



Avoiding Clichés like the Plague

A cliché is a trite phrase or expression. While it may have been fresh and innovative at one point, it no longer has a place in good writing. Clichés should be replaced with vivid descriptive words that haven't already been worn out. If you aren't sure whether or not a phrase is a cliché, just tell a few people the first few words of the phrase and see if they can complete your thought. Here are a few examples; see how many of these phrases you can complete:

Better late than	never
Light as a	feather
Blind as a	bat
Busy as a	bee
Cool as a	cucumber
Beat around the	bush
Crystal	clear
Tried and	true
Hit the nail	on the head
Needle in a	haystack
What goes around	comes around
Last but not	least
Selling like	hotcakes
Playing with	fire
Easier said than	done
White as a	sheet
Water over the	dam
Strong as an	ox

Remember, familiarity breeds contempt. Although it's easier said than done, just delete those tried and true clichés!