

## Death of legalese?

We've all been there. You're ready to register on a website and have to click on the terms and conditions to be **admitted** inside. Next appears a screen with a **seemingly** endless **cascade** of small print. Who writes this **gibberish**, you wonder? A quick scroll to the bottom and you click again to accept. If someone were to ask what you've just agreed to, you'd have to admit that you have no idea – just some standard legal stuff.

While lawyers have no problem understanding what they have **drafted**, somewhere along the way they have forgotten that the rest of the world finds their **legalese** hard to follow. But it does not have to be this way. The **plain** English movement is **sweeping across** the legal world, making reading – and understanding – text pleasant and easy.

Legal writing at its worst uses **archaic** expressions that belong more to the period of Shakespeare than to modern communication. Words like **heretofore**, **whereas** and **mentioned** are terms you often see in contracts. Lawyers also have a **tendency** to write long expressions when short words **suffice**. How many times have you come across "with regards to" or "pertaining to" when a simple "about" would have done the job nicely?

That's not to say lawyers are bad people. Their profession makes them **cautious**, so naturally they aim to **cover** every possible **angle**. But to use complicated words when there is no need is a real **shame**. The true art of **lawyering** is finding the right balance. Aim for short words and simple expressions. Use the active voice. And, please, lose the Latin.

## Glossary

<b>admit</b>	päästää sisään
<b>mentioned</b>	edellä mainittu
<b>angle</b>	näkökulma, puoli
<b>archaic</b>	antiikkinen, vanhahtava
<b>cascade</b>	ryöppy, putous
<b>cautious</b>	varovainen
<b>cover</b>	ottaa huomioon, kattaa
<b>draft</b>	laatia
<b>gibberish</b>	siansaksa
<b>heretofore</b>	aikaisemmin
<b>lawyering</b>	asianajajan konstit
<b>legalese</b>	lakikieli
<b>pertain to</b>	koskea jotakin
<b>plain</b>	selkeä, selväkielinen
<b>seemingly</b>	näennäisen, näennäisesti
<b>shame</b>	häpeä
<b>suffice</b>	riittää
<b>sweep</b>	pyyhkiä, pyyhkäistä
<b>tendency</b>	taipumus
<b>whereas</b>	kun taas, koska
<b>with regards to</b>	mitä tulee johonkin, koskien jotakin

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