Avoiding Clichés

A cliché is a worn and overused phrase. Using clichés can make your writing feel stale and predictable. Instead of using clichés, try to express what you want to say in a way that is both original and easy to understand.

**DIRECTIONS:** Underline the clichés in the sentences below. Then rewrite each sentence so that it has the same meaning without using a cliché.

1. My old desktop computer finally bit the dust.

2. Rachel avoids fast food like the plague.

3. Paul is certainly climbing the corporate ladder at work.

4. That man on the corner is as drunk as a skunk.

5. “I’m coming,” Jason called. “Keep your shirt on!”

6. The next time Ian opened the boy, the caterpillar was dead as a doornail.

7. Tina was just sick as a dog over how the whole thing turned out.