



newspeak

noun, often capitalized

Save Word

new-speak | \ ˈnū-spēk |, ˈnyū- |

Definition of newspeak

: propagandistic language marked by euphemism, circumlocution, and the inversion of customary meanings

Newspeak Comes From 1984

Example Sentences

Learn More about newspeak

Newspeak Comes From 1984

The term "newspeak" was coined by George Orwell in his 1949 anti-utopian novel *1984*. In Orwell's fictional totalitarian state, Newspeak was a language favored by the minions of Big Brother and, in Orwell's words, "designed to diminish the range of thought." Newspeak was characterized by the elimination or alteration of certain words, the substitution of one word for another, the interchangeability of parts of speech, and the creation of words for political purposes. The word has caught on in general use to refer to confusing or deceptive bureaucratic jargon.

Examples of newspeak in a Sentence

Recent Examples on the Web

// Feminist *newspeak* makes On the Record resemble a black version of the Kavanaugh hearings in which males are assailed, without self-defense, seemingly for political reasons.

— Armond White, *National Review*, "On the Record: The Canned Language of Self-Described Victims," 21 Aug. 2020

// In baseball *newspeak* 2020, players are no longer optioned to Triple A Scranton or Syracuse or Pawtucket.

— Dom Amore, *courant.com*, "Dom Amore: At the 'alternate site,' UConn's Max McDowell toils to become a Yankee," 10 Aug. 2020

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'newspeak.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)

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First Known Use of newspeak

1949, in the meaning defined [above](#)

History and Etymology for newspeak

Newspeak, a language "designed to diminish the range of thought," in the novel *1984* (1949) by George Orwell

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Time Traveler for newspeak

The first known use of *newspeak* was in 1949

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From the Editors at Merriam-Webster

When Fictional Words Become Real
A single author created them, but the public adopted them.

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- [newspaperwoman](#)
- [newspaporial](#)
- [newspeak](#)**
- [newspeople](#)
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Style: MLA

More Definitions for newspeak

newspeak

English Language Learners Definition of newspeak

disapproving: speech or writing that uses words in a way that changes their meaning especially to persuade people to think a certain way

See the full definition for *newspeak* in the English Language Learners Dictionary

More from Merriam-Webster on newspeak

Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about newspeak](#)

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'All Intensive Purposes' or 'All Intents and Purposes?' We're intent on clearing it up	'Nip it in the butt' or 'Nip it in the bud?' We're gonna stop you right there	Literally How to use a word that (literally) drives some pe...	Is Singular 'They' a Better Choice?' The awkward case of 'his or her'

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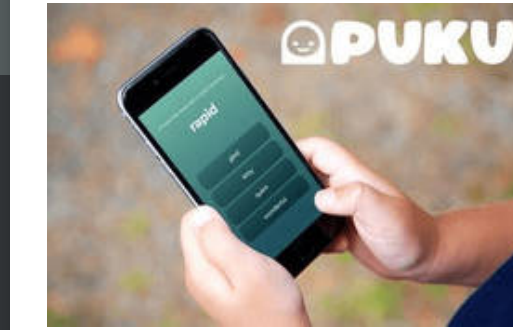
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