I now present to you a totally random paragraph:

‘Twas the night before monkeys came for my son. But alas, Gus, you were not there for me at the Japanese robot fight. If it weren’t for phonetics, we would have not gone to the moon. And a single Jehovah’s Witness!

Does anyone see a problem with this paragraph? It didn’t make sense, you say? It was incoherent? Jumbled? Disjointed? Another synonym? Well you would be right then. Random is just that. Even though the word itself is hardly useful in everyday speech, it can be heard 2 to 3 times per minute. Unless you are talking to adults over 22 or young children.

The problem lies in the high schoolers and college kids. Young people think everything is random. But as always, they are wrong. iPods are an important part of American youth culture and they have a supposedly “random” shuffle feature. But have you ever listened to it? It plays all the best songs. It’s not random; iPods can read your mind. That’s all.

Webster’s Dictionary (online of course) defines random as: going by chance; done or made at hazard, or without settled direction, aim, or purpose; hazarded without previous calculation; left to chance; haphazard; as, a random guess.

So if this is the case, why are so many things in the eyes of teenagers and twenty-somethings alike so “totally random?” I’ll step in to answer this for you: they are not. Since there are only two umbrellas under which I can categorize youths, I will demonstrate why “random” does not fit their vocabulary:

If you are a person of the good book, a believer, insecure or something, you believe that a higher power has deliberately made animals, Earth and us. So you are no longer allowed to use the word random. Ever.

If you are an atheist, agnostic, a vampire or something, you may not believe that a higher power created animals, Earth and us. That’s cool; you’ll be shipped off to prison soon.

By now you should have realized that the word random should be shortened to four letters and bleeped out on television. But you are wrong! There are a select few people who may use the word random. They are: scientists and Dungeons and Dragons players. Scientists are allowed to use it when they can’t logically explain a phenomenon in science. D&D players are allowed to use it because they use dice in the game. And they are probably scientists anyways.

However, the root of the issue is that conversation is a lost art. Or so say my parents and other old people. I tend to agree with them regardless of how boring or old they are. I cringe when I hear that someone had a totally random weekend. Did the Pittsburgh Steelers draft you and then you survived an atomic bomb? That would be pretty close to random. Or did your scientist friend take you back in time to 1955? That would be closer to plagiarism, actually.

I would like to end with some advice. Please, stop using random as a means of lazy description. It takes away from the lost art of conversation and makes you sound like a valley girl. Plus, there are so many other words that can be used ad nauseum until they no longer hold any meaning whatsoever.