

Pikestaff 54 (January 2012)

- Style guides aim to be engines of change at transport department
- Plain Language Commission news
- Spelling is pronounced chaos
- Clarity news
- Watershed for Waterstones
- Readers write
- Let's get quizzical

Pikestaff 55 (March 2012)

- Your language isn't clear, says investigator of border security muddle
- US health insurers must use plain words – but government sets bad example, says StyleWriter
- PerfectIt – now with added freebie
- International Plain Language Day – 13 October 2012
- Readers write
- Plain-English culture project
- Simplification Centre update
- Memorable memes

Pikestaff 56 (May 2012)

- *Watchdog* takes up fight against bad parking signs
- Ministers to road-test online services in usability drive
- Regulator explains (some) legal jargon
- Clarity 2012 conference
- Clear Writing Campaign conference
- Why use editors to improve your text?
- Tips from a publishing insider
- Sequence of adjectives baffles experts (and foreigners)
- Let's get quizzical

Pikestaff 57 (July 2012)

- Language and ethics in the private parking industry
- Going forward in a step change – or a backward move?
- Readers write – History of the English Language; Plain English and the financial crisis; The bank done good; Collective wisdom; Pikestaff gets futuristic
- ClearMark awards 2012
- Writing for Dollars, Writing to Please
- Let's get quizzical

Pikestaff 58 (September 2012)

- From gaffes to Gamesish
- An enormous error?
- Clarity conference and meeting
- International Plain Language Day
- Readers write
- Let's get quizzical

Pikestaff 59 (November 2012)

- International Plain Language Day 2012
- 'Parking champion of Stockport' strikes again
- Simple Actions hack day to redesign parking signs
- Readers write – To apostrophize or not to apostrophize; Providing the answer
- A colo(u)rful tale
- WriteMark Plain English Awards
- Let's get quizzical

Pikestaff 60 (January 2013)

- Instagram's clear language: deceptive in plain sight
- FOI no defence against the dark (p)arts
- Readers write – Use or utilize; Plain Language Commission Style Guide; 'Going forward'; New year's resolution: take the tort out of tautology
- Word of the year
- Let's get quizzical
- International news – WriteMark Plain English Awards; Good retirement, Joe Kimble; International Plain Language Day 2013

Pikestaff 61 (March 2013)

- Lying in State: DVLA finally retracts its clear (but false) claims
- Accredited form improved by reader's complaint
- Clear English Standard: accredited documents on the web
- 'I could eat a horse'
- *Write Like A Pro*
- Use or utilize?
- Let's get quizzical – Easy peasy lemon squeezy?; A hairy question?
- All rather silly mid-off
- Conferences and events – Clarity breakfast; PLAIN conference; Clarity conference

Pikestaff 62 (May 2013)

- Point-scoring pedants grab grammar headlines
- The bell tolls for whom
- Clearly clarified
- UK law writers say the laws they write are too complex
- Readers write – Sincere advice; Catching some zeds; Horsing around
- Let's get quizzical
- Conferences, events and journals – Clarity breakfast (April); Clarity/IALS evening event; Clarity breakfast (July); Clarity journal; PLAIN conference; Clarity conference

Pikestaff 63 (July 2013)

- It's Pikestaff, readers, but not (quite) as you know it
- Pick of the Pikestaff pops: fave raves from the early years
- Missing, if not actually lost, in translation
- Readers write – The language query; The suggestion for improvement; The tip-off on a new resource; The response to an article; The 'Pikestaff has been censored' report
- Typographical titillation
- Let's get quizzical
- Conferences, events and journals – Clarity breakfast (April); Clarity/IALS evening event; Clarity breakfast (July); Clarity journal; PLAIN conference; Clarity conference

Pikestaff 64 (September 2013)

- 'Healthy' Nestlé laces drinks with twice the sugar of Coke
- Overweight in financial jargon
- Mounting pressure for a taxidermal verb
- Apostrophe worry – the least of our problems
- Heteronyms trotted out with peddle power
- Bond's testicle torment no excuse for 'hereby'
- Uplifting jargon... yet BBC forfeits moral high ground
- Plain English guide – new edition
- Parking rip-offs – an update
- Mad march of 'obsessive lawmaking'
- Nine per cent – astonishing rate the Government assumes old people can get on their savings
- 'Impacted' in collision with normal English
- Conferences, events and journals – PLAIN conference
- Readers write – 'support' ousting 'help'
- Ray Ward's quizzicalities

Pikestaff 65 (November 2013)

- Plain language finally defined – but is this really the last word?
- Newsman bites back at fierce private parking practices
- Warnings called for as sugar debate gets spicy
- Clear communicators will become a single profession
- Local council snouts in the parking trough
- Tom Vernon: 1939–2013
- A fowl-up by any other name (Fukuppy)
- Govian grammar tests may stretch teachers too
- Sainsbury's bans customer for colourful language
- In/out EU referendum: we help
- Award for Martin Cutts at plain-language conference
- Readers write – chicken made from chicken (commas on the loose)
- Ray Ward's quizzicalities

Pikestaff 66 (January 2014)

- No business writing if business writing is this bad
- When it's Tuesday, your time's up
- Indie a slave to its preconceptions

- Serial killer's plain language shocks courtroom
- Jargon of the week: personalized sauce option
- Local-council parking rip-offs
- BBC's consumer champion role compromised by payout scandal
- Ethnic questions on official forms: who needs 'em?
- Insurer returns £30,000 after private-parking pillage
- Ofgem simplifies tariff mayhem
- Print so small it's not so smart
- Pundits' verbal own goals
- Strigine and lapidary
- All-purpose 'appropriate' fails suitability test

Pikestaff 67 (March 2014)

- Plain English Campaign Ltd removes false guarantee claims (at last)
- Cliché corner
- Lie back and think of English
- Verbless writing
- Run-on sentences, re-run
- DVLA should stop selling drivers' data to ParkingEye
- Tebbit and text messages stoke obesity debate
- Robert Eagleson
- Government lawyers to investigate wording of target-setting parking-ticket contracts
- Crystal-marked leaflet at centre of NHS England fiasco
- Dumb and dumber in Dunbartonshire
- Bookless in Benefits Street
- Apostrophes in street names, again
- Tax name confusion
- Ward's words: a quizzicality from the Brain of Britain 2012

Pikestaff 68 (June 2014)

- European auditors go for plain language
- Vexatious vocab in feline flap-fitting
- Vine entwined in Freudian slip
- Rafts of jargon deliver overarching frameworks and challenges, going forwards
- Staff head for the exits as way-out word makes an entrance
- Law drafters shocked that readers find their work unclear
- Homophonics corner
- Private parking scandal: an update
- Ward's words: 'pantehnicon'

Pikestaff 69 (September 2014)

- Loose chippings from the Tower of Babel
- Wonga's bent for straight-talking money
- 'Gibberish' parking sign laughed out of court
- Subject-verb distance signals heavy load ahead
- Parking pirates savaged by Daily Mail
- Unclear consumer contract spells trouble for local council
- Slew of slatterns and sluts on a slippery slope
- Consumer contracts: how to complain if they're unclear
- Ward's words: 'mondegreen'

Pikestaff 70 (November 2014)

- Dressing leaflet plastered with baffling English
- Council in Australia bids to clarify parking signs
- Street signs in all their glory
- ParkingEye's unclear hospital signs rake in £70 penalties
- Rich harvest of proofreading errors
- Annual tax summaries coming
- New book on good writing
- Old-style 'diagnosis' in terminal decline
- Pinch of Saffron
- Christopher Staughton, Clarity patron
- Lessons have been, will be, are being learned
- Poverty poorly defined
- Loose chippings from the Tower of Babel (2)

Pikestaff 71 (April 2015)

- Logging an excellent chainsaw manual
- Defining plain language
- Race to the bottom wipes out euphemisms
- Overhaul for UK law explanatory notes
- Private parking signs: sometimes so bad they're criminal
- Smiley face of customer care
- Impact – subeditor's hate-word aims for world domination
- Loose chippings from the Tower of Babel (3)
- Commons Speaker floats the end of 'honourable' but jargonauts fight back
- Plain-language conference presentations are now available
- Falling asleep on the job
- Some turn away from apostrophes

Pikestaff 72 (October 2015)

- Conference plea for more-accessible websites
- Very plain care-home-fees pledge broken weeks after election win
- Gorenje website: really 'Life Simplified'?
- Engineers destroyed for want of a nail...
- Package leaflets for medicine could be clearer – despite EC tests
- In-out question shaken all about by Electoral Commission
- RSPCA used small print to snare donors
- Loose chippings from the Tower of Babel (4)
- Mystic hunt for sense in gender-political language
- Desikan, India consumer champion and plain-language pioneer, dies at 82
- Ashes win raises small-print refund question
- Editing the National Trust
- Green light for parking predators as appeal court rules against consumers
- Why tax is still too taxing
- Cliché alert: even Lonely Planet authors 'wash down' their food

Pikestaff 73 (April 2016)

- UK consumer law changes its approach to plain language
- Business language needs a lift
- What's new on communicating with older people

- Private-parking charge of £85 is OK, says Supreme Court
- New language: bulbous salutation and cultural appropriation
- Loose chippings from the Tower of Babel (5)
- Learning events
- Signs abroad

Pikestaff 74 (June 2016)

- Never write a short report where a long one will do
- Websites in blunderland
- Sign of disagreement in Whitehall
- 'Keep calm and carry on' revisited
- Dash it! More hyphen trouble
- Loose chippings from the Tower of Babel (6)
- Tautology alert
- Eye-candy chief in revealing caption
- Fog in financial products is deliberate – Bank official
- Dire contract drafting criticized by judge
- Next PLAIN conference
- Referendum: truth, lies and some ropey writing

Pikestaff 75 (December 2016)

- Deceptive language takes its toll
- Loose chippings from the Tower of Babel (7)
- From-virus – latest news
- Clichés rear their ugly heads like the plague
- Let's get quizzical
- Brexit vote: clear answer to a clear question, but was it merely advisory?
- 'Reaching out' marches on
- Words old and new: manspreading, mansplaining and put to the horn
- New books
- Sign language
- Run-on sentences
- Plain language needs to be complete as well as clear
- US election: short phrases win the day
- Farewell from Pikestaff