

## 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 **aforementioned** 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>active voice</b>	aktiv verbform
<b>admit</b>	erkänna
<b>aforementioned</b>	ovannämnd, tidigare nämnd
<b>aim</b>	ha som målsättning
<b>appear</b>	dyka upp
<b>archaic expressions</b>	ålderdomliga uttryck
<b>be admitted</b>	här: bli insläppt
<b>cautious</b>	försiktig
<b>come across</b>	stöta på
<b>draft (a legal document)</b>	upprätta ett juridiskt dokument
<b>gibberish</b>	rotväliska, rappakalja
<b>heretofore</b>	hittills, förut; föregående
<b>legalese</b>	juridiskt språk, lagspråk
<b>lose</b>	släppa
<b>plain</b>	enkel, avskalad
<b>seemingly</b>	här: vad som verkar vara
<b>simple expressions</b>	enkla uttryck
<b>suffice</b>	räcka, vara tillräcklig
<b>sweep</b>	svepa över
<b>tendency</b>	benägenhet
<b>terms and conditions</b>	här: användarvillkor
<b>whereas</b>	medan, då däremot

AAC Global is the leading provider of globalization services in the Nordic markets. Our comprehensive portfolio of globalization services includes translation, localization, terminology management, documentation services as well as training in languages, communication and international management skills. AAC Global is part of the Sanoma Group, a strong European media group operating in diverse fields of media in 20 countries.