

Ableist Terms and Phrases

Barren

Refers to people who are infertile, carries sexist connotations as well as ableist ones.

Blind to ____ / turn a blind eye to ____ / blinded by ignorance/bigotry/etc.

Refers to Blind, low-vision, or sight-limited people.

Bound to a wheelchair (wheelchair bound)

Refers to people with physical or mobility disabilities.

Confined to a wheelchair

Refers to people with physical or mobility disabilities.

Crazy

Refers to people with mental or psychiatric disabilities.

Cripple/Crippled (by ____)

Refers to people with physical or mobility disabilities.

Deaf-Mute

Refers to Deaf or hard of hearing people.

Deaf to ____ / turn a deaf ear to ____ / etc.

Refers to Deaf or hard of hearing people.

Derp (also herp-derp and variations)

Refers to people with intellectual disabilities.

Dumb

Refers to d/Deaf or hard of hearing people, people with speech-related disabilities, or people with linguistic or communication disorders or disabilities.

Handicap(ped)

Refers to people with physical or mobility disabilities, and is usually a euphemistic phrase to avoid saying "disability" or "disabled."

Hearing-Impaired

Refers to d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Hermaphrodite

Refers to people with intersex conditions, whether or not they were coercively assigned to a particular sex/gender, and whether or not they currently identify with a binary gender.

Idiot(ic)

Refers to people with intellectual disabilities.

Insane or Insanity

Refers to people with mental or psychiatric disabilities.

Invalid (as a noun, as in "my neighbor is an invalid and never goes outside")

Refers to people with physical or mobility disabilities or chronic health conditions.

Lame

Refers to people with physical or mobility disabilities.

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Loony/Loony Bin

Refers to people with mental or psychiatric disabilities.

Lunatic

Refers to people with mental or psychiatric disabilities.

Madhouse/Mad/Madman

Refers to an institution housing people with mental or psychiatric disabilities.

Manic

Refers to someone with bipolar (used to be called manic depression).

Maniac

Refers to people with mental or psychiatric disabilities.

Midget

Refers to little people or people with small stature or a form of dwarfism.

Moron(ic)

Refers to people with intellectual disabilities.

Nuts

Refers to people with mental or psychiatric disabilities.

Psycho

Refers to people with mental or psychiatric disabilities.

Psychopath(ic)

Refers to people with mental or psychiatric disabilities.

Psycho(tic)

Refers to people with mental or psychiatric disabilities.

Retard(ed)/[anything]-tard (examples: libtard, fucktard, etc.)

Refers to people with intellectual disabilities.

[you belong on the] Short-bus/ that's short-bus material/etc.

Refers to people with intellectual, learning, or other mental disabilities.

Spaz(zed)

Refers to people with cerebral palsy or similar neurological disabilities.

Special Needs

Usually refers to people with learning, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, but can mean any person with a disability. Usually a euphemistic phrase to avoid saying "disability" or "disabled."

Stupid

Refers to people with intellectual disabilities (i.e. "in a stupor").

Suffers from _____

Can refer to any person with a disability.

Wacko/Whacko

Refers to people with mental or psychiatric disabilities.