Best-practice Legal Writing

Our mission is to provide a supportive bridge between law and the English language.

This service is offered to you as lawyers and legal support staff – legal secretaries, notary assistants and paralegals.

This bridge is our name – better Legal English. Our name stands for quality, support and the legal context.

Our courses are not in law per se but in Legal English.







Welcome to ABLE, the Academy for better Legal English, one of the very few training centres in Germany exclusively for Legal English.

We have a wide range of services for lawyers, notaries public, and legal support staff, for example assistants, secretaries and paralegals. Perhaps you have a special need which is not covered by our programme. No problem. Just drop us a line or give us a call and we shall do our best to integrate this need into our programme for you.

We wish a very positive learning experience you can apply directly to your job.

Best wishes

Dr. L. King

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LEGALIZE YOUR ENGLISH !



Best-practice Legal Writing

Intensiv-Workshop zur Verbesserung Ihrer Schreibfertigkeit in englischer Sprache

"Plain Legal English" is well underway

Legalizing your writing

As a lawyer you are used to studying jargon-filled, bombastic legal documents. The trouble is when you apply this wordy, high-flown style to your everyday correspondence, you could lose clients who fail to understand you.

Bryan Garner, world expert on Legal Writing, says: "If you want to write well, you'll have to resist sounding like a machine. ... You'll have to sound like yourself. It's even possible you'll find yourself by learning to write well."

Not an easy task, but in the mid-term you'll soon notice the results — and the advantages. You'll be able to apply for positions requiring sound legal writing in English..

A further benefit is that writing in Plain English will assist you in formulating your thoughts more clearly. You will sink less often into a cloud of legalese. You will rise above and write for your target reader, more clearly and straightforwardly.

It must be said, however: in legal texts, accuracy and clarity are of course paramount. But legal language we might regard as bombastic elsewhere does have a place in legal documents, though the specialist terms must be embedded in accurate, straightforward English syntax.

Best practice: Legal terms embedded in clear language.

The Plain English style has spread for a number of reasons: clients are no longer prepared to accept Legal English used as a secret code way beyond their comprehension.

In July 2001, the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries launched "Plain Talk" – a year-long project to rewrite 100 bureaucratic form letters into Plain English.

The Conservative Party in Britain rewrote the Treaty of Lisbon in Plain English so the electorate could understand its implications.

The EU is in the process of cutting down "gobbledygook" in EU documents.

President Obama instructed all communications from credit card companies to be free of contract jargon and purposefully confusing terminology and legalese.



Writing contracts in Plain English will save time and money.

Your Benefit

You will more consciously aim to achieve three goals – clarity, consistency, and effectiveness. You will develop an increased awareness of the appropriate style necessary for legal writing, steering the right course between colloquialisms and "legalese.

You will analyse and learn to master modern principles of legal writing style, abandoning unnecessary obscure words for contemporary equivalents.

You will place more emphasis on the structure, the signposts in your legal drafts, and the effect of your writing on the reader.

Want to find out more?

You can find a more detailed account of this inter-active workshop and other workshops on the ABLE website.

www.able-europe.eu