

The slang word "weight" is commonly used in North American workshops as a substitute for the correct terms "SAE" (Society of Automotive Engineers) or "viscosity" when referring to the viscosity grade of motor oil. It is not accurate to say that someone specifically invented this slang term. Instead, it has evolved over time within the automotive community.

It's important to note that while the use of "weight" as slang in this context is common, it is not the technically correct term. If you're discussing motor oil viscosity in a professional or technical setting, it's advisable to use the proper terminology, such as SAE or viscosity, to avoid any confusion.

The slang term "weight" to refer to motor oil viscosity grades has been in use within the automotive community for several decades. Unfortunately, it is challenging to pinpoint an exact date or origin for its first usage, as slang terms often evolve organically over time.

However, it is believed that the term "weight" emerged as a simplification or shorthand way of referring to the viscosity grade of motor oil. Instead of saying "SAE 30" or "SAE 40," individuals started using "30 weight" or "40 weight" to convey the same meaning. This usage likely gained traction among mechanics, automotive enthusiasts, and others within the industry.

Over time, the term "weight" became widely understood and accepted within the North American automotive community as an informal way to refer to motor oil viscosity grades. While it is not the technically accurate term, it has persisted and continues to be used colloquially in workshops and informal conversations.

The use of slang terms like "weight" in the automotive industry can have both positive and negative impacts on understanding and communication. Here are a few aspects to consider:

- 1. Informal Communication:** Slang terms often emerge as a way to simplify language and facilitate informal communication within a specific community or industry. In the case of the automotive industry, using terms like "weight" instead of "SAE" or "viscosity" can create a sense of camaraderie and shared understanding among professionals, enthusiasts, and hobbyists. It establishes a shorthand language that is easily understood within the community.
- 2. Barrier to Entry:** On the other hand, the use of slang terms can create a barrier to entry for newcomers or individuals not familiar with the terminology. If someone outside the automotive industry encounters the term "weight" without prior knowledge or context, it may cause confusion and hinder effective communication. It's important to strike a balance between using slang within the community and ensuring clear communication with those who may not be familiar with the terminology.
- 3. Precision and Accuracy:** Slang terms like "weight" may not accurately convey the technical details or nuances of the subject matter. In the case of motor oil viscosity, using "weight" as a substitute for "SAE" or "viscosity" overlooks the specific measurements and standards established by organizations like the Society of Automotive Engineers. This can lead to misunderstandings or imprecise discussions when it comes to technical matters.
- 4. Professionalism and Standardization:** In professional or technical settings, it is crucial to adhere to standardized terminology to ensure clear and accurate communication. Using slang terms like "weight" instead of the appropriate technical terms may be seen as unprofessional or lacking precision. It is important to understand the appropriate context and audience when deciding whether to use slang or adhere to formal terminology.

In summary, while slang terms like "weight" can foster a sense of community and shared understanding within the automotive industry, they may also create barriers and potential misunderstandings. It is essential to strike a balance between informal communication and adhering to standardized terminology, depending on the context and audience involved in the conversation.