

Cliché

A cliché is a phrase or expression used so often in the same situation that it has become stale and lost its impact.

as old as the hills

as clear as mud

Clichés are worn-out expressions so they do not give much precision or inspiration to a piece of writing. People often use them on the spur of the moment, when they have to speak without a chance to prepare fresh and inspiring ideas.

Exercise 3.1.7

1 Complete these clichéd sayings to show how familiar and overused they are.

- a It's raining cats _____
- b She is as pretty as _____
- c You're making a mountain out of _____
- d He's as happy as a pig _____
- e They're about as popular as a blowfly at _____

2 Read the following editorial from the *Herald-Sun* and circle as many clichés as you can find.

Golden Games

TAKE a bow, Melbourne. It has been a gold-medal performance. The Commonwealth Games have gone off with precision and flair, showcasing Australia's sporting city in the best possible light.

Organisers have done their job well – but worthy of special mention are the hard-working volunteers and other Victorians who have ridden the crush with smiles.

These have been polite, friendly, courteous Games.

They also have been stirring Games, filled with nail-biting drama and uplifting moments in which athletes have soared beyond our lofty expectations.

We have seen Jana Pittman conquer her demons and seize the gold in a record-breaking 400 m hurdles.

We have seen fleet-footed John Steffensen take another step up the ladder of success and celebrity as Beijing beckons. We have revelled in the

ivers of gold flowing from the velodrome, the boxing ring, the roads on which marathon runners, walkers, cyclists and triathletes have blazed new trails. And, of course, from a swimming pool that has belonged to Libby Lenton, Leisel Jones and the star-laden swim team.

The athletes have done us proud, too.

It is a remarkable achievement to stage an event so big with barely a hiccup.

That the Games have gone so well has as much to do with the attitude of Victorians as the good management of the various competitions. Taxpayers have been ungrudging and commuters and others inconvenienced by the Games have been unselfish.

Yes, we would like to know how much it cost. A reckoning of outlays and tangible benefits is called for when the visitors

depart and the city returns to business as usual.

Whatever, we can be proud of the two weeks of theatre, human endeavour and drama that have been the 18th Commonwealth Games. Melbourne certainly has put on a winning face, provided balmy weather, extended its hand to the world and demonstrated its unbeatable big-occasion spirit.

And next ...

Take a breather, Victoria. But only a short one.

The Formula One Grand Prix teams of Europe and Asia are in town – even before the flags of the Commonwealth are lowered – and AFL football kicks off in a few days.

Sport rules. No one does it better than us. And no one supports it more fervently.

Herald-Sun,
Editorial

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It is a remarkable achievement to stage an event so big with barely a hiccup. That the Games have gone so well has as much to do with the attitude of Victorians as the good management of taxpayers have been ungrudging and commuters and others inconvenienced by the Games have been unselfish. Yes, we would like to know how much it cost. A reckoning of outlays and tangible benefits is called for when the visitors depart and the city returns to business as usual. Whatever, we can be proud of the two weeks of theatre, human endeavour and drama that have been the 18th Commonwealth Games. Melbourne certainly has put on a winning face, provided balmy weather, extended its hand to the world and demonstrated its unbeatable big-occasion spirit. And next ... Take a breather, Victoria. But only a short one. The Formula One Grand Prix teams of Europe and Asia are in town – even before the flags of the Commonwealth are lowered and AFL football kicks off in a few days. Sport rules. No one does it better than us. And no one supports it more fervently.

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