

George Carlin, The Seven Words You Can Never

I love words. I thank you for hearing my words.

I want to tell you something about words that I think is important.

They're my work, they're my play, they're my passion.

Words are all we have, really. We have thoughts but thoughts are fluid.

then we assign a word to a thought and we're stuck with that word for

that thought, so be careful with words. I like to think that the same

words that hurt can heal, it is a matter of how you pick them.

There are some people that are not into all the words.

There are some that would have you not use certain words.

There are 400,000 words in the English language and there are 7

of them you can't say on television. What a ratio that is.

399,993 to 7. They must really be bad. They'd have to be outrageous

to be separated from a group that large. All of you over here, you 7,

Bad Words. That's what they told us they were, remember?

"That's a bad word!" No bad words, bad thoughts, bad intentions,

and words. You know the 7, don't you, that you can't say on television?

"Shit, Piss, Fuck, Cunt, CockSucker, MotherFucker, and Tits"

Those are the heavy seven. Those are the ones that'll infect your soul,

curve your spine, and keep the country from winning the war.

"Shit, Piss, Fuck, Cunt, CockSucker, MotherFucker, and Tits"

Wow! ...and Tits doesn't even belong on the list. That is such a friendly

sounding word. It sounds like a nickname, right? "Hey, Tits, come here,

man. Hey Tits, meet Toots. Toots, Tits. Tits, Toots." It sounds like a

snack, doesn't it? Yes, I know, it is a snack. I don't mean your sexist

snack. I mean New Nabisco Tits!, and new Cheese Tits, Corn Tits,

Pizza Tits, Sesame Tits, Onion Tits, Tater Tits. "Betcha Can't Eat Just

One." That's true. I usually switch off. But I mean, that word does

not belong on the list. Actually none of the words belong on the list,

but you can understand why some of them are there. I'm not

completely insensitive to people's feelings. I can understand why

some of those words got on the list, like CockSucker and

MotherFucker. Those are heavyweight words. There is a lot going on

there. Besides the literal translation and the emotional feeling.

I mean, they're just busy words. There's a lot of syllables to contend

with. And those Ks, those are aggressive sounds. They just jump out at

you like "coCKsuCKer, motherfuCKer. coCKsuCKer, motherfuCKer."

It's like an assault on you. We mentioned Shit earlier, and 2 of the

other 4-letter Anglo-Saxon words are Piss and Cunt, which go

together of course. A little accidental humor there. The reason that

Piss and Cunt are on the list is because a long time ago, there were

certain ladies that said "Those are the 2 I am not going to say. I

don't mind Fuck and Shit but 'P' and 'C' are out.", which led to such

stupid sentences as "Okay you fuckers, I'm going to tinkle now."

And, of course, the word Fuck. I don't really, well that's more

accidental humor, I don't wanna get into that now because I think

it takes too long. But I do mean that. I think the word Fuck is a very

important word. It is the beginning of life, yet it is a word we use to

hurt one another quite often. People much wiser than I am said,

"I'd rather have my son watch a film with 2 people making love

than 2 people trying to kill one another. I, of course, can agree. It is

a great sentence. I wish I knew who said it first. I agree with that but

I like to take it a step further. I'd like to substitute the word Fuck for

the word Kill in all of those movie cliches we grew up with. "Okay,

Sheriff, we're gonna Fuck you now, but we're gonna Fuck you slow."

So maybe next year I'll have a whole fuckin' ramp on the N word.

I hope so. Those are the 7 you can never say on television, under any

circumstances. You just cannot say them ever ever ever. Not even

clinically. You cannot weave them in on the panel with Doc, and Ed,

and Johnny. I mean, it is just impossible. Forget those 7. They're out.

But there are some 2-way words, those double-meaning words.

Remember the ones you giggled at in sixth grade? "...And the cock

CROWED 3 times" "Hey, tha cock CROWED 3 times. ha ha ha ha. Hey, it's in

the bible. ha ha ha ha. There are some 2-way words, like it is okay for

Kirk Youdi to say "Roberto Clametti has 2 balls on him.", but he can't

say "I think he hurt his balls on that play, Tony. Don't you? He's holding them. He must've hurt them, by God." and the other 2-way word that goes with that one is Prik. It's okay if it happens to your finger. You can prik your finger but don't finger your prik. No,no.