

Words we don't use in this nursery

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1. CUTS I was talking to a Government minister today (as one does - all too rarely.) And I happened to ask about 'cuts.'

He blanched.

I realised I had put my foot in it.

A nasty solecism.

Verbal dogshit.

'We...don't say cuts', he replied in hushed tones.

He's a nice man so I hastened to tone down my question.

"Er, re-allocation of expenditure?' I hazarded.

He shook his head.

More in sorrow than in anger (I hoped.)

And corrected me. 'Re-balancing' he said firmly.

'Ah,' I said feebly. Re-balancing!

My co-ordination's never been great, I must admit.

Had this nasty glimpse of me walking across Niagra Falls.

Tightrope swaying, pole tilting.

Oops!

Well, you learn something every day.