



Cliches – and how to get around them!

Cliches drive readers – and editors - bonkers, especially when it comes to writing. They are boring and abused and about as fun to read as the instruction manual of a Dustbuster. Writing is supposed to be a creative process, and there's nothing creative in rehashing some trite phrase that is so old it was probably used by Moses as he parted the Red Sea.

There are many (check "Elements of Style" for more) – but here is a list of the Writer's Digest "12 cliches in writing that need to be permanently retired.

Fun Exercise – pick one or two and rewrite with original wording!

1. Avoid it like the plague
2. Dead as a doornail
3. Take the tiger by the tail
4. Low hanging fruit
5. If only walls could talk
6. The pot calling the kettle black
7. Think outside the box
8. Thick as thieves
9. But at the end of the day
10. Plenty of fish in the sea
11. Every dog has its day
12. Like a kid in a candy store

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