

“I hope you’re in an *airplane* when you say that!”

Miss Reiser
junior high English teacher



Miss Reiser’s 8 most abused words in the English language

- 1. Podium**
Is not what people stand behind when making a speech (that’s a lectern). The raised stage or platform on which a lectern often *sits* is a podium (also called a dais).
 - 2. Hopefully**
Means “in a hopeful manner.” In *Oliver*, the little orphan boy requests more food when he asks hopefully, “Please sir— I want some more.” But we *hope* our new business pitch will go well.
 - 3. Impact**
A car speeding at 100 miles an hour slams into a brick wall. That’s an impact. But the stock market *affects* investors. Middle East oil production *affects* gas prices.
 - 4. Data**
Is plural (just one is a datum). So the data *are* helpful in making investment decisions. Media is also plural (just one is a medium). The media *are* everywhere.
 - 5. Over**
Is a preposition. Only in an airplane you can be over three million people. Chicago has *more than* three million people.
 - 6. Myriad**
Means many. Your brother-in-law has myriad problems. Not a myriad of problems. (We wouldn’t say he has “many of problems,” we’d say he has “many problems.”)
 - 7. Irregardless**
Is not a word (try looking it up). The word is *regardless*.
 - 8. Snuck**
Is not correct. The past tense of sneak is *sneaked* (even though it sounds wrong).
- Hopefully, Miss Reiser’s data makes an impact— irregardless of the myriad of examples Todd Hunt has snuck into his talk, while standing at the podium.**



Todd Hunt is a business humorist and Recovering Anal Retentive Professional (RARP). Miss Reiser was his junior high English teacher.

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