Reading
Building bridges with words

Carefully read the text and match the gaps (1-6) with the correct sentence parts (a-h). There are two extra variants you don't need to use.

English, as a living and dynamic language, is constantly evolving and adapting (1) _____ . One remarkable aspect of this evolution is the conscious implementation of new vocabulary that reflects a deeper understanding of inclusivity, respect, and social awareness.

A notable example of this linguistic transformation is the adoption of the pronoun "they" as a gender-neutral alternative to 'he' and 'she'. This shift recognizes and validates the experiences of individuals (2) _____. By using "they" as a pronoun, we acknowledge and honor the diversity of gender identities and strive for a more inclusive language that reflects the complexities of human experiences.

Another captivating instance of conscious vocabulary change is the term "pre-loved" replacing "second hand" or "hand-me-downs." This shift in language signifies a shift in perception. (3) _____, "pre-loved" emphasizes the inherent value, sentiment, and potential for new connections that these items possess. It encourages a shift in mindset, embracing sustainability, (4) _____, inspiring a more mindful and appreciative consumer culture.

The concept of "differently abled" is yet another impactful linguistic shift. This term recognizes the individuality, capabilities, and strengths of people with disabilities. It replaces outdated terms that may focus solely on limitations or define individuals by their disabilities.

Language holds immense power in shaping our perceptions and mindsets, and there are several words that could be replaced to foster more inclusive and compassionate perspectives. One such example is the term "foreigner," (5) _____ . Replacing it with "global citizen" or "international friend" acknowledges the interconnectedness of our world and promotes a mindset of unity and mutual understanding. Similarly, (6) _____ encourages a growth mindset and reframes setbacks as valuable experiences for personal and professional growth. Replacing "weakness" with "area of improvement" recognizes that everyone has strengths and areas where they can grow, nurturing a more constructive and supportive environment. By consciously choosing alternative words that promote empathy, understanding, and growth, we can actively shape a more inclusive and positive society.

A which can perpetuate a narrative of "us" versus "them";

B rather than viewing used items as mere cast-offs;

C with new features and characteristics at the speed of light;

D to the changing needs and perspectives of its speakers;

E substituting "failure" with "learning opportunity";

F and celebrating the beauty of items with a history;

G who do not strictly identify as either male or female;

H who comes from a different country and culture.

English__on_the_go

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