

The Beat

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PreTeen Teacher
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Never underestimate the power of your tongue. Last year in Italy, one boy's tongue made his substitute teacher so angry that she threatened twice to cut it off with a pair of scissors. When the boy still didn't stop talking, the teacher *did* cut it off—or at least that's what was widely reported. The whole story is that the kid's tongue was not cut completely off. It did require stitches, but the injury occurred because the boy angrily ran at the teacher who had the scissors. The teacher was fired and the boy's parents are suing the school.

Whether they are taunting, threatening, disrespecting, or misleading, this incident shows how words carry an amazing amount of power.

The moral of the story? Hold on to your tongue!

THINK ABOUT IT

- How does your teacher handle kids who talk too much?
- What are some inappropriate uses of your tongue in the classroom?



Say What?

We get to choose how to respond to everything that happens to us. And what we say can contribute to making a situation better or worse. Consider the situations listed below. Think of a good one-sentence response and a not-so-good one-sentence response to each situation. Which one would you choose?

- A very different new girl joins your class.
- Your father gets laid off.
- You don't like anything your mom has prepared for dinner.
- Your little sister breaks your favorite toy.
- Your friends invite you to come to a "private" party while their parents are gone.

To whom can you say something right this week?

