

Issue number and month	Tip of the month Clearly clarified	General news	Plain Language Commission (PLC) news and readers'/website visitors' letters	Funny examples of unclear English	Linguistic link
2007 Pikestaff 1 January 2007		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teesdale District Council's 'incomprehensible' report • YouGov Poll on management jargon • UK and US doublespeak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New distance-learning courses • Our services (editing, accreditation and training) and corporate membership • PLC becomes a limited company 	Take off, listen up, crash out	
Pikestaff 2 February 2007		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Improve Your English' features in The Independent • Survey on barriers to youngsters setting up in business • Competition run by US Department for Transportation • Stockport Council's 'Communication Month' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why we use 'z' rather than 's' in words like 'organization' • Our distance-learning and on-site courses • Ruth Thornton's new book • Why we chose the name 'Pikestaff' 	Devil of a disclaimer	
Pikestaff 3 March 2007	AVoid crazy CAPITALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC survey on language in CVs • Scottish Executive's baffling language • The Rules of Golf by Bryan Garner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relaunch of our website • New articles by Martin Cutts and Sarah Carr • StyleWriter software 	I trust this provides the degree of cloudification that you require	
Pikestaff 4 April 2007	Use inclusive language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of capital letters in legal documents • Department of Health's new scheme to accredit producers of health information • Letters to The Independent following its 'Improve Your English' feature • Plain-English syllabus in Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate membership • PLAIN conference in Amsterdam • Our approach to readability 	I spy with a critical eye	

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Pikestaff 5 May 2007	Write shorter sentences, but don't make your readers sea-sick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forms used in Scottish elections are heavily criticized • Unfair Commercial Practices Directive • Oregon's plain-language bill • Judges who don't understand modern words and phrases • Obituary of Lord Renton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norwood wins award for its annual report • Our distance-learning courses • Judy Brown's new article on our website • Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman publishes Principles 	Crustless bread yields mighty beef	
Pikestaff 6 June 2007	Don't be a writing also-ran, right any run-on sentences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dons warn of students' failing language skills • Department of Health's new standard for providers of health information • US Federal Rules restated in plain English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Word Guide offers • Financial Services Authority's website gains gold standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of hinking is criminal • Pains in trains and planes add mainly to the strain 	
Pikestaff 7 July 2007	Punctuate bullet lists properly, or you could be shot at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclearly worded adverts and company names • MP John McFall and the 'memorandum of misunderstanding' • 'Crazy English' in China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bromford Housing Group gets top marks from the Housing Corporation • O2 report gains Clear English Standard • Reader's letter about run-on sentences with 'however' 	Pedants revolt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because you're mirth it • O vary special offer • What's in a name? • It's all hot air 	
Pikestaff 8 September 2007	Write in the active, so a right-royal style is avoided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLAIN conference in Amsterdam • Dr Bernard Lamb's article on students' errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why we call ourselves 'Plain Language Commission' • Martin Cutts' and Sarah Carr's new articles on our website • Ruth Thornton visits Buckingham Palace to collect book award • Enquire's guide receives Clear English Standard 	Ambiguity corner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't crash and burn • Law students up a gumtree • Officers on the beat? • Expectations grate 	

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Pikestaff 9 October 2007	Remember Word's grammar checker gives stats of chequered quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unusual languages – Pitmatic and Klingon • Readability of recipes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readers' letters on overusing 'key'; and on Latin terms • Writing by numbers, Martin Cutts' workshop at PLAIN's conference • StyleWriter review • Christina Gleeson's new book • Norwich Union becomes corporate member 	Horribly highfalutin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard-to-understand shoulder • Quest for cool coif continues 	
Pikestaff 10 November 2007	Ceteris paribus, give your writing that je ne sais quoi and relieve your readers' angst – bid adieu to foreign words and phrases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electoral Commission's review of the Scottish elections • Education pack on Bob Dylan's song lyrics • Harriet Harman and parliamentary language • Simplification Centre launched at Reading University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reader's letter about using singular or plural verbs with 'data' • High Peak Borough Council commissions training • Martin Manser's new book • Private Eye picks up on Martin Cutts' article, Plain English Awards scandal 	Rhubarb, redundancies and Roman rubbish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needing to address a failure to deliver • Pedantic about PIN numbers • Unplainly painful • Euphemisms R US 	FreeRice
Pikestaff 11 December 2007	If you want your writing to be simply the best – better than all the rest – then test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tesco needs to mind its language in the US • Unfairness of Plain English Campaign awards • Petition on term 'McJob' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas competition to rewrite a notice spotted in Tesco • Awards won by PLC customers during 2007 • PLC donates money to Plan International instead of sending Christmas cards 	Free-range gobbledegook: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal bird that's hard to swallow • For patient patients only • Twelve lords a-drivelling 	British National Corpus

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2008 Pikestaff 12 January 2008	Follow due PROCESS to clarify your writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alan Greenspan's linguistic style Medical abbreviations Annual conference of Patient Information Forum Local Government Association publishes 'non-word' list 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of competition to rewrite Tesco notice Reader's letter about long sentence in law book Customers praise PLC's on-site courses Reminder about why we use 'z' rather than 's' in words like 'organization' 	Travellers' tales: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good nudes: your clothes are now ready for take-off Training in tautology Form in bad shape Clearly in a different universe 	Scottish Government's online booklet, Plain Language and Legislation
Pikestaff 13 February 2008	Avoid abbreviations, MDU advises MDs, RNs and AHPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asterisque bleeping Rowan Williams' 'unclarity' BBC's shrinking legibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview with Wirral Partnership Homes on our editing services Readers' letters on why we use 'z' rather than 's' in words like 'organization'; and on using singular 'they' (for example, instead of 'he or she') New articles by Martin Cutts and Sarah Carr on our website 	Sic jokes (slips and amusing English from Activia and Cafebar)	Plain English Lexicon
Pikestaff 14 March 2008	Don't improvise when you apostrophize; be wise and follow the rule that applies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US Plain Language Bill Contronyms Swearing at work Comment on Rowan Williams' 'unclarity' New name for 'One' train company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Cutts' masterclasses at Patient Information Forum conference How to save money on our editing On-site courses Dealing with critics of plain English 	Which profession prevails in piffle production prowess?	Bartleby.com

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Pikestaff 15 April 2008	Avoid (semi)colonic irritation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Plain Language Act • Northern Irish order on personal current bank accounts • Small Print Bill • Semi-colons in France • Royal blackmail tape • Obituary of Jyoti Sanyal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth Thornton's example of contronym • Readers' letters on 'it's' being short for 'it has' as well as 'it is' • StyleWriter 	Champions challenged for supremacy in sesquipedalianism	Apostrophe Protection Society
Pikestaff 16 May 2008	Avoid colonic irritation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northamptonshire County Council and the taste of strawberry • Office of Government Commerce logo • Citizen's Summary project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readers' letters on curse words; 'there's' + plural nouns; and apostrophe amnesty • New on website – Linguistic links and Pikestaff index • New articles by Martin Cutts and Sarah Carr 	Nasty (or just plain nutty) nomenclature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't sweat the small stuff • To wait or not to wait: that is the question • Library language languishes as laxity launched in lieu of literate lingo • And now for a spine-chiller 	Typo Eradication Advancement League (TEAL)

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Pikestaff 17 June 2008	Don't get your colons (and semi-colons) in a twist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help needed for Small Print Bill • Quickie guide to Wiki words • Use of 'from' with 'stop' and 'prevent' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws for Citizens (Nordic-Baltic seminar on clear legal language) • Readers' letters on aberrant apostrophes; punctuation of 'Citizen's summary'; and a slip in Pikestaff 16 	<p>More nutty nomenclature: All is not lost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Ugley rumour • How Prez-I-Dent Bush reads a speech 	Language Log
Pikestaff 18 July 2008	Don't mourn the moribund gerund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSA studies clarity of pension 'wake-up' packs • More on use of 'from' with 'stop' and 'prevent' • Proposed Office of Tax Simplification • William Lutz's project at US Securities and Exchange Commission • Sandra Martins of Português Claro gets married 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLC wins contract with Department for Work and Pensions • Corporate Responsibility Group awarded gold Wining Website standard • Information Design Association talk on Dopplr 	<p>An end to nutty nomenclature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court is a brick to Swedish parents who named son Lego • Love score in Lesbian action • Fame or shame for those with inane domain name? 	Global Language Monitor
Pikestaff 19 September 2008	Avoid clichés like the plague	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clichés cornered 1 • Lecturer calls for spelling reform due to students' poor spelling • FSA's final report on clarity of pension 'wake-up' packs • Tesco changes text of 'Up to ten items' notice • Journalists told to include attention-grabbing words for 'search engine optimization' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLC's readability report features in BBC3 programme • Conference in Germany on European administrative language • Publishing news • Readers' letters on error in FSA speech; Virgin Media's language; and 'standees' 	<p>Funny foreign features (not sent in by Brad, Bruni or Beckham)</p>	George Orwell diaries

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Pikestaff 20 October 2008	Rightsize the buzzwords and rightsize your writing repertoire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bournemouth Council bans Latin words and phrases • Management buzzwords hit by credit crunch • Clichés cornered 2 • Arguments for and against phonetic spelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readers' letters on Results Accountability; over/more than; and Pikestaff's name • High-street bank commends editing turnaround time • You'd think a lawyer would of known better 	From the apostrophic to the prophylactic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hat trick for Tesco on text trouble • Safe-sex instructions, warts and all 	Simple Language
Pikestaff 21 November 2008	Don't automatically junk the jargon; just explain the technical terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) improves disclosure • Plain Language Association InterNational becomes incorporated • Clichés cornered 3 • Update on Latin ban, and Plain English Campaign's take on average reading age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Services Authority and Community Legal Advice achieve gold ratings in Winning Website scheme • Electoral Commission's 'Making your mark' project • Readers' letters on 'aims and objectives'; Tesco's cheese sign; and simplified spelling 	TEAL me another: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reef not • Manchester's missionary position • Stationary stationery 	A Plain English Handbook (US Securities and Exchange Commission)
Pikestaff 22 December 2008	Don't equivocate – disambiguate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrities' influence on young people's reading habits, and popular and less popular books • Clichés cornered 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas competition to rewrite website text • Norwood publishes Annual Review in plain English • Christmas wishes to readers 	Anti Ambiguity's agony column	National Year of Reading

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2009 Pikestaff 23 January 2009	Be relatively clear – use the pronoun what's right	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of 21st Century Disclosure Initiative • Siegel+Gale survey on complexity in financial documents • Clichés cornered 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halifax Bank uses Plain English Standard • Results of Christmas competition • Oxford Guide to Plain English used in new US programme • Courses for European Ombudsman • Readers' letters on apostrophes in place names; and BBC quote on avoiding ambiguity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poo(r) proofreading (probably) • And my quote marks have gone south too 	Dubyaspeak
Pikestaff 24 February 2009	Don't waffle on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info Commissioner condemns misleading small print • Collecting ethnic data • Update on US Plain Language Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readers' letters on is/are fewer than 2; and American English • Plain language in law • Our services, and request for ideas for other services 	Slips and trips	Useit.com
Pikestaff 25 March 2009	Don't dangle your partner by his participles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribute to Bill Sabin • Furore over change of Facebook terms • Survey on financial jargon by NALA and EBS building society • LGA list of 200 words that councils shouldn't use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to Consumer Focus Scotland, new corporate member • Patient Information Forum conference • Readers' letters on missing link; recommended web-writing book; and why we use 'z' in words like 'organization' 	Ambiguity corner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So chocolatey, they're obscene • Past tense • Take this on board 	Health Literacy Group

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Pikestaff 26 April 2009	Practise nominalization avoidance...and go steady on verbing your nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webby Awards – 5-word speeches • LGA failing to follow its own advice on words to avoid • Conservatives' new policy paper on NHS information • April Fool's jokes related to language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New articles on our website, written for BIOA on writing clearer letters (by Martin Cutts) and for IDeA on speaking plainly (by Sarah Carr) • PLAIN conference in Australia in October 09 • Reader's letter on standards of English, especially 'I'/'me' 	How mondegreen was my valet?	Sounds familiar (British Library)
Pikestaff 27 May 2009	Do your best to PC the wood from the trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tesco's 'cheaper alternatives', and Morrisons' misspelt toy • Manchester City Council's unclear road sign • Somerset County Council's view of LGA word list 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our readability-testing service • Readers' letters on verbed nouns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ants are my friends, they're blowin' in the wind • In my (public) house are many kitchens 	Simply Understand
Pikestaff 28 June 2009	Practise good practice in spelling '-se' and '-ce' words Clearly clarified: eye clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusing credit-card statements may compound credit crunch • The millionth-word milestone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readers' letters on 'deplaning'; 12pm and 12am; and 'opened them the door' • Pendle Council's staff poll on attitudes to plain English • 'How to Write Clearly' to be translated into 23 languages 	Faintly amusing	Business Dictionary.com
Pikestaff 29 July 2009	Ensure useless euphemism joins the choir invisible Clearly clarified: legal English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Administration Select Committee launches inquiry into official language • New StyleWriter editing software out in September 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Cutts's new article for The Ombudsman • Corrections to article about 'How to Write Clearly' booklet • New edition of Oxford Guide • Readers' letters on 12pm and 12am; and using 'a' or 'an' before 'USD' 	Lost in translation	Lexiophiles

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Pikestaff 30 September 2009	Don't confuse your customers with colloquialisms Clearly clarified: pension explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tesco adds new wording to (partly) clarify its 'See cheaper alternatives' • Report launched on testing phase of Department of Health's Information Accreditation Scheme • Private Eye's stupid letter of the week: BT customer services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Carr joins PiF advisory group • Third edition of Oxford Guide to Plain English published • Sandra Fisher-Martins speaks at law seminar in Sweden • Conference of Society for Editors and Proofreaders • Readers' letters on 'There's a lot of...' 	A roaring success	Health Literacy and Plain Language Resource Guide
Pikestaff 31 October 2009	Write instructions that cut it Clearly clarified: a hotel's 'left luggage' ticket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Cutts's presentations at PLAIN conference in Australia • Tesco boss blames school for low standards • Plain-English progress in Australia and New Zealand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision to provide Pikestaff as a bookmarked PDF as well as a web link • New articles – ASBO English and StyleWriter's Bog index 	Signs of the times	Twurdy
Pikestaff 32 November 2009	Please, no nasty pleonasm Clearly clarified: election of new members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordon Brown's letter backfires • English Language Day, and Language of Law conference • Stupid letters of the month: British Airways • Information Standard launched • An editor's revenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Bernard Lamb's new article • Photos of, and links to information, on PLAIN conference 	Hideous headlines	The English Project

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Pikestaff 33 December 2009	Try hard to follow the bard Clearly clarified: Christmas competition to rewrite legal text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Administration Select Committee publishes report on official language • Ideas for books to buy as Christmas presents • Word of the Year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Commissioner's new Guide to Data Protection gets Clear English Standard • Audit Commission's Oneplace website launched • Martin Cutts comments on new Lasting Power of Attorney forms 	Yule laugh at these	Parliamentary Counsel's writing guides
2010 Pikestaff 34 January 2010	Avoid nominalization copulation Christmas competitors clearly clarify content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Police forced to fill out 50 forms for a playground fight' • Going through the motions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two new articles by Martin Cutts, for International Travel Insurance Journal, and British and Irish Ombudsman Association • Report of public lecture at University of Reading's Simplification Centre 	Instructional update	Plain language in the US
Pikestaff 35 February 2010	Remember we're your plain-English – not plain English – partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jurors think they understand what judges tell them, but often don't • French system of double-hyphenating names outlawed • What's in a (personal) name? • Chilean mint manager sacked over coin typo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Cutts gives keynote speech at conference on developing quality patient information • Reader's letter on –ee/-er, and ambiguous language 	What a mouthful	'Blog' of 'Unnecessary' Quotation Marks

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Pikestaff 36 March 2010	Don't labour to avoid contractions Clearly clarified: money-off tea coupon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress on US Plain Language Act • New European Commission Clear Writing campaign • Local Government Association's annual list of banned words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readability reports – a new service from Plain Language Commission • Book by Philip Yaffe added to website – The Simple Secrets of Writing and Speaking (Almost) Like a Professional: College Edition • Reader's letter on Canadian place names 	Interesting and amusing place names	EC new guide, How to write clearly
Pikestaff 37 April 2010	The proof of the pudding is in the checking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on HMRC by Public Accounts Committee, 'Handling telephone enquiries' • Party political leaders' use of 'less' and 'fewer' in TV debates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Cutts's presentation to Travel Insurance Industry Conference • Sarah Carr wins SfEP competition to rename code of practice • Unusual organizational names and job titles 	French great ape gets local lass pregnant and drops dead	Writing for Dollars, Writing to Please
Pikestaff 38 May 2010		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Politicians' language boops • Deborah King's call for Easy Read finance documents • First ClearMark awards • StyleWriter 4 review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity conference in Lisbon • Advice to Chilli Growing Society and on 'and/or' 	What the Kyrgyzstan?	Demand to Understand
Pikestaff 39 June 2010	Elect to enhance your e-newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalition government's bureaucracy 'bonfire' • Nielsen rates political e-newsletters • Queen's English Society launches Academy of English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to complete readers' survey • Readers' letters on NHS language and use of 'myself' • Welcome to new corporate member CFEB • Poor instructions for ladder 	Lost in translation	The Times Spelling Bee

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Pikestaff 40 July 2010	Decline to decline 'who'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Tax Simplification launched • WriteMark New Zealand Plain English Awards • StyleWriter article and demonstration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Pikestaff logo • Clear English Standard rules • Sarah Carr writes for 2 new books • Reminder about Pikestaff readers' survey • Readers' letters on 'Stick stamp here', and gobbledegook notice 	Lost in translation	Local Government Improvement & Development
Pikestaff 41 September 2010	Punctuation rules (but not always)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wording of question for electoral reform referendum • WriteMark New Zealand Plain English Awards • Usability of ticket vending machines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Rights Information Scotland wins prize for carers' information in BMA awards • Readers' letters on 'Stick stamp here' • Results of Pikestaff readers' survey 	Lost in translation	National Punctuation Day
Pikestaff 42 October 2010	Have an I for personal pronouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obama signs Plain Writing Act of 2010 • Electoral Commission publishes report on referendum question • EC Clear Writing Campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reader's letter with miscellaneous snippets • Clarity2010 conference, Lisbon 	Pants in translation	Center for Plain Language (redesigned site)
Pikestaff 43 November 2010	Be felicitous in doing the splits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain-language progress in Eire • UK celebrates National Pro Bono Week • Polemical politicians grapple over grammar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity presentations on Slideshare • Readers' letters on Innaction health club and instructions for assembling a bird feeder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazing or hair-raising phrasing • Driving her pepper potty 	Google Translate

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Pikestaff 44 December 2010		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Português Claro's new <i>claro!</i> Initiative • Evolving English exhibition • Bathetic Word List competition (Cheryl Stephens) • Neologism nudenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for clarity from coalition • Clear Writing throughout Europe conference • Reader's letter on Latin and Greek plurals • Christmas competition to rewrite rubbish text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four quenelles on breakfast-show menu 	I write like...
2011 Pikestaff 45 January 2011	Be highly wily about getting smiley Clearly clarified: Christmas competition results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles by Sara I James and Daphne Perry • National Punctuation Day haiku competition • British Academy Annual Lecture by David Crystal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reader's letter with poem and link to TED talk by Alan Siegel • Clear Writing throughout Europe • Article by Martin Cutts appears on Write Limited's website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling all couch potatoes • Eggstremely silly statements 	Surviving Unplain Language
Pikestaff 46 February 2011	Be nifty with netiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Error-strewn email from schoolteacher • Twitter's grammar vigilantes • 'What price quality?' report for SfEP by Kathleen Lyle • Scottish Social Housing Charter Discussion Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Carr's new role as coordinator of SfEP local group • Reply to call for clarity from coalition • Onliners' letters on linking /r/, and 'plain-clothes' versus 'plain-clothed' • Reader's Yorkshire dialect version of bin notice 		Translating jargon

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Pikestaff 47 March 2011		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lady Justice Hallett's plea for plain English in 7/7 inquest • Daphne Perry's new article on the Benchbook in Counsel • Clarity meeting on Nabarro's 'Clarity matters' slogan • PLAIN conference in Stockholm • OFT's warning on small print in consumer contracts • Professor Theo Raynor's research on drugs labels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice to Electoral Commission on election materials • Competition: spot the speciousness • Reader's Black Country dialect version of bin notice 	Funny finalities	OFT Unfair Contract Terms Bulletins
Pikestaff 48 April 2011	Clearly clarified: results of competition to 'spot the speciousness'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lord Neuberger's lecture on clarity in law • SfEP April's Fool's joke • Clarity breakfast • British Academy's statement on language learning • Research shows readers prefer edited news 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No to AV campaign • Martin Cutts's sessions at PLAIN conference, Stockholm 	Blinking well lost in translation	One-Minute Swedish
Pikestaff 49 May 2011		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations following 7/7 inquest • How to write instructions • Ambiguous law on public pollution in Malawi • Reading as a teenager gets you a better job 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New edition of Plain English Lexicon • Readers' letters on Ralf Loopi, swiping Nectar cards, and 'sortation' • Damaging obscurity in insurance language 	Wish to see delights?	Google Books

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Pikestaff 50 June 2011	Don't not use the positive!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Literacy Trust's first annual Omnibus survey • Boys 'can't read past 100th page' • New names for investment funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear English Standard – 3 satisfied customers • PLAIN conference, Sweden 	British sign language	Better book titles
Pikestaff 51 July 2011		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spelling mistakes claimed to cost millions in lost sales • Next Clarity breakfast – on improving clarity through document design • OUP drops Oxford comma in press releases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readers' letters in Italian referendum, and jargon • Associate Sarah Carr writes new SfEP guide, Editing into Plain Language 	Dount defie apostrophe and spelling rule's	SfEP self-test in proofreading
Pikestaff 52 September 2011		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawyers allege some police 'barely literate' • Clear Writing throughout Europe – conference proceedings, parliamentary question and Emma Wagner's retirement • International Plain Language Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reader's letter on origin and meaning of 'spoke in the wheel' and 'silver lining' • Victory for better legibility 	Heroin goes dirty dancing	Pikestaff on Facebook

Issue number and month	Tip of the month Clearly clarified	General news	Plain Language Commission (PLC) news and readers'/website visitors' letters	Funny examples of unclear English	Linguistic link
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Pikestaff 53 November 2011		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liam Fox's use of the passive voice to avoid blame • Events for International Plain Language Day • WriteMark New Zealand Plain English Awards 2011 • December Clarity breakfast • Exam boards ordered to use proofreaders • Need for truth on broadband speed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Eye reports Martin Cutts's parking victory • Our relaunched website • Advice to Electoral Commission on referendums • Readers' letters on starting Good Website Campaign, impenetrable council language, and language quiz question 		
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