

WRITE LIKE A BADASS

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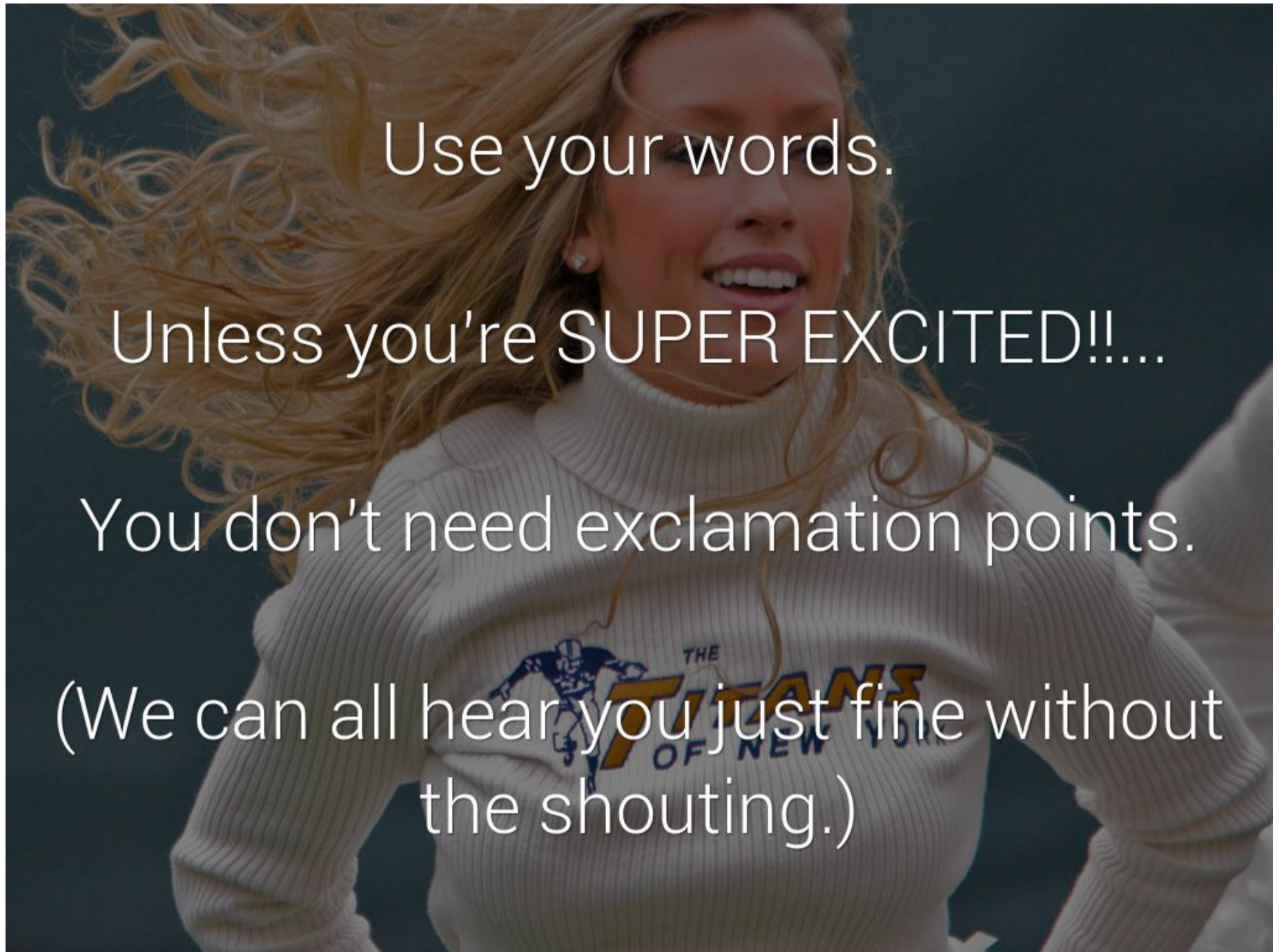






THAT'S RIGHT
CONTRACTIONS ARE FOR BUSINESS TOO







THEY'RE HERE TO HELP

- Incomplete sentences. Amazing.
- Unorthodox caps for EMPHASIS
- Parentheses (great for side notes)
- Italics
- And. But. Because.
- BOLD



DUDE, THAT'S WEAK

ARNOLD'S LIST OF WEAK WORDS

- good
- bad
- important
- quite



YOU'RE DOING QUITE WELL

- Cut unnecessary redundancies
- Be specific
- Swap out weak words



A WORD ON SPACING

(WE ALL WANT MORE)



1. What should I say or not say at a DME?

First off, you may notice that I called it a DME. That stands for Defense Medical Examination. You will hear many refer to it as an independent medical examination, but it is not supposed to mean independent. Historically, the "I" meant insurance, not independent.

However, if you think about it, there's actually nothing independent about the examination. It is by a doctor of the railroad whose purpose is to help the railroad defend against your claim. When you realize that the doctor is just an extension of the railroad, you can be in the right place when you attend the examination.

READER FATIGUE

You should start to prepare for the exam by speaking with your attorney for specific advice before you go to the exam, but remember that you will not be taking an oath. You should bring a photo ID. You should also bring a copy of the incident report to the exam. This is what the doctor is for. Provide the most basic explanation of the body mechanics at the time you were hurt and an explanation of what bothered you. Most often the doctor will run through a series of tests intended to determine what your limitations are. You should ask the doctor if he or she is actually in the room with you and what tests are actually performed. You should call your lawyer as soon as possible to provide an update. If that is not possible, make notes for yourself so that when you do talk to your lawyer you can provide an update.

Was a device used to test you? Ask its name. Did the railroad doctor avoid the area you said bothered you? Make a note if the doctor merely touched you? Remember to mention it to your lawyer afterward. Was the exam held in a real medical office, or was it held in a railroad building?

When the report comes to your lawyer, you should read it. Did you say the things the report says you said? Did the doctor do the things mentioned in the report? If you have any questions about the medicine, take a copy to your treating doctor and ask what he or she has to say.

and now...
same words,
better layout

Here are some sample questions to keep in mind:

Was a device used to test you? *Ask its name.*

Did the railroad Doctor avoid the area you said bothered you? *Make a mental note.*

Did the doctor barely touch you? *Remember to mention it to your lawyer afterwards.*

Was the exam held in a real medical office, or a hotel conference room?

Make sure you see the written report of the DME. When the report comes to your lawyer, read and check it for accuracy.

- Did you say the things the report says you did?
- Did the doctor really do everything listed in the report?

If you have any questions about anything the examining doctor states, take a copy to your treating doctor and ask what things mean.

REMEMBER

- Bullets
- Are
- Your
- Friends





HOW TO

BE YOUR OWN EDITOR



COPY EDITING

- Walk away
- Read it out loud
- Print it out
- Change the font
- Change the margins

S M E G

MAKE IT BRIGHT

(ACTUAL) EDITING

- Can I be more specific?
- Hunt for clichés
- Murder your darlings

MAKE IT PRETTY

- White space
- Italics
- Bullets
- Bold



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