

Bad Words

The 5 words that I would strike from your site right now because they're turning new customers away **every minute.** People accidentally use bad words everywhere.

"At least you got a month's severance."

1-1-1-1-51

- → Bad word #1 is across your site
- → Bad word #2 is on your Pricing page or table
- → Bad word #3 is on your homepage
- Bad word #4 is in your support center / resource center
- → Bad word #5 is in your product (for SaaS / apps)

Before we get started, please memorize the following three words:



Revenue, accelerate and experience





COPYHACKERS

The *Most* Trusted Influencer Platform

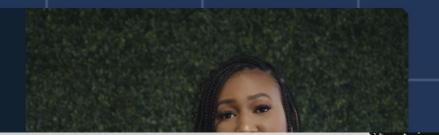
Mavrck is the leading all-in-one influencer marketing platform enabling companies such as P&G, Kraft Heinz, and Express to harness the power of authentic creator content and programs at scale.

	ма	VRCK >								demo@mavrck.c	Search			🖹 Tasks	
	1.17		Reports									Pe	rformance	Acquisition	
	f	Dashboard	Program Performance							All Ca	Free mpaigns 👻 🗖		™ 10 10	02/07/2023 👻	
	业	Influencers	5 Results										U	Þ	
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CUSTOMER EXAMPLES

Our creators are changing the game

Read about all the ways brands are achieving success with Thinkific





Know what you pay and get paid fast.

We make card processing simple. Accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Interac, all with clear pricing and no surprise fees. See transfers in your bank account as soon as the next business day.

2.65% For all major credit cards 10¢

Flat fee per Interac chip & PIN or tap

Keyed-in transactions

3.4% + 15¢ per transaction

Online transactions 2.9% + 30¢ per transaction

Transfers in one to two business days

✓ No monthly or hidden fees

✓ Manage disputes

Join a DevLab in your city and become a Customer Iden	tity pro! Register N	low →				Login	🕀 English
	Product ~	Solutions ~	Docs & Resources 🗸	Company 🗸	Pricing	Sign up	Contact sales

An easy to implement, adaptable authentication and authorization platform.

Basically, we make your login box awesome.

Arduino <support@arduino.com> to me</support@arduino.com>	att 🗢 9:41 AM 🗐	
ARDUINO® You've been invited to Arduino.	ARDUINO Log in to Arduino to continue	
	Email Address	47
	Continue Don't have an account? Sign up	Hanna Herwitz

ISER PROFILE



"We"

* Or "our" or your brand name.



We make card processing simple. Accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Interac, all with clear pricing and no surprise fees. See transfers in your bank account as soon as the next business day.

Our creators are changing the game

Basically, we make your login box awesome.

Mavrck is the leading all-in-one influencer ma Heinz, and Express to harness the power

When you see the word "we" or your brand name, it's a sign that the copy is about the product not the prospect.

A TROPES

66

People don't care about you. They only care about themselves.

Neville Medhora

66 The customer is the product. Sell the customer themselves.

Joanna Wiebe



Read this and tell me when you start to care.

enabling companies in the power of authentic creator content and programs at scale.



"I'm currently in the process of rebalancing away from crypto into eco" "Harness the power of authentic creator content and programs at scale"

"We" is BS's portal into this world.



"Well Joanna you just don't understand our market. We target VPs and C levels."

THARDES

B2B doesn't mean boring to boring.



ANARTS

The SVP of Engineering mocked how Kendall on *Succession* talked just as much as the new product coordinator did. PARTIN

An SVP cares *just as much* about what's in it for them as the new coordinator does.

PAREN

Read this and tell me when you start to care.

CUSTOMER EXAMPLES

Our creators are changing the game

Read about all the ways brands are achieving success with Thinkific



MARONA

Read this and tell me when you start to care.

CUSTOMER EXAMPLES

You too can change the game

Read about all the ways creators like you are achieving success with Thinkific

COPYHACKERS

1-1-1-1-51

REWRITE EVERY 'WE' SENTENCE TO BEGIN WITH 'YOU'.

THARDES

0

Product v Solutions v Docs & Resources v C

Pricing Sig

USER PROFILE

auth0

Product v Solutions v Docs & Resources

Pricing

THERE

An easy to implement, adaptable authentication and authorization platform.

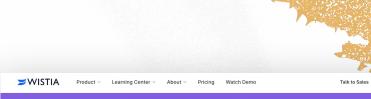
Basically, we make your login box awesome.

An easy to implement, adaptable authentication and authorization platform.

Basically, you're about to make your login box awesome.

IISER PROFILE

COPYHACKERS



Wistia's 2023 State of Video Report is here! Dive deep into the marketing data -

Watch Demo

Pricing

The video marketing platform for business

Product ~

Learning Center ~

About ~

Wistia helps marketers create and manage videos, host webinars, generate leads, and measure video performance—all in one place.

Explore plans

WISTIA



Talk to Sales

Login

Get started

Video hosting and a whole lot more

Wistia's 2023 State of Video Report is here! Dive deep into the marketing data -

The video marketing platform for business

Now you can create and manage videos, host webinars, generate leads, and measure video performance—all in one place. Only with Wistia.

Explore plans



Video hosting and a whole lot more



Get started

Login

YOU SHOULD ADD 'YOU' TO THE START OF VERB-PHRASES IN THE IMPERATIVE.

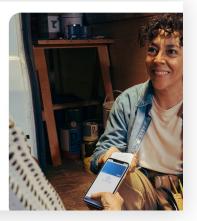
Bonus points!

Trinkorgi

Start selling with Square.

Create your free account in minutes and join the millions of businesses using Square.

Get started	Contact us
-------------	------------



You should start selling with Square.

You can create your free account in minutes and join the millions of businesses using Square.

Get started Contact us



ATTRONG I

Add the following words to the three you've memorized:



Efficiency and outcome



"Pay"



(If you're in SaaS or coaching, you should probably go to your Pricing page / table right now.)

PARRAM

This page is one massive revenue opportunity. Wasted.

bitly

Products

Pricing for brands and businesses of all sizes

Connect to your audience with branded links, QR Codes, and a Link-in-bio that will get their attention.

	MOST POPULAR		
FREE	CORE	GROWTH	PREMIUM
\$0/month	\$8/month	\$29/month	\$199/month
	(annual charge of \$96)	(annual charge of \$348)	(annual charge of \$2,388)
2 QR Codes/month	5 QR Codes/month	10 QR Codes/month	200 QR Codes/month
10 links/month	100 links/month	500 links/month	3,000 links/month
1 Link-in-bio page	1 Link-in-bio page	2 Link-in-bio pages	5 Link-in-bio pages
Get Started	Get Started	Get Started	Get Started
includes:	Everything in Free, plus:	Everything in Core, plus:	Everything in Growth, plus:
5 custom back-halves	30 days of click & scan data	Complimentary custom domain*	🏦 1 year of click & scan data
PNG & JPEG QR Code download	UTM Builder	Additional QR Code download	Custom campaign-level tracking
formats	5.2	formats	
R Code customizations	Advanced QR Code	4 months of click & scan data	City-level & device type click & scan data
and Code customizations	customizations	4 months of click & scall data	Scali data
	Link & QR Code redirects	Bulk link shortening	Mobile deep linking

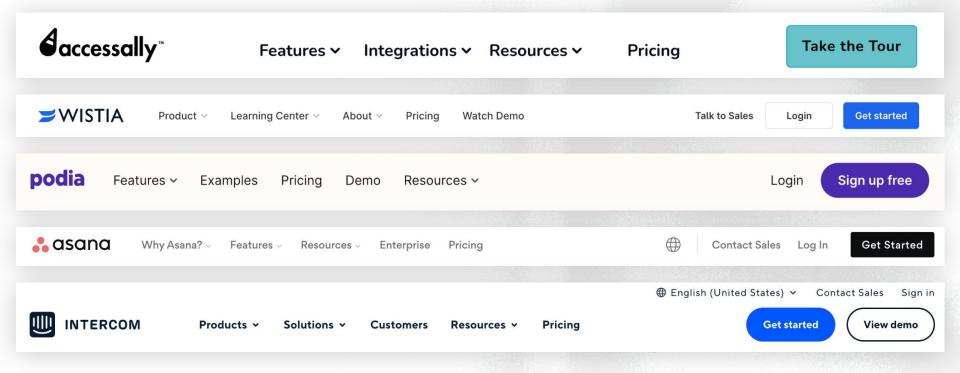
You've heard...

If a price is big - like \$2500 - use a smaller font to express it... like s2500
Use "just below" prices instead of round prices (so \$9.97 not \$10.00)
To raise ARPU, lead with the most expensive tier
To get more users, lead with the least expensive tier
When using tiered discounts, minimize increments between thresholds



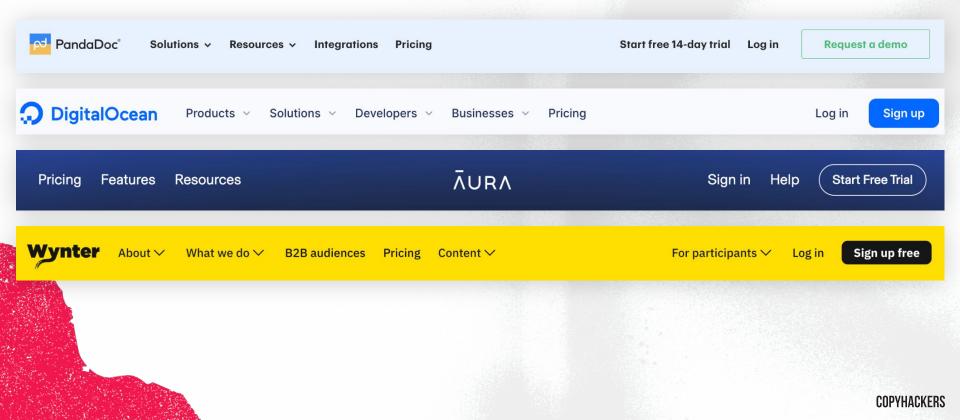
But what about the fact that you're dedicating an entire page to telling your prospect how much this is gonna cost 'em?

Why do we have to fixate on "pricing" like this?

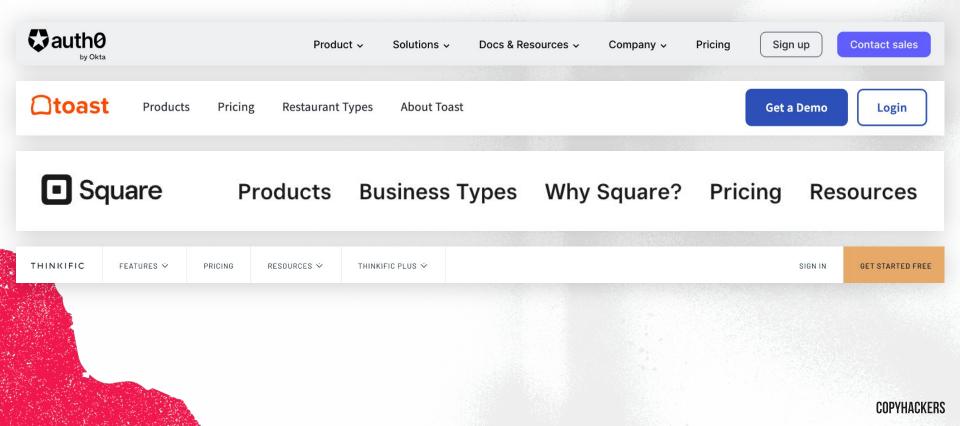


COPYHACKERS

Why do we have to fixate on "pricing" like this?



Why do we have to fixate on "pricing" like this?



I'm not saying to change your nav label.

(Although that could be a really quick, easy experiment. And maybe add an ROI page to balance it out, while you're at it.) ANTRACO

Rather, do a "depletion of assets" sweep on your Pricing page.

A FIRE CA

THE DEPLETION OF ASSETS SWEEP

Strike from your copy any word that suggests your user's bank account is about to empty instead of fill.

PARTER PA

Pay Money **Dollars / \$ Buy** Cost **Price** Fee Spend





Pricing



Simple, predictable pricing

Always know what you'll pay with monthly caps and flat pricing.



Sign up with GitHub

Sign up with email

DigitalOcean Products V Solutions V Developers V Businesses V Pricing

Log in Sign up

Simple, predictable pricing

Always know what you'll pay with monthly caps and flat pricing

G Sign up with Google

Sign up with GitHub

Sign up with email

21% of the words in this hero tell me my budget needs protecting...

There are 14 words in this hero section, CTAs aside. A "depletion of assets" word appears 3 times.

FIRENCE

DigitalOcean Products V Solutions V Developers V Businesses V Pricing

Log in Sign up

Simple, predictable pricing

Always know what you'll pay with monthly caps and flat pricing

G Sign up with Google

Sign up with GitHub

Sign up with email

BTW

Your Pricing page headline / H1 does not have to include the word "pricing"... just like your other pages don't include the nav label.

ATTACTOR

I'm a big fan of money. I like it, I use it, I have a little. I keep it in a jar on top of my refrigerator. I'd like to put more in that jar.



5

Login Sign up free

Podia pricing Pick your plan today or get your free account. You can change plans at any time. Get your free account Pay monthly Pay yearly (Save 17%) BEST Mover Shaker Free \$0/mo \$0/mo \$39/mo \$33/mo \$89/mo \$75/mo 8% fees No transaction fees No transaction fees Full website Full website Full website Email marketing Email marketing Email marketing Community Community Community 1 download Unlimited downloads Unlimited downloads ✓ 1 coaching product Unlimited coaching Unlimited coaching Draft courses Unlimited courses Unlimited courses Draft webinars Draft webinars Unlimited webinars Chat support Chat support Affiliates Third-party code Sign up **Buy Now Buy Now** Get your free account Get your free account Get your free account

We'll migrate your content and customers for free when you choose a yearly subscription. Learn More

lake your ffer the H1	Start free. Podia grows with you. Pick your plan today or get your free account. You can change plans at any time. Get your free account			
		Monthly plan Vearly plan (Save 17%)	••••	Replace "pay" with "plan"
		Mover \$39/mo	Shaker	
	<u>8% fees</u>	✓ No transaction fees	✓ No transaction fees	
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COPYHACKERS

Yes, they'll be paying you money. No, you don't need to talk about it.

FRANK

Another 1,477 organizations signed up last week.

Two simple plans, each with a **30-day free trial**. No credit card required.

BEST VALUE FOR LARGER TEAMS

ATTACK 37

COPYHACKERS

Basecamp

Ideal for freelancers, startups, or smaller teams.

Every feature you need 500 GB storage for files & documents

Month-to-month, pay as you go

\$15/user per month We only bill you for employees. Invite guests for free.

Try for Free

Basecamp PRO UNLIMITED

Perfect for growing businesses, larger groups, and companies that want the best.

- Every feature we offer, plus...
- 10x file & document storage (5 TB)
- First-in-line 24/7/365 priority support
- 1:1 onboarding tour with our team
- Option to pay annually by check
- Annual billing for simplified accounting
- PLUS the Admin Pro Pack for greater control over access and permissions

Unlimited users just \$299/month, billed annually **No per-user charges. Your whole organization for one fixed price.** If you prefer to pay month-to-month, it's \$349/month.

Try for Free

Add the following words to the five you've memorized:



Evergreen, necessary and productivity



How many of the 8 words do you remember?





"And"





Every time you use "and," you lose a conversion.

ANTROLAY



Pricing

d View demo

INTERCOM

Products v Solutions v Customers Resources v Pricing

Get started View demo

INBOX

Maximize team productivity, decision-making and efficiency with the world's fastest shared Inbox

Our Al-enhanced Inbox is lightning fast, easy-to-use, and optimized for efficiency—with everything a modern support team needs.

Learn more about our Inbox \rightarrow

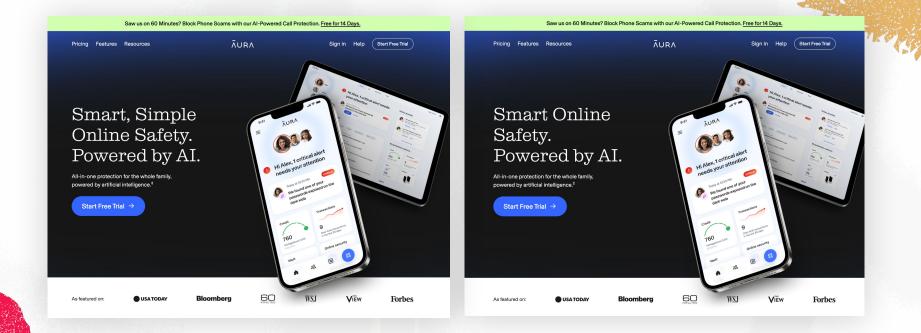
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Learn more about our Inbox \rightarrow

COPYHACKERS



COPYHACKERS

A SIMPLE MESSAGE IS MORE POWERFUL THAN A COMPLEX MESSAGE. THIS IS ABOUT EMPATHY.

We can fully hold one idea in our heads at a time.

FIRENCE

"Interference."



ART IS

≫WISTIA

STIA Product ~

Learning Center \vee

About V Pricing

Wistia's 2023 State of Video Report is here! Dive deep into the mar

Watch Demo

1:47

Aren't we just describing video marketing here?

Create videos
 "Manage" videos
 Host webinars

✓ Generate leads

✓ Measure performance

The video marketing platform for business

Wistia helps marketers create and manage videos, host webinars, generate leads, and measure video performance—all in one place.

Explore plans

"But our product really does all those things. How do we choose?"

THARDES

Have the discipline to choose one thing for your poor, overworked and tired prospect to be *allowed* to focus on.

When you use lists (and "and"), it's easy to lose sight of the purpose of the message. And of the product. And of the company.



Customers R

Resources v Pricing



Get started (View

View demo

INBOX

Maximize team productivity with the world's fastest shared Inbox

Our AI-enhanced Inbox is lightning fast, easy-to-use, and optimized for

efficiency-with everything a modern support team needs.

Learn more about our Inbox →





"Learn"





We're hiring Blog Docs Get Support Contact Sales

Log in



Products v Solutions v Developers v

Businesses ~ Pricing



Learn from the experts

Whether you want to learn about funding your business, installing Linux on Ubuntu, or getting started on DigitalOcean, we have the educational resources for you.



Product documentation

Learn how to spin up a virtual machine, get started with block storage, and more with in-depth documentation.

Learn more \rightarrow



Business advice

The Wave is DigitalOcean's hub for startup and business-focused content on funding, hiring, and scaling.

Learn more \rightarrow



Technical expertise

Visit DigitalOcean's Community Website and CSS-Tricks to learn from wide range of technical tutorials.

Learn more →

Few people want to learn anything. They want the outcome of learning.



TARONA

Why do people want to learn?



AAAAAA

FUNCTIONAL JTBD

- Complete important tasks for their job / department
- Unlock new features confidently / Upgrade
- Become power users
- Get better work done (with more complex SaaS)
- See results enough to switch to annual and save
- Cancel other tools that aren't working

SOCIAL JTBD

- Complete important tasks for their job / department
- Become power users and get promoted at work
- Get their team onboarded well so they adopt
- Help their team use the software / Train them
- Start seeing desirable results they can share with their mgr

PERSONAL JTBD

- Become power users and get promoted at work
- Start seeing their work-lives improve
- Feel less stress
- Start seeing desirable results

Log in

Sign up

Start seeing results you can share with your team. Here's how.

Whether you want to learn about funding your business, installing Linux on Ubuntu, or getting started on DigitalOcean, we have the educational resources for you.

Docs

Product documentation

Learn how to spin up a virtual machine, get started with block storage, and more with in-depth documentation.

Learn more \rightarrow



Business advice

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Learn more \rightarrow



Technical expertise

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Learn more \rightarrow

Yale

CALEN	IDARS · GIVE ·	NEWS · DIRECTOR	IES Q SI	ARCH INF	0 FOR 🔻	GO
About Yale	Academics	Admissions	Research	Collections	Life a	at Yale



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Yale College alumni return to campus

Over the course of two weekends, Yale is welcoming back to campus thousands of alumni, friends, and family from the Class of 1958 through the Class of 2018.

Explore

- Exercise curiosity
- Discover new interests
- Discover new abilities
- Broadly informed intellect
- Highly disciplined intellect
- Be successful in whatever
 work they finally choose
- Graduate with values
- Graduate with knowledge
- Pursue meaningful work
- Lead successful and purposeful lives

VISIT ALUMNI.YALE.EDU

EXPLORE RECENT ALUMNI STORIES





All Categories V Q Search View Plans

GAIN NEW SKILLS IN 10 MINUTES

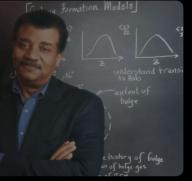
Unlimited access to 180+ classes delivered in bite-sized lessons.

What brings you to MasterClass today?

- Improve my professional or leadership skills
- Become a better artist, musician, or writer
- Become a better chef
- Improve my style (interior design or fashion)
- Something else



The state of the second



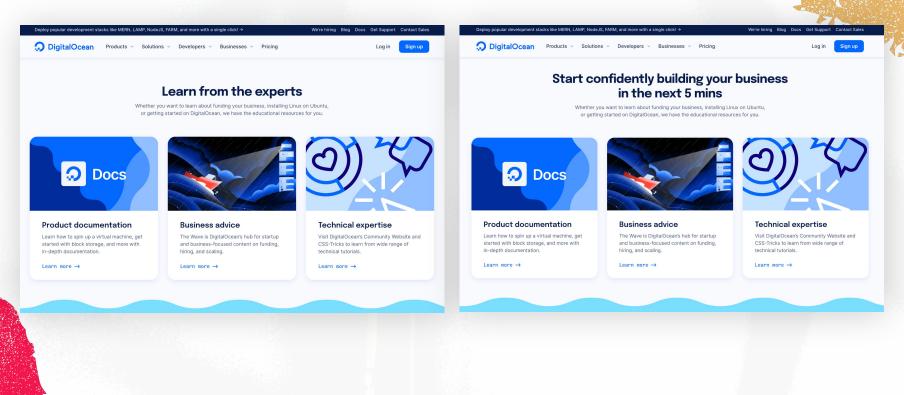




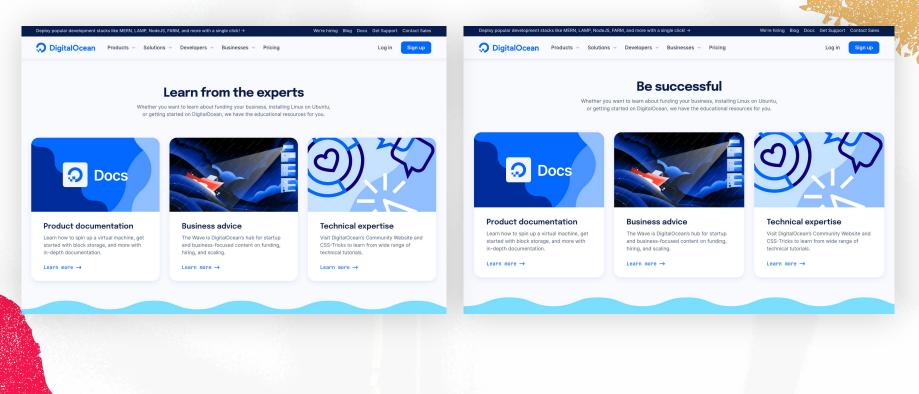
What is the outcome of learning?

AAAAA

FIVE-FOOT OUTCOME



FIVE-MILE OUTCOME



Bad Word #5

The right word for the wrong action.



ANNES

Are you optimizing copy you should de-optimize?

A THREE A

Which of these 2 options do you think the creator of the ballot might have been de-optimizing?

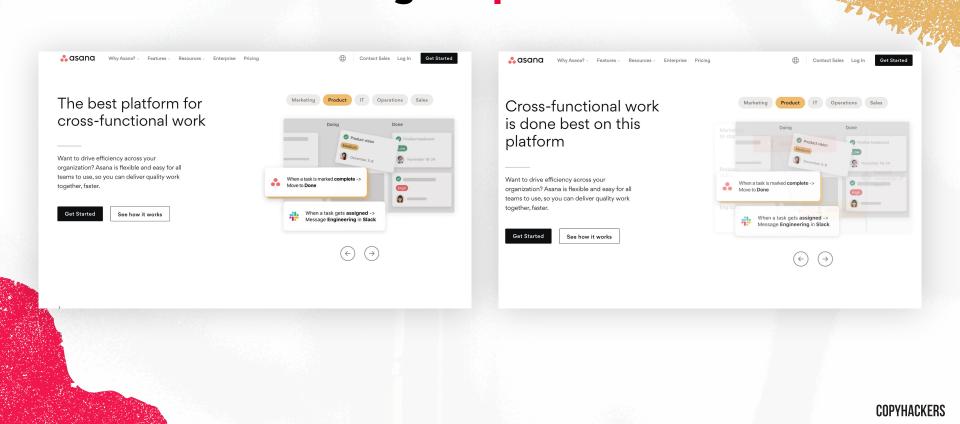


8 APR 53

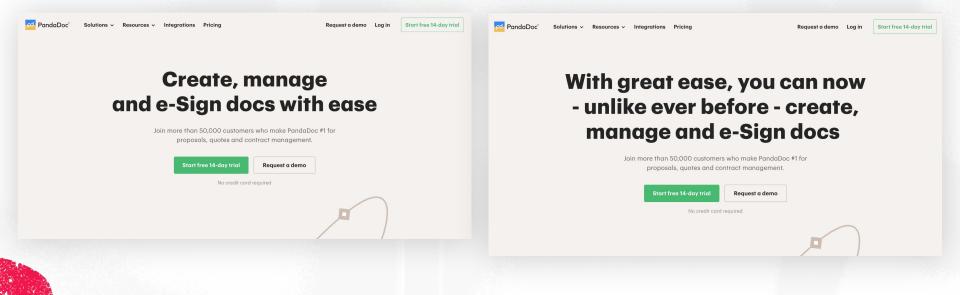
Some phrasing makes your message harder to read / process.

17171131

Like using the passive voice



Like getting way too fancy with your syntax



Side note: moderate syntactic surprise can actually improve recall!

Like writing a statement in its negative form

Userlist

Features V Pricing Services Blog V Podcast Docs Sign In

tart Free Trial

😔 Userlist

 ${\it Features} \ \lor \ \ {\it Pricing} \ \ {\it Services} \ \ {\it Blog} \ \lor \ \ {\it Podcast} \ \ {\it Docs} \ \ {\it Sign In}$

→ Start Free Tr:

Email Automation That Meets the Challenges of B2B SaaS

Finally, an email marketing platform built with B2B SaaS in mind. Track customer data as complex as you need. Onboard, engage, and nurture customers and marketing leads – under one roof.

⊖ Start Free 14-day Tr

🛱 Book a Demo Call

Email Automation That Doesn't Fail to Meet the Challenges of B2B SaaS

Finally, an email marketing platform built with B2B SaaS in mind. Track customer data as complex as you need. Onboard, engage, and nurture customers and marketing leads — under one roof.

Start Free 14-day Tr:

📋 Book a Demo Call



Sometimes your message should be harder to read / process.

1.1.1.1.3

Consider the actions you don't want people to take in your product.

THANK

- Cancel account
- → Pause account
- > Downgrade account
- Delete team members
- Delete critical data (e.g., subscribers in email platform)
- Stop using sticky features (e.g., remove integrations)

You don't have to hide those actions. Just make the words weird.

Cancel account

Don't remain



ANARO

You want people to be too [lightly] confused to bother arguing with you.

A TARACIN

Which is easier to understand?



PLEASE LEAVE PETRIFIED WOOD IN THE PARK



A ROYAL

COPYHACKERS

PLEASE DON'T REMOVE PETRIFIED WOOD FROM THE PARK

Which resulted in more wood being left in the park?



PLEASE LEAVE PETRIFIED WOOD IN THE PARK



PLEASE DON'T REMOVE PETRIFIED WOOD FROM THE PARK -T-ROTAL

This is easier to process. So I can consider it (and disagree with it) easily.

This is harder to process. So I don't even bother trying to argue with it.



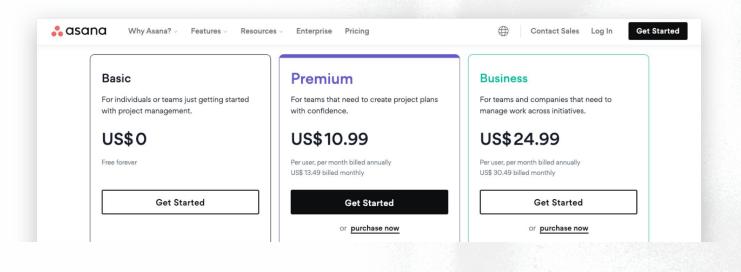


-T-TROLLEY

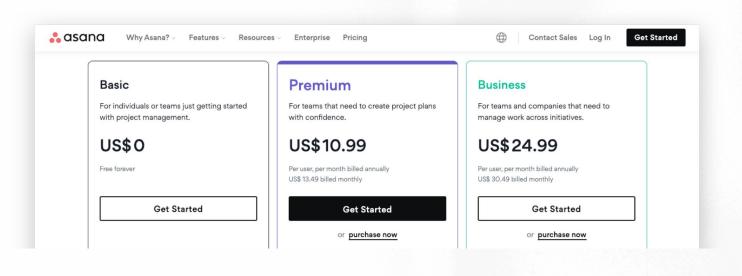
De-optimize options by **de-optimizing their words.**

AAAAAA

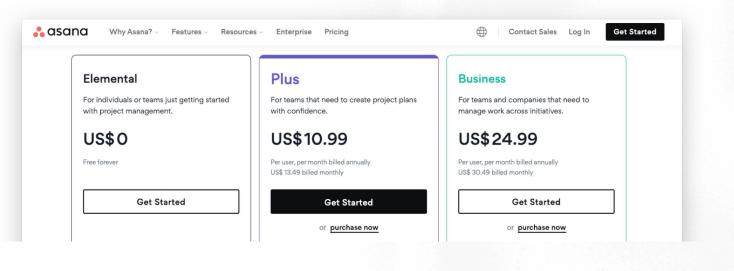
Which option do you think they want you to choose?



Which option is easiest to understand fast?

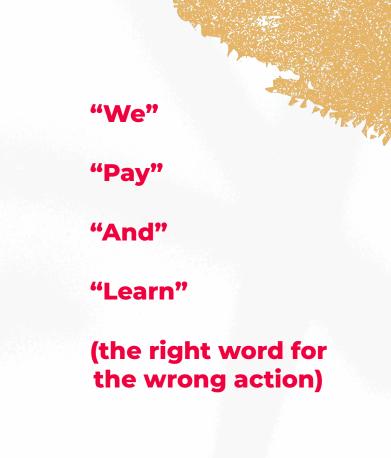


How about now?



If you don't want users to do something, don't make it easy for them to do it. Don't be clear. Try the negative synonym or any synonym that introduces mental friction. PAREN

- → Bad word #1 is across your site
- → Bad word #2 is on your Pricing page
- → Bad word #3 is on your homepage
- → Bad word #4 is in your support center
- → Bad word #5 is in your product



This has been about word choice. But it's not just about the words you choose. It's also how you put them together.

Style shapes the success of ideas.

THEFT

Joanna Wiebe

Founder of Copyhackers.com Cofounder of Authority Figures



