of it. + It's such a small thing. + It's such a small thing, why worry? + Just drop it. + You're reading way too much into this. + You're blowing way too much into this.

Gypped
Indian-giver
Hebe-jebes
Impact of these Words and Alternatives

These words are colloquialisms that have racially insensitive connotations and have been passed down from generations of Americans. If we are not conscious of the impact that our words carry, we may inadvertently use the power of our voice to oppress and degrade others. Here are some explanations of these words and alternative phrases/words that can be used:

- Gypped is used to convey the feeling that someone was cheated and reinforces negative stereotypes that the Romani people (commonly known as Gypsies) are thieves. Alternatives: cheated, had, deceived, duped, tricked.

- Hebe-jebes is used to describe feeling intense apprehension and nervousness and has at its base “hebe” which is a slur for a Jewish person. Alternatives: jittery, suspicious, doubtful, uneasy.

- Indian-giver is used to describe someone who gives gifts only to demand them back later and is culturally insensitive to Native peoples. Alternatives: go back on word, weasel out of, renege.

Whether or not we understand the power of our words, we still use them…

so what kind of impact do you want to make?

For more information, visit our website:

https://www.macalester.edu/morethanwords