

what are they talking about?

Ganged seating, ped, double rubs, glides, and soft caster might not mean what you think. Here's a cheat sheet to help you translate furniture language into English.

Box-box-file – Duck Duck Goose? No, these are drawer configurations on a pedestal. A box drawer is a 6" drawer, the file drawer holds files among other things. The sequence in which they are given in the description indicates the order of the drawers from top to bottom.

Bridge – Not your future dental work. A bridge is the work surface that attaches to both the desk and the credenza, creating a "U" shaped work area.

Bubble diagram – The comic you get in a piece of Bazooka, or comments/changes made to a plan with a cloud like symbol highlighting them.

Case goods – Desks, credenzas, tables – mostly items used in private offices

Chassis – We're not talking '56 Chevys - the structural part of the desk or table.

Credenza – A freestanding storage piece usually 60-84 inches long and 20-24 inches deep, often used behind desks in offices or used in conference rooms for miscellaneous storage.

Double rubs – An abrasion test to determine the durability of a textile. The higher the number the more durable a fabric is. History note: "double" because you sit down then get up from a chair, contacting or rubbing the fabric twice.

Drawer suspension – The mechanism holding the drawer allowing it to be pulled out, partially or completely, from the desk.

FOB Destination – "Free on Board" Destination. The manufacturer accepts the liability and financial obligation for the shipment until it arrives at the destination.

FOB Factory – "Free on Board" Factory. The liability and financial obligation of the shipment shifts to the responsibility of the customer once it leaves the factory.

Gang seating – Not the preferred seating choice for the Bloods and the Crips, but grouping of chairs attached to each other in areas such as lobby or reception areas.

Glides – The plastic pieces, or feet, on chairs, table bases, files or case goods. With these in place, moving the furniture is easier because you can slide it instead of having to pick it up. The glides generally serve as a leveling mechanism as well.

Hard casters – Appropriately named, these casters are used on a soft surface flooring, such as carpet. Or wheels on your office chair.

Hutch – Not what your grandmother keeps tea cups in. In office furniture, it can mean several things, but usually it is a unit attached on top of a credenza allowing for additional storage.

Laminate (Plastic laminate) – It is the hard plastic material often used to cover tables, counter tops, cabinets, etc. Formica is one of the more common brand names.

Lateral file 

Lead time – How long it takes to manufacturer the furniture. IMPORTANT! This does not include the time it takes to place an order at the dealer or the shipping time from the manufacturer to the job site. What ever the quoted lead time is, add another 2-3 weeks before the furniture arrives at your door.

LEED – "The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System® is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Members of the U.S. Green Building Council representing all segments of the building industry developed LEED and continue to contribute to its evolution."

List price – Prices that are published in a manufacturer's price list. They are almost always discounted substantially.

Modesty panel – Not the fashion police, but a vertical panel on the front of a desk or table there to provide privacy, hence modesty.

Off module – The way you might feel on Monday morning. In systems furniture, it is the ability to place components (storage pieces, work surfaces or other panel frames) anywhere along the width of a panel - not just at the ends of the panels.

Panel Creep – Not the person sitting on the other side of your station. At a 2, 3 or 4 way panel connection, the length of the panel run will generally be increased by the width of the panel. Panel creep must be factored into planning, especially in very tight spaces.

Pedestal (ped) – The drawer unit under the worksurface, such as box-box-file.

Punch list – Not to be confused with "hit list." After an installation is completed, your project manager and/or sales person will walk your space with you making notes of any outstanding items needing follow up attention.

Re-stack – Nothing to do with Pamela Anderson. Generally referred to as a major systems reconfiguration – perhaps an entire floor. It could also refer to a company if they are moving outlying locations or other job functions to one location.

Soft casters – Soft casters, or wheels on your office chair, are made from a softer rubber and are designed for use on a hard surfaced floor such as tile or concrete. Because they are softer, you won't fly around your work area out of control.

Spacer – Spacey, space ship, SPACES? No, a spacer is the same thing as a bridge.

Spine (Spline) Planning – A specific type of systems furniture planning where all data and electrical run down a center spine leaving all tertiary panels available for easier relocation.

Tertiary Panels – Those panels connecting at 90 degrees (or even 120 degrees less commonly) from the system's center spine.

Veneer – A very thin slice of wood, with varying grain patterns depending on how it is cut, applied over a substrate - virtually all wood furniture is manufactured this way.

Vertical file 