

CLICHES

A cliché is a phrase or expression that has been overused or that cannot be taken literally. As a result, clichés should be avoided in formal writing. Following is a list of commonly used clichés and their meanings.

<u>AVOID</u>	<u>USE INSTEAD</u>	<u>AVOID</u>	<u>USE INSTEAD</u>
<i>as the crow flies</i>	in a straight line	<i>in this day and age</i>	today
<i>bawled out</i>	scolded	<i>it dawned on me</i>	it occurred to me
<i>better half</i>	spouse	<i>it goes without saying</i>	it is obvious
<i>bit the dust</i>	died	<i>keep your shirt on</i>	be patient
<i>break one's neck</i>	put too much effort	<i>avoid it like the plague</i>	avoid
<i>cold, hard facts</i>	facts	<i>little lady</i>	wife
<i>cool as a cucumber</i>	very calm	<i>old hat</i>	one experienced at something
<i>cut it out</i>	stop	<i>paid your dues</i>	suffered the consequences
<i>dead as a doornail</i>	dead	<i>pain in the neck</i>	a bother; a pest
<i>drunk as a skunk</i>	drunk	<i>passed away</i>	died
<i>early bird</i>	one who arrives early	<i>picture perfect</i>	perfect
<i>easy for you to say</i>	obvious to you	<i>pure as snow</i>	untarnished
<i>on the edge of one's seat</i>	anxious; in suspense	<i>rest assured</i>	don't worry
<i>face the music</i>	take responsibility	<i>short and sweet</i>	brief
<i>fall on deaf ears</i>	not listening	<i>sick as a dog</i>	very sick
<i>foaming at the mouth</i>	very agitated	<i>sink or swim</i>	succeed or fail
<i>get away with murder</i>	not be punished for actions	<i>sound like a broken record</i>	be repetitive
<i>get one's act together</i>	get organized	<i>stone cold sober</i>	sober
<i>green with envy</i>	envious; jealous	<i>stone's throw</i>	close, near
<i>grinning from ear to ear</i>	smiling broadly	<i>strong as an ox</i>	very strong
<i>healthy as a horse</i>	healthy	<i>the pits</i>	the worst
<i>hit the deck</i>	intentionally fall down	<i>tighten the belts</i>	spend less money
<i>hit the sack</i>	go to bed	<i>under the weather</i>	sick; not feeling well
<i>in one ear, out the other</i>	not pay attention	<i>white as a ghost</i>	very pale
		<i>with it</i>	knows what's happening
		<i>work like a dog</i>	work very hard