



Whatever, Still Most Annoying Word, You Know. Like, Seriously? Just Sayin'
*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This Marist Poll Reports:

It's that time of the year, again! It's time for The Marist Poll to reveal the word or phrase considered to be the most annoying in casual conversation. And, for the third consecutive year, "whatever" receives the dubious honor. Nearly four in ten adults nationally -- 38% -- say "whatever" grates on their nerves the most. "Like" one in five -- 20% -- say that verbal filler is the most irritating while 19% despise "you know." "Just sayin'" gets on the nerves of 11% of the population compared with 7% who report "seriously" should be banned from casual conversation. Five percent are unsure.

Last year, 39% told the Marist Poll "whatever" is the most bothersome word in casual conversation while 28% thought "like" was the epitome of irritating. At that time, the list also included "you know what I mean" -- 15% -- "to tell you the truth" -- 10% -- and "actually" -- 5%. Three percent were unsure.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: National Poll of 1,026 Adults

This survey of 1,026 adults was conducted on November 8th through November 10th, 2011. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant within ± 3.0 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample: Adults

Nature of the Sample		
		National Adults
		Col %
National Adults		100%
Region	Northeast	18%
	Midwest	22%
	South	37%
	West	23%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	49%
	\$50,000 or more	51%
Race	White	73%
	African American	9%
	Latino	10%
	Other	7%
Race	White	73%
	Non-white	27%
Age	Under 45	32%
	45 or older	68%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	18%
	Gen X (31-46)	18%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	37%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	27%
Gender	Men	49%
	Women	51%
Interview Type	Landline	75%
	Cell Phone	25%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted November 8th through 10th, 2011, N=1026 MOE +/- 3%.
 Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Adults					
		Which one of the following words or phrases do you find most annoying in conversation:					
		Whatever	Like	You know	Seriously	Just sayin	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		38%	20%	19%	7%	11%	5%
Region	Northeast	36%	26%	19%	8%	8%	2%
	Midwest	38%	19%	19%	7%	10%	7%
	South	40%	18%	20%	5%	12%	5%
	West	35%	20%	17%	10%	13%	5%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	41%	16%	21%	7%	11%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	35%	24%	18%	8%	12%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	42%	17%	18%	7%	11%	5%
	College graduate	30%	26%	22%	7%	11%	4%
Age	Under 45	39%	28%	9%	8%	14%	1%
	45 or older	38%	17%	24%	6%	10%	6%
Age	18 to 29	39%	31%	10%	7%	14%	<1%
	30 to 44	39%	25%	9%	10%	15%	3%
	45 to 59	41%	19%	19%	6%	12%	2%
	60 or older	35%	15%	27%	6%	8%	9%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	39%	29%	9%	8%	14%	<1%
	Gen X (31-46)	37%	24%	11%	7%	17%	4%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	43%	20%	19%	6%	9%	3%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	31%	13%	30%	7%	8%	11%
Race	White	33%	22%	21%	8%	11%	5%
	Non-white	49%	17%	14%	6%	12%	3%
Gender	Men	35%	20%	20%	7%	13%	6%
	Women	40%	21%	19%	7%	9%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	39%	18%	21%	7%	10%	6%
	Cell Phone	33%	28%	12%	8%	17%	2%

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