

HOW TO MAKE HEADLINES MAGNETIC

9 ways to attract more readers and draw them into your message

HANG ON... HOW CAN WORDS BE MAGNETIC?

Well, the main role of any headline is to attract eyeballs – capture the reader's attention and draw them in.

But there's a problem.

ON AVERAGE, 8 OUT OF 10 PEOPLE READ THE HEADLINE, BUT ONLY 2 OUT OF 10 WILL READ THE REST.

David Ogilvy said that, apparently.

But why should you care what a long-dead adman has to say about only one single element of the copywriter's toolkit?

Well... If Ogilvy's statement is still true today, it means two things. Firstly, most people who see your communication will read the headline. But more worryingly, having read the headline, very few of those people will go on to read what else you have to say.

So, the better you make your headline, the better your chance of getting your message read by more people.

Think of it like this. Your headline advertises your copy. It should flag down the people you want to speak to and make them want to read on.

Here are some of the ways you can do it.

NEED HELP MAKING YOUR MESSAGES MAGNETIC?



Send us something you're not sure is working as well as it should be, and we'll see if we can knock it into shape.

chat@redcmarketing.com

9 WAYS TO DRAW YOUR READER IN

AND 1 WAY TO CHEAT



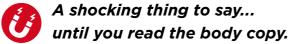
1. SURPRISE YOUR READER

When the reader encounters your headline, chances are they're scan-reading – you don't have their complete attention. Plus, your headline is likely competing with countless other messages to get noticed.

So perhaps one of the simplest ways to attract your reader's eyeballs is to say something surprising.

Say something unexpected that jars with the reader's sense of what's conventional yet that's still relevant to your message.

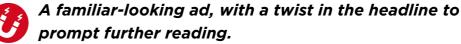






Switching two words around turns a boorish command into a playful call-to-action.



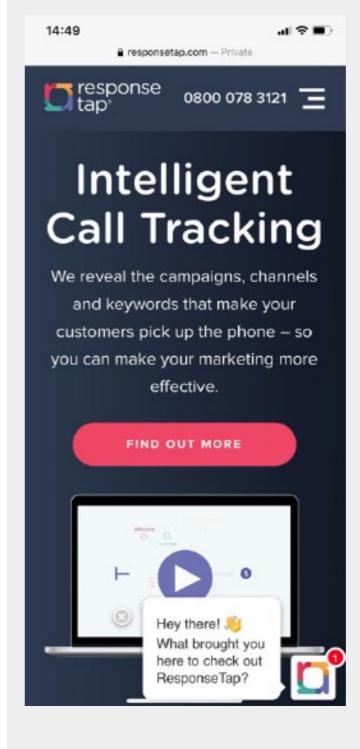


2. INFORM YOUR READER

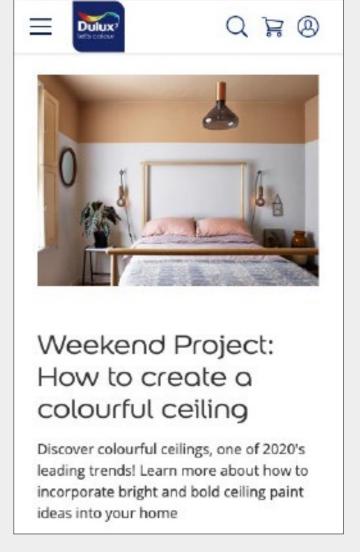
Especially online, people tend to be searching for information. So, one of your headline's most important roles is to act as a guide. Show the reader that they're in the right place and that you have the information they're looking for.







Front-loading the headline with keywords helps to identify the prospect and says, this is for you.



'How to' is often what people type into Google. Used in your headline, it promises instruction and answers to the reader.

3. CHALLENGE YOUR READER

When you address the reader directly with a question, it forces them to start thinking. It stops them in their tracks and invites them to consider what you're saying. It means they're immediately engaged in the topic you want to talk about. It also suggests that you already know the answer.

Why is Car Insurance so Expensive? - MoneySuperMarket

Ad www.moneysupermarket.com/ *

Compare 135 Car Insurance Quotes. You Could Save up to £280 With us! Insurance coverage: Fully comprehensive, Third party fire & theft, Third party only, Black box insurance

Over 50s Insurance

Over 50s Car Insurance Quotes.
Compare Quotes at MoneySuperMarket.

New Driver Car Insurance

New Driver Car Insurance Quotes.

Compare Quotes at MoneySuperMarket.



It's not just that the headline poses a question. It's that the reader can expect to get the answer by clicking and reading on.



The headline says the absolute opposite of what you'd expect it to say, piquing the reader's curiosity.

Majestic Wine @majestic...

Do you think you know the answer?

Here the question challenges the reader to put their knowledge to the test. Few can resist an opportunity to demonstrate how smart they are.

New customers win a £20 voucher



Very few get 5/5 in our Christmas quiz - will you? wines.typeform.com

4. PROMISE YOUR READER A BENEFIT

No one is desperate to read your copy. You're asking for the reader's attention in exchange for something you believe will benefit them. The reader's inclination is to ask: what's in it for me? So, appeal to their self-interest by promising – or at least alluding to – a positive gain.

Womens Shape Wear | Sculpt The Perfect Silhouette

Ad www.bonprix.co.uk/ ▼

*** Rating for bonprix.co.uk: 4.6 - 1,796 reviews

Explore Our Huge Range Of Shapewear. Next Day Delivery Available. Order Today!

Free Returns · Affordable Fashion · Sizes 6-32 Available · Exclusive Offers

Brands: BPC bonprix Collection, Bodyflirt, Rainbow, John Baner Jeanswear

Dresses Under £25 · Fashion In Sizes 6-32 · New Customers · The Elegance Collection

Women's Shapewear | Forget The Fear.

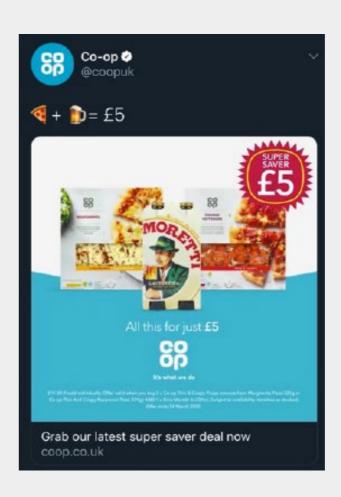
Ad www.simplybe.co.uk/Women's/Shapewear ▼

*** Rating for simplybe.co.uk: 4.3 - 13,255 reviews

No More Squeezing In Or Spilling Out. Comfortable & Supportive Bras In 32-48 B-H Holiday Occasionwear · Up To 30% Off Holiday · The Must Haves · Beach To Bar Looks

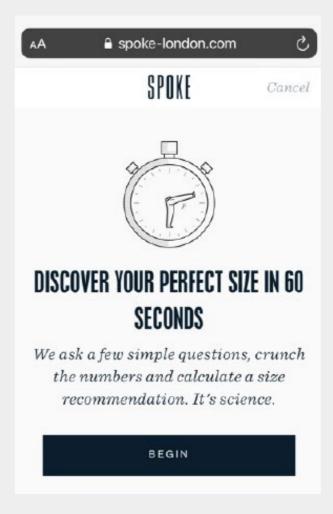
Deal: Up to 30% off Holiday Shop! · Valid May 23 - May 29

A benefit can be a positive gain (sculpt the perfect silhouette) or the removal of something negative (forget the fear).





Emojis are a kind of visual language. When you substitute them for actual words you create messages that the reader can have fun figuring out.



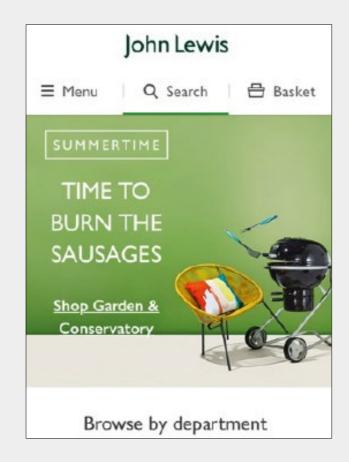
This short headline delivers a triple-whammy: it tells the reader what to do, promises a benefit and makes it sound easy.

5. RELATE TO YOUR READER

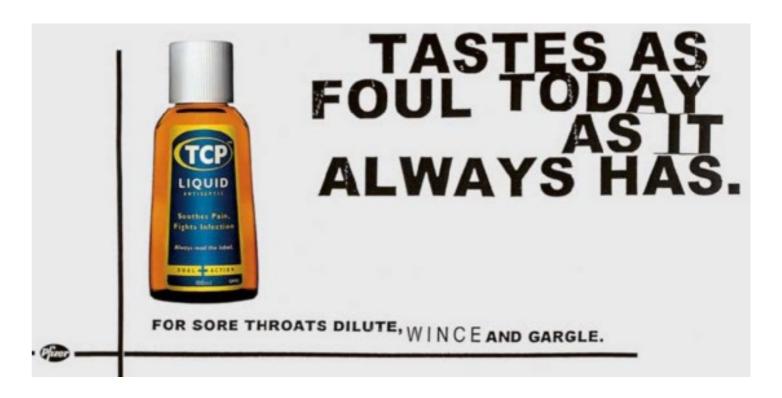
Your reader's experiences can often be a great source of headlines and messages. Put yourself in their shoes and ask, what do they already know about what I'm selling and how might they put it?



This headline highlights the type of situation in which the brand's service might come in useful... complete with a familiar quote.

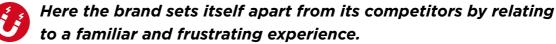


Not the desired outcome of using the product but an empathetic message that says, we've all been there.



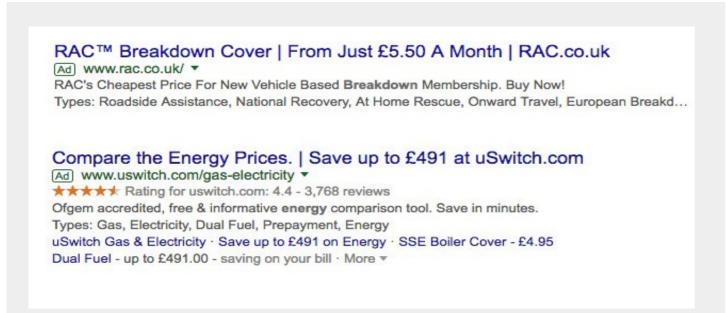
The truth of the product may sound unpalatable... but maybe that's what people like about it.





6. REASSURE YOUR READER

People are naturally sceptical, especially of unsubstantiated messages made by marketers. So, see if you can demonstrate that what you are saying is true. Use specific numbers and surprising facts - it lends credibility to your message.



Here the specific numbers indicate that a calculation has taken place. It says, we've worked this out, so you can believe us.



This one has been running for years. It uses specific numbers and surprising facts to underpin its promise: you've been looking at wine all wrong.





Here we used specific numbers to surprise the reader with an expense they maybe hadn't considered - giving them a reason to act.

Professional Email Marketing - No Tech Skill Needed.

Ad www.constantcontact.com/Email_Marketing *

Create Stunning Newsletters in Minutes and Get More Business. Try Free. Types: List Growth Tools, Custom Templates, Contact Management, Image Library Services: Design Services, Marketing Services, Local Training Ready to Buy? · Free Trial · Email Templates · Email Marketing Works · Tracking & Reporting

4K TV Range at Argos - Spread The Cost of a TV - argos.co.uk Ad www.argos.co.uk/ *

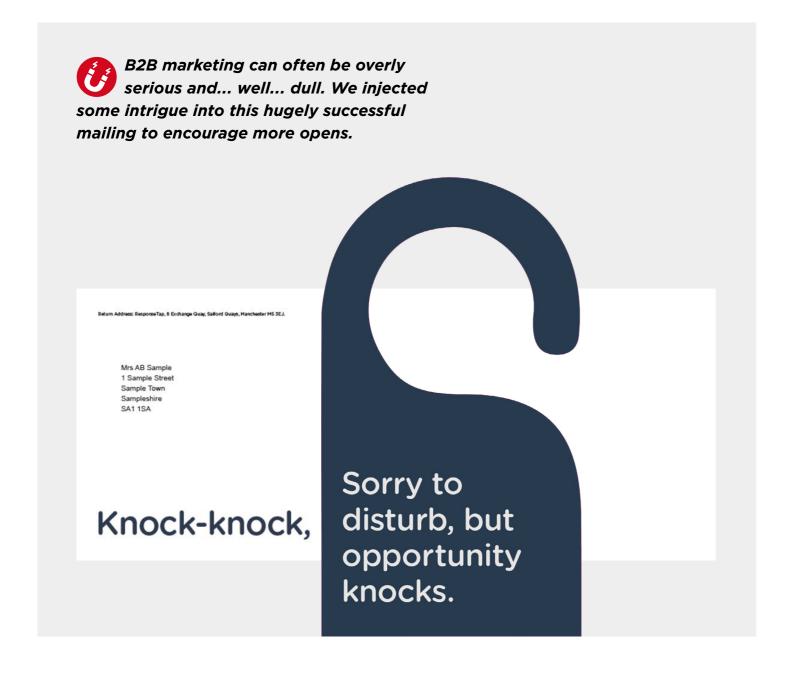
Buy Now, Pay up to 6 Months Later with the Argos Card. Rep 29.9% APR Variable Over 700 Stores. - Same Day Delivery - Free Click & Collect - Great Deals & Low Prices Ratings: Quality 9.5/10 - Selection 9.5/10 - Website 9/10 - Delivery 9/10 - Prices 9/10 - Returns 9/10 Buy Chromecast at Argos - TV Stands at Argos - Buy Samsung TVs at Argos - Buy LG TVs at Argos Bolton - 0345 165 7772 - Open today - 9:00 AM − 8:00 PM ▼



As these two PPC headlines demonstrate, you can win over your readers by overcoming their objections.

7. PIQUE YOUR READER'S CURIOSITY

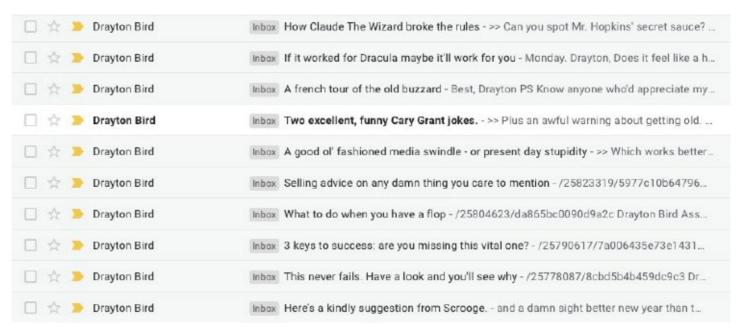
Humans are innately curious and attracted to anything that's new or novel. Piquing the reader's curiosity taps into that desire to find out more. The trick is to say just enough to whet the reader's appetite.

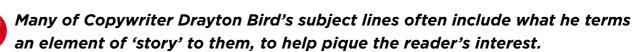




Everybody likes the idea of being in on a secret.

Here, there's a sense of something unpleasant about to be revealed, which makes it all the more compelling.

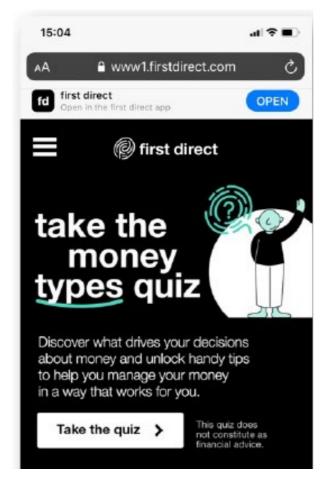




8. COMMAND YOUR READER

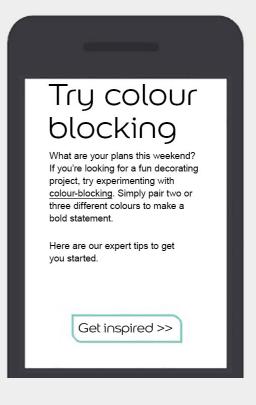
People are busy so telling them exactly what you want them to do ensures you get straight to the point without wasting anyone's time. What's more, people will always respond better if what you propose is quick and easy to do.

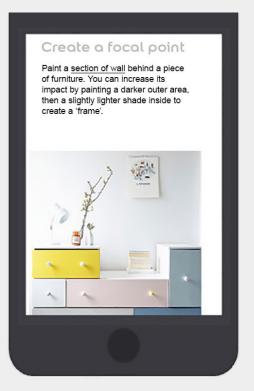
This headline directs the reader to take action. Calling it a quiz makes it sound like it will be effortless fun.

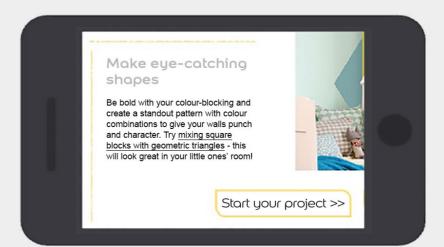














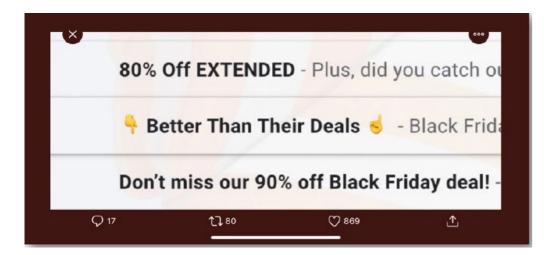
Here we used simple instructional headlines that hint at the beautiful results the reader can expect to achieve.

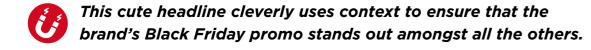
9. INVOLVE YOUR READER

Encouraging the reader to 'fill in the blanks' means they're instantly engaged with your message, and it can raise a smile too. The reader gets a sense of satisfaction, and this helps them warm to your brand.

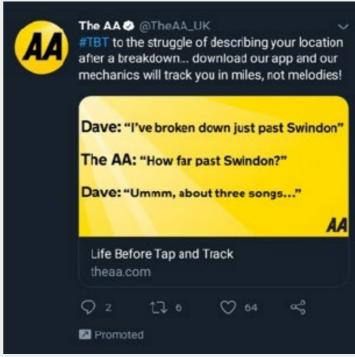


The headline assumes that the reader is familiar with the song. And when the reader completes the lyric by describing the image, it's funny.









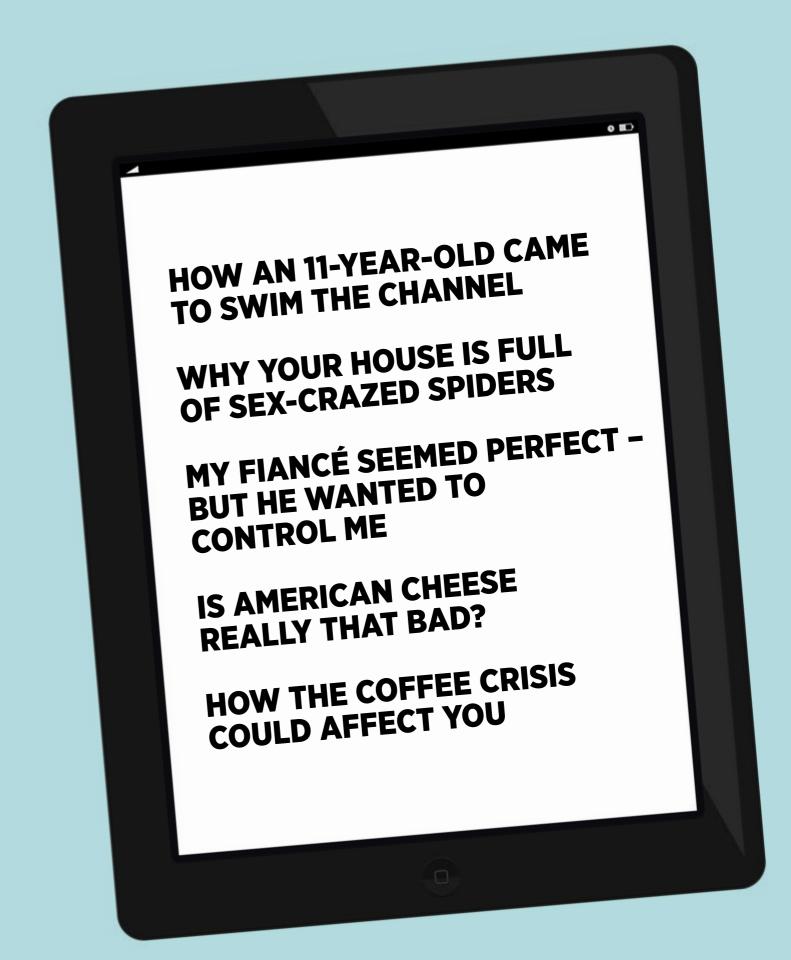
Dramatising the solution helps the reader to visualise your message... dramatising the problem can be equally effective.

IF YOU GET STUCK... CHEAT!

Magazines, blogs, online videos, newspapers... every publisher relies on its ability to attract eyeballs and keep people reading to make money.

So, look at the biggest publishers out there and ask... How do they do it?

Here is a selection of headlines from the BBC News website... How many techniques can you spot?





HOW WE WENT 'A BIT DAILY MAIL' FOR SWINTON INSURANCE

When Swinton Insurance asked Red C to boost the response rate of their emails, we turned to the nation's favourite website, Daily Mail online.

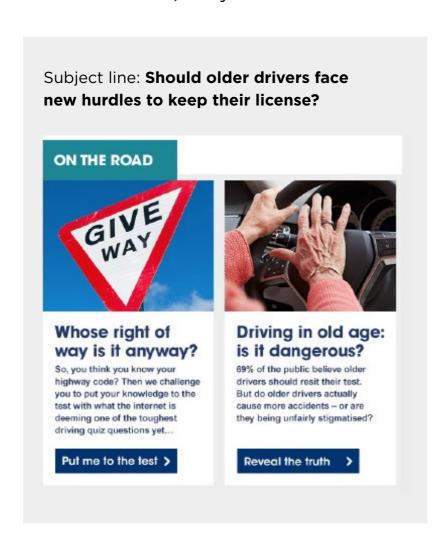
We looked at what this mega-publisher was doing to keep people reading about motoring... and we stole it!

Not word for word, of course.

We identified the headline technique and topics that we felt would keep people reading and rewrote a lot of content.

We then tested subject lines to see what would keep people reading.

The result was a 65% uplift in response and many new policies sold.





Subject line: Easy=fix MOT failures that cost you £££s §

Subject line: **Do speed** cameras actually give you 10% leeway?





Broken down on a smart motorway... would you know what to do?

We've got the low down on what to do in all breakdown scenarios, so you can be prepared for the unexpected.

Read our tips



WHAT! How many MOT failures could be avoided?!

A staggering 50% of MOT failures could have been avoided by doing egular, simple maintenance. Ve're giving you tips so your car isn't one of them.

Discover how





ARE YOUR COMMS MAGNETIC ENOUGH?

We use magnetic words to drive more clicks and conversions for our clients.

If your comms aren't delivering what you need, then we'd love to arrange a chat.

0161 872 1361 | chat@redcmarketing.com

