Clearing Up Clichés

**DIRECTIONS:** Many students use clichés because they feel comfortable with them. However, clichés are generally considered to be bad writing. It is best to avoid clichés entirely. Practice this skill by rewriting each of the clichés below in clear, simple language. Follow the example.

- beyond the shadow of a doubt  
  undoubtably

- the straw that broke the camel’s back

- breath a sigh of relief

- take the bull by the horns

- like two peas in a pod

- actions speak louder than words

- packed tight as sardines

- fed up

- have a sneaking suspicion

- a gut-wrenching experience

- without a care in the world

- the bottom line

- last but not least