

DOMESTIC ABUSE IS

**MORE  
THAN**

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Prevention Resources

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## Red Flags: Abusive language to listen for

Early in a relationship, a domestic violence abuser might shower you with gifts and compliments. Often, **abusive language and behaviours are gradually introduced**, as the abuser begins efforts to control and manipulate you.

Here are some examples of what they might say and do:

- Call you names and criticise your appearance
- Accuse you of cheating
- Constantly put you down
- Always transfer the blame onto you or someone else – it's never their fault
- Constantly question where you have been/who you have been with
- Stop you from talking about things that interest you by changing the subject/acting uninterested
- Say hurtful things to you, then pretend it was a joke and that you are too sensitive
- Make you apologise for things you didn't do
- Speak for you or act as if your feelings don't matter
- Talk about previous partners in a very negative manner
- Not talk to you for periods of time for no apparent reason
- Tell you that nobody likes you

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Those who use verbal abuse to harm their partner may use words like:

Useless

Fat

Ugly

Unloveable

Stupid

Idiot

Worthless

Crazy

Bitch

Mad

Dumb

Slut

Lazy

Trashy

Whore