

## Partnership Language and Vocabulary

How we use language is key in the shift to Partnership Systems. Domination-based words and phrases have been built in to our everyday use of the English language, and influence the way we perceive the world. For example, the figure of speech “I will whip that into shape” originated within the current Domination System and uses violent and abusive language that references torture, whether of women, men, slaves, or horses. A Partnership-based metonym for this phrase might be “I will concentrate on this project” or “I will finish this project soon”.

Together we can become more aware of our use of Domination-based language and begin to consciously choose more caring, non-violent, and race/gender equitable language. Words and phrases in the areas of politics, economics, organizational development, business, and gender/family relations are particularly applicable.

The examples below are a sampling of the many phrases that can evolve from a context of Domination to Partnership in our everyday use of language. Do you have other examples of Domination to Partnership language to share? Let us know: contact CPS with your ideas. <https://centerforpartnership.org/connect/>

### Learn More:

Glossary for Cultural Transformation: *The Language of Partnership and Domination*  
By Stefano Mercanti, University of Udine, Italy  
<https://pubs.lib.umn.edu/index.php/ijps/article/view/89/83>

*The Language of Partnership*, by Riane Eisler  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/9pauwt4umpitomy/The-Language-ofPartnership-FINAL-FINAL-4.24.19.pdf?dl=0>

Domination	Partnership
We are shooting for a Thursday deadline	Our intention is to complete the project by Thursday
We are aiming to finish...	Our plan is to finish
Kill two birds with one stone	Hatch two birds with one egg
Let's target this demographic...	Let's focus on this demographic
I will whip that into shape.	I will concentrate on this project

I dodged a bullet	Things worked out for the best
Deadline	Deliverables, due date, tasks done
Things went South	Things went downhill from there
Spearhead an effort	Initiate an effort
Fight injustice	Heal injustice
Mankind	Humankind
Command central	Action hub
I really killed it/crushed it/nailed it	I really brought it to life
Boys will be boys	All humans are capable of empathy and respect for others
Bullet points	Itemized list
Take a stab at	Attempt, try
Killing time	Filling time
Hired gun	consultant
Man the office	Staff the office
Fight crime	Eliminate crime
War of the sexes	Dance of the sexes