Changing labels

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| **Label** | **Dates in use (in England unless otherwise stated)** | **Origin** | **Have you heard of this label?** | **Have you ever used this label?** | **Has this label ever been used about you?** |
| *Mongol (Mong)* | 1862–1950s | Dr John Langdon Down identified Downs Syndrome, and classified people with DS as a ‘Mongolian’ type of ‘idiot’ |  |  |  |
| *Defective* | 1880–1959 | Cross Commission 1886 1913 Mental Deficiency Act (MD Act) repealed in 1959 |  |  |  |
| *Idiot* | 1880–1959 | Idiots Act (1886) Mental Deficiency Act 1913 |  |  |  |
| *Imbecile* | 1913–1959 | MD Act 1913 - 1959 |  |  |  |
| *Feeble-minded* | 1913–1959 | MD Act 1913-1959 |  |  |  |
| *Moral defective/ imbecile* | 1913–1930s | MD Act 1913, dropped out of use in 1930s |  |  |  |
| *Dull* |  | First recorded c. 1886 |  |  |  |
| *Moron* | Early C20 | A medical term denoting an adult with a mental age of about 8–12): from Greek mōron, neuter of mōros 'foolish'. |  |  |  |
| *Cretin* | Eighteenth century | Refers to medical condition (due to thyroid deficiency) common in some parts of Switzerland |  |  |  |
| *Backward* | 1880s–1950s | National Association for Parents of Backward Children, later Mencap 1940s to c.1970 |  |  |  |
| *Ineducable* | 1944–1971 | 1944 Education Act excluded children with IQ below 50 from school |  |  |  |

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| *Spastic* | In use since eighteenth century, became term of abuse in 1970s | Person with Cerebral Palsy, medical condition, which affects control of limbs |  |  |  |
| *Sub normal/severely SN* | 1959–1971 | Mental Health Act 1959 |  |  |  |
| *Mentally handicapped* | 1960s–1980s | Better Services for the Mentally Handicapped 1971 |  |  |  |
| *People with Mental Handicap* | 1980s | Gradually replaced ‘mentally handicapped’ in 1980s |  |  |  |
| *‘Joey’* | 1977 onwards | Joey Deacon lived in a mental handicap hospital and wrote his life story with help from friends. After he appeared on Blue Peter in 1981, the word ‘joey’ was widely used as an insult |  |  |  |
| *Special Needs* | 1978–today | Warnock Report 1978 |  |  |  |
| *People with learning disabilities* | 1990–today | Adopted by Government c. 1990, used in ‘Valuing People’ (2001), ‘Valuing People Now’ (2009) |  |  |  |
| *People with learning difficulties* | 1980s–today | Self advocates’ preferred term |  |  |  |
| *Retarded/retards* | 1940s to c.2000 | Official term used in USA until replaced by intellectual disability in early C21 |  |  |  |
| *People with intellectual disabilities* | 2000 onwards | Australia, NZ, US, Canada, some UK |  |  |  |