

25 Idea Killer Phrases

The words we use when presented with a new idea can reinforce positive change and innovation, or it can stop them in their tracks. Here are twenty-five phrases that kill new ideas.

1. We've never done it that way before.
2. We tried that once years ago, and it didn't work.
3. There is no money in the budget.
4. They would never let us do/try that!
5. Do you know how much work that would take?
6. That might have worked there, but it won't work here.
7. They (managers, employees, unions) will never agree to it.
8. I don't think we're ready for that much change.
9. Do you know how much that would cost?
10. Who is going to do it?
11. We have too much on our plate to start something new now.
12. The cynics will have a field day with this one.
13. Everything is working fine. Why change now?
14. Where is the time going to come from to implement this?
15. That's just not who we are.
16. We could never get the people and resources to make that happen.
17. Do you know how much money we could lose if this doesn't work?
18. What were you thinking?
19. Are you trying to get fired?
20. You will offend the _____ (pick a group).
21. That sounds too complicated to explain.
22. We'll put that on the list for the future.
23. I guess someone doesn't have enough work to keep them busy.
24. That's above your/my pay grade.
25. You can suggest it if you want, but I wouldn't want to see management's response



25 Idea Promoter Phrases

The words we use when presented with a new idea can reinforce positive change and innovation, or it can stop them in their tracks. There will be plenty of time to consider all of the implementation challenges. Your initial goal is to encourage rather than discourage. Here are twenty-five phrases that promote new ideas and involvement in positive change.

1. That's a great idea!
2. I like where you are headed with this.
3. How can I help you move this forward?
4. Would you like some help to flesh this out?
5. What do you need to get this ready to present?
6. If it worked there, we can do it better.
7. I'm sure we can get their buy in.
8. That is exactly the kind of thinking we need.
9. Let's don't give up on this idea just yet.
10. I understand that there are challenges, but let's see if we can work through them together.
11. Let's set a time to talk about this in detail (and do it).
12. We can always find a way to do things better.
13. Thank you!
14. That just might work!
15. I appreciate you working on/thinking about this.
16. This could be a big win for everyone!
17. What do you see as the next steps?
18. Sure there are risks, but let's focus on the rewards of getting this right.
19. This is the kind of idea that will help us stay relevant.
20. Great job!
21. I can see that you have given this a lot of thought.
22. I like it!
23. I'm sure we can find some extra time to work on this.
24. Why don't you run with that idea and keep me posted on your progress?
25. I don't see why it couldn't work or be adapted for our operation.

