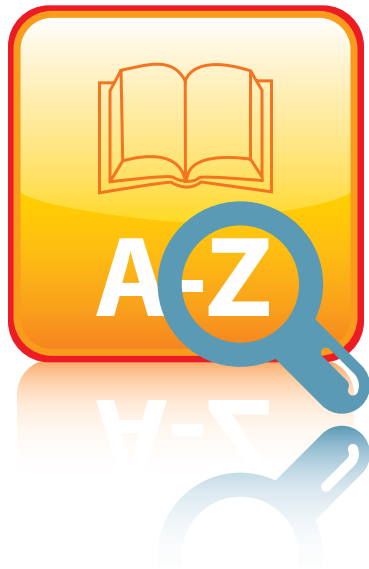


Copywriting Glossary



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Welcome to the Wealthy Web Writer's Copywriting Glossary!

This resource is designed to improve and enhance your expertise as a working web writer. We've created it so you can:

- **"Speak" copywriting jargon** like the pros
- **Wow your clients** with front-end to back-end knowledge of your craft (two terms you'll find in the glossary!)
- **Enrich your writing process** with a clear understanding of industry terminology
- **Quickly grasp new and constantly evolving language** in the fluid world of web-writing

The Web Writer's Copywriting Glossary is searchable, comprehensive, and packed with the most up-to-date, all-inclusive list of words and phrases related to direct mail, web-writing, marketing, and copywriting in general. **Access the [online Copywriting Glossary](#) here.**

You'll note some words have totally different definitions as marketing terms (like **appeal**, **body**, **cold**, and **seed**) and some are very industry-specific (like **de-dupe**, **nixie**, and **squeeze page**).

Note: If you'd like to help us stay on top of new terms and have a word suggestion, [let us know](#). Because no matter how comprehensive this list is, we recognize web writing is in a constant state of evolution!

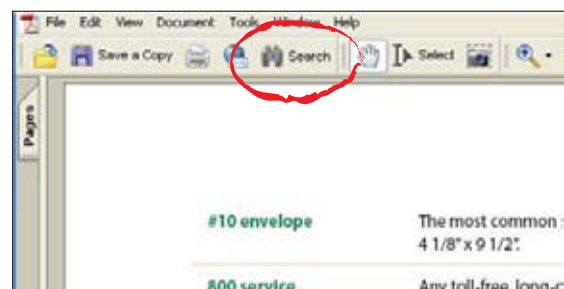
HOW TO SEARCH the Web Writer's Copywriting Glossary

We've designed this glossary in PDF format so you can easily search for any word or phrase. When you open the PDF, take note of the "Search" button (often designated with a small picture of binoculars). If you don't see it, look under the "Edit" menu and select the "Search" option.

PC users can use this shortcut for a quick search:
Ctrl + F

For Mac users, use this shortcut:
command + F

Remember: When searching, you don't always need to type in the exact term. An abbreviated version usually does the trick (which is helpful if you're not sure of spelling).



#10 envelope

The most common size of envelopes for direct mail packages:
4 1/8" x 9 1/2".

800 service

Any toll-free, long-distance telephone service available for customers to call and order products or subscribe to a service.

A**above the fold**

The first, usually top-half of a website which is visible without scrolling.

acknowledgement email

An email that's immediately sent out to acknowledge an action taken by a visitor to the site, who has provided his or her email address. For example, "Thank you for subscribing!"

acquisition cost

The amount it costs a company to generate a new customer. For example, if a business mails 2,000 pieces at a cost of \$800 and gets a 1% return, that amounts to 20 new customers at an acquisition cost of \$40 per customer. The lower the acquisition cost, the better for the business.

acquisition program

A marketing action, like a direct mail campaign, with the goal of generating responses from new prospects who have never before done business with a company.

action devices

Copy that appears throughout a promotion that urges the prospect to do something, such as click a link, call a toll-free number, or fill out a form.

actives

Prospects who have made purchases from a company within a specific time period, for example, within the last year are considered active buyers.

Add to Cart Button

A call-to-action prompt for the visitor to place an item in the virtual shopping cart when ordering online.

advertising medium

The form in which an ad reaches a prospect, for example, the Internet, direct mail, television, radio, publication ads, and so on.

advertorial	A paid advertisement which is designed to look like it is an article containing information. The name is combination of the words "advertisement" and "editorial." The premise of the advertorial is that potential customers are more likely to read helpful information (thinking it is an article) than a blatant ad, therefore, they will learn more about your product or service. Advertorials can be extremely effective, however to be fair to customers, publications are requiring the words "Advertisement" or "Paid Advertisement" be added at the top or bottom of the advertorial artwork.
advocate	In marketing, being an advocate most often means you stand up for your prospect and are committed to his well-being, even if it means going head-to-head with a powerful group or traditional theories that others are promoting.
affiliate	A company or individual who promotes someone else's product on the Internet in exchange for a percentage of sales. For example, providing a link on your web page to another company's products in exchange for any sales which your website generates.
ALT tag	Text in the web "code" that describes a particular graphic or photo on a web page. This helps search engines "read" photos and other images, which in turn, affects search engine rankings.
appeal	To find or describe benefits in order to generate the most interest or capture the most attention in prospects.
AS	See "average unit of sale"
assignment	Any copywriting project or job assigned by a client to a writer.
attrition	A reduction in numbers, for example, when the response to a certain mailing or promotion results in a reduced number of interested customers over the course of time; also when previously subscribed customers opt-out of a mailing list.
AUS	See "average unit of sale"
authenticity	This is what copywriters should establish when writing promotions about products or services so it doesn't read as "same old, same old."
Autoresponders	A series of follow-up emails sent out to site visitors who have already provided their email addresses, as a result of a purchase or signing up for a newsletter, membership, or free report. Oftentimes, the series will contain 3, 5, or 7 emails. They are prewritten and set up to automatically go out in order within a specified timeframe.

average sale	See "average unit of sale"
average unit of sale	Also known as average sale, AS, or AUS, this is the total revenue earned by a promotion divided by the number of orders generated by that same promotion.
awareness	An idea introduced by copywriting legend Gene Schwartz that refers to the level of knowledge and understanding a prospect has for the benefits of a product or the existence of the product; also refers to the prospect's understanding of how much he wants or needs the product.
B	
B2B	See "business-to-business"
B2C	See "business-to-consumer"
back-end	Any sale that takes place after a prospect has made an initial purchase.
Back-end code	Any code that categorizes a product or service that gets sold to a prospect after he has made an initial purchase from a company.
bangtail envelope	Any envelope that has an extra or extended flap on which the response device is printed.
banner ad	A graphic rectangular image on a web page that promotes a product or service. It's similar to a print "space ad."
bar code	The series of vertical black lines printed in varying thicknesses on a mail piece, signifying the appropriate ZIP code information for a prospect's address. Its part of a system that allows direct marketers to get a discount on postage and is intended to speed delivery and boost accuracy.
batching	The process of gathering and organizing orders as they come in.
BC	See "bar code"
beliefs	The thoughts and attitudes of a prospect that influence his buying decisions.

below the fold	Used to describe the area that is not visible on a web page without scrolling down ... it is derived from the concept of a newspaper, to describe the information on the bottom half of the front page, below where the newspaper was folded for distribution.
beneath the fold	see "below the fold"
benefit statement	A declaration that tells prospects why they should take an action and indicates the advantage they get when they do so.
benefits	The deep, meaningful things a product or service brings to a prospect's life; the positive impact of a product or service on an individual or on a company.
Big Idea	Any single powerful, unique idea or theme that propels the success of a promotion.
big selling idea	See "Big Idea"
bill enclosure	A buckslip or promotional insert included with the mailing of a bill or invoice to a customer. Considered a cost-effective form or advertising, the concept is that the company is already paying to mail the invoice or statement, therefore, the promotional material "rides for free" inside the envelope. Also known as a statement stuffer.
billboard	A loose term that designates the act of showcasing related benefits on the cover page of a promotion. Traditionally, a billboard is a large advertisement displayed on the side of a road.
bingo card	Slang term for the reply card that gets included inside a publication; readers circle the appropriate response number from an advertisement or article and mail in the card in order to request a magazine or other information.
biz-op	A slang expression for "business opportunity," often utilized in markets where prospects are interested or motivated by the idea of making money via a new venture.
blind envelope	A way to disguise direct mail as regular correspondence with the intention of enticing prospects so they are more likely to open the envelope. Blind envelopes are typically sent without teaser copy, without a company name or logo, and most often include a first-class stamp.

blog	A website that features a repeatedly-updated personal chronicle. It often links to other websites and visitors can respond with their own comments. Its name is short for “web log.”
body	The main portion of the promotion. The middle part of written copy or text; the part that comes after the lead but before the close.
body copy	See “body”
body text	The copy on a web page that follows the headline and intro text. It carries the reader through the entire justification process — all the way to the call-to-action.
bonding	Creating trust and rapport between a company and a prospect in order to enhance the relationship and increase the likelihood of the prospect to buy now or in the future.
bounce back	An offer placed in the box or envelope of something ordered by a prospect. Catalog mailers do this often by including the latest issue of their catalog or other promotional materials inside the package delivering ordered products.
bounce rate	An online statistic that shows the percentage of website visitors who leave a page for a different website rather than make a purchase or respond to a call-to-action. In email campaigns, the bounce rate refers to the percentage of emails that “bounced” back by spam filters and never made it to the intended recipients.
brand	The identity of a specific business or product. The whole of the feelings, thoughts, ideas, and experiences of an organization or company that represent them to a prospect.
branding	The art of establishing a brand that is easily recognizable by a prospect. Not to be confused with just the creation of a logo, branding includes a range of messages and communication materials. It also includes the name, sign or symbols, color combinations, taglines or slogans, and the company identity.
BRC	See “business reply card”
BRE	See “business reply envelope”
Breakeven	The point when the sales of a product or service are equal to the total cost required to promote and support it. All money after that breakeven point is considered profit.

breakthrough	Term used by marketers to describe a big realization or discovery that strongly impacts the results or success of a campaign. The slang term now associated with this is having an “a-ha” moment.
brochure	A booklet that promotes a product or service. It is not uncommon for company or product brochures to be multiple pages stapled together and printed on glossy paper stock.
browser	A software program, such as Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox, used to find and present web pages to the user.
buckslip	An insert in traditional mailings that is roughly the size and shape of a dollar bill and announces an extra premium for a product.
budget	The amount of money an advertiser allocates to an advertising campaign.
bulk mail	Mail sent third-class for a lower cost. This is usually the approach mailers take to mailing several thousand mailings at a time.
bullets	<p>Or bullet points. In copy, a series of items (usually benefits) that is set apart from the regular text by an indentation and a heavy, bold dot. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullets do not have to be complete sentences, and could instead be short words or phrases. • Bullets are considered to be a useful way to present lists, and can be easier to read than long paragraphs of information.
bump	At the point of sale, this is the attempt by a business to upsell a prospect on a product, or to add another product to their purchase. (“Would you like fries with that?”) Basically, the business (or salesperson) is trying to ‘bump up’ the total dollar amount of the sale, increasing profit.
burst	A graphic image (like a starburst) used to draw attention to a special offer or opportunity. Used to generate excitement and catch the reader’s eye, a burst may be placed next to a photo of premium (“Free with purchase!”) or a “regular price” (“Special Offer \$19.95”).
Business Reply Card	A postcard pre-addressed with a business’ name and address, intended to make it as easy as possible for a prospect to fill out an order or subscribe to a list. (BRC)

Business Reply Envelope	(BRE) An envelope pre-addressed with a business' name address, a BRE often has prepaid postage for customer convenience. The BRE is included in the outgoing direct-mail package and is intended to make it as easy as possible for a prospect to mail back a check or order form when purchasing a product or service.
Business-to-Business	(or B2B) A promotion or advertising campaign that promotes the products and services of one business directly to another business (instead of targeting a consumer).
Business-to-Consumer	(or B2C) Any promotion or advertising campaign that promotes products and services from a business directly to a consumer.
buyer	Any company or individual prospect that orders and pays for a product or service.
buying behavior	Patterns of action by prospects, such as purchasing habits. Companies follow buying patterns or habits by prospects in order to determine what other products or services might appeal to them, and increase the chances of the prospect buying more.
C	
call-out	A short section of copy designed to stand apart from the main body copy so as to draw attention to a specific point or quote. Often used to highlight a sale, free shipping, or some other important feature.
call-to-action	The point in a promotion at which the business pushes (encourages) a prospect to take action on an offer (e.g., make a call, place an order, sign up for mailing, click a link).
categorical imperative	The tendency of the brain to compartmentalize information while shifting focus to another topic. This concept underscores the importance of avoiding a straight-arrow approach to a sales letter. In other words, if a reader can logically guess where a sales letter is going, he or she will stop reading and you'll lose the sale.
category page	Typically a second level web page. Category pages present information on distinct areas of information within a website. For example, "Our Services" can be considered a category page. As can "Running Shoes" on a website selling shoes.
cause marketing	A partnership between a nonprofit and a for-profit for mutual benefit.

cell(s)	When testing part of a promotion, such as the headline, different versions of the test are mailed to a set number of prospects. Each group of prospects is referred to as a cell. One cell is normally the “control” and all other cells are tested against it.
certification seal	A third-party service “stamp of approval”, such as HackerSafe, TRUSTe, or BBB (Better Business Bureau) — which signifies that the company is a trustworthy organization.
charter offer	This is when a company offers a new product or service to a prospect for the first time. The product or service may not be brand new, but it’s the first time the prospect has had the opportunity to purchase it. The inaugural launch of a newsletter or magazine, product, club, even real estate opportunity can be referred to as a charter offer. This expression is often used to create a feeling of exclusivity for the prospect.
cheshire label	A machine-affixable label that is ungummed (as opposed to self-adhesive labels which already have a sticky surface on one side). Cheshire labels are prepared on a word processor or computer, and the cheshire label machine must cut and paste the label to affix for mailing. More commonly used in the past at mailing services for magazines, cheshire labels are being replaced by inkjet.
claim	A type of benefit promised by a company that is usually backed up by some form of proof in order to make it seem more valid and believable.
claim density	A term coined by Gene Schwartz that refers to the depth of the promise or claim made by a company. It is enhanced when your promise connects with your prospect’s desires, is supported by proof, has strong emotional ties, and fits well with the whole promotion.
Click-Through-Rate	The percentage of prospects that received and opened an email and clicked-through its links to an online sales page. Also describes the percentage of readers who click through an online sales page to the order page. (aka CTR)
click-throughs	See “Click-Through-Rate”
close	The final stage of a promotion when the call-to-action is issued and the prospect is pushed for the sale.
closing copy	Any copy used at the end of a promotion.
coding	A method used by marketers to determine which list or test cell generated an order, usually made up of a series of letters and numbers on the response devices for the order.

cold	When a prospect or prospect list has no prior relationship with you or has never purchased from your company, or has no knowledge or experience of any products or services you offer. It's also a way to specify a lack of bond between a company and prospect. Cold prospects are much harder to sell.
cold list	See "cold"
cold prospect	See "cold"
collateral	Any printed material created to support sales by providing additional information, including pamphlets, brochures, inserts, or sales sheets.
comp	A visual mock-up of certain concepts for a promotion (including website or printed materials), often presented as a work-in-progress to a client, in order to make it easier for the client to understand and visualize what the final artwork is going to look like.
comparison site	A site that allows the consumer to look up a particular product, find out where they can buy it on the Web, read reviews, and compare prices. Three popular comparison sites are BizRate.com, Shopping.com, and Shopzilla.com.
competition	Any product or company that offers either the same or similar benefits to something you offer.
concept	The Big Idea behind any campaign or major element in the advertising world.
content	Material prospects want to read for informational purposes, not to be confused with marketing materials (so a white paper or case study would count as content in this capacity).
continuation	A mailing to a list that goes out soon after a successful test and is as much as ten times larger than the test was (assuming the list universe is large enough). This may also be part of a roll-out, which means a larger percentage of the entire balance of a list is receiving a mailing.
continuity offer	An offer where a prospect gets billed on a monthly basis, often defined as a simple period of time (e.g., 12 months). When not defined by a time period, the offer keeps going indefinitely until the prospect cancels.

continuity program	Products or services purchased as a series of small orders instead of one at a time. Most companies begin with a starter item followed by similar products shipped at recurring time intervals. (For example, a book club may be a continuity program.)
control	Term for the best-performing promotion used by a company at a given time. It often serves as the standard or yardstick against which future promotions are measured. For example, a direct mail campaign would have a control cell, and then test other cells against it to see which promotion generates the best results.
conversion	Term used in Internet marketing to describe the process of converting a website visitor to a customer. Conversion can be conveniently measured using analytics tools on the Web.
conversion rate	The percentage of site visitors who take a specific action. This action can either be purchasing a product or service, downloading software, enrolling in a membership, or signing up for a newsletter. It's calculated by dividing the number of site visitors by the number of times those visitors take an action.
co-op mailing	A promotion or mailing where two or more offers, usually coming from separate companies, are included on the same website or within the same envelope. In such a case, both companies share the promotion costs according to a predetermined agreement.
copy	Any text used by marketers to entice prospects to purchase, opt-in, or engage in some other action.
copy brief	The document that explains the goal of the promotion a copywriter is writing, usually outlining objectives, strategy, information on the target audience, and other points beneficial to the writing process that will aid the writer in crafting a persuasive message.
copyright	The symbol ©, which means an individual or company owns the rights to certain material and can protect that material against illegal use from unauthorized agents. The purpose is to prevent illegal use of someone's work.
copywriter layout	A mock layout of how the copywriter sees the various elements of the web page being arranged. The writer then passes this layout along to the client and/or website designer.
Copywriter's Rough	A visual that gives the client an idea of what the copywriter envisions for the final layout of the promotion. It communicates the expected length of text, basic graphic suggestions and placement, and other conceptualizations of the package such as inserts and layouts.

copywriting	The process of writing advertising promotional materials.
copywriting brief	See “copy brief”
core desire	An emotion or need that a prospect feels or wants very deeply. Most often it is something that appeals to his or her wants, desires, or needs. Promotions must dig for the core desires to accurately connect with prospects.
cosmetic violator	Any graphic element that intentionally violates the harmony of a promotion in order to draw attention to its message (e.g., “Free delivery!” or “Limited offer!”).
cost per inquiry	This is the total cost of a promotion divided by the total number of leads the promotion generated.
cost per thousand	The total cost of a promotion (including copy, design, list rental, printing and mailing costs, and postage charges) divided by the number of impressions were made in the thousands (e.g.: A mailing to 400,000 prospects that costs \$200,000 has a CPM of \$500 per thousand).
courtesy reply envelope	An envelope that is barcoded and pre-addressed to be returned to the company that mailed it. It is different than a business reply envelope (BRE) because the <i>customer</i> must pay postage.
CPI	See “cost per inquiry”
CPM	See “cost per thousand”
CRE	See “courtesy reply envelope”
creative brief	See “copy brief”
credibility	Building or increasing the connection of trustworthiness between a prospect and a business. Statistics, track records, testimonials and endorsements, and supporting data are all used to increase the credibility, belief, and trust for the prospect.
cross-selling	Used to increase the amount of product sold overall. Often refers to promoting a product or item to a list of established customers who purchased some other product from the company.
CTR	(“Click-Through-Rate”) A tool to measure the effectiveness of an online ad campaign. It’s calculated by dividing the number of times an ad was displayed by the number of times the ad was actually clicked on.

customer acquisition	A promotion with the direct goal of acquiring as many new customers as possible, as opposed to a promotion intended to make a profit. With new customers added to a company's database, there is the potential to market to them again and again, and make profits in the future (on the back-end).
customer file	The list a company keeps of all established customers (and sometimes qualified prospects).
customer record	A computerized file that shows customer information, including name, address, phone, buying history, credit card, gender, etc.
customer service email	An email sent in response to a customer's question about a product or service that he or she has purchased.
customer survey	A way to poll customers to discover their opinions, desires, concerns, hopes, and objections. Sometimes contains open-ended questions to create answers which can be used as testimonials. Many surveys are now done through the Internet due to the lower cost vs. postal fees.
D	
data card	A card used by most major direct-response mailers to store information about target prospects and customers, including demographics like gender, age, income, etc.
database	A collection, usually accessed via computer, of customer records complete with vital information about each prospect or customer.
database marketing	Promotions that are sent to existing customers whose information is already available in the company database. Also known as mailing to the "house file."
de-dupe	The process of eliminating duplicates from a list being used for a direct mail or email promotion. The main purpose of de-duping is to save money by avoiding unnecessary mailing expenses. Duplicate names or duplicate delivery addresses can be eliminated by a programmer. (Note: Removing duplicate names will eliminate those names which may appear on the mailing list more than one time. Removing duplicate addresses will eliminate mailing two or more pieces into the same household, for example, when a husband and wife both appear on a mailing list and the mailer only wants to send one offer to that address.) See also "merge-purge."
deliverable	The physical product of an advertising campaign that actually reaches out to the customer, e.g., an ad, press release, commercial, or website.

demographic	Any characteristics that describe segments within the human population, be it age, income, sex, or education.
desires	Anything your prospect wants that relates to your products or your service area of expertise. The more your copy can connect with the deeper desires of your prospect, the more likely they are to buy.
desktop publishing	The process of using a computer and designated software to combine graphics and text in various types of documents, including e-books, newsletters, and brochures.
differentiate	A marketing term that refers to the act of making your product or service appear different from — and more desirable than — all others similar to it.
dimensional	Any mailing piece that has a visual presence other than being a flat envelope; may be known as “lumpy mail” and essentially entices the prospect to open out of curiosity to find out what the gift or premium inside is. Often expensive to produce but usually a cost-effective way to reach out to sophisticated or hard-to-persuade audiences.
dimensionalize	A term coined by marketing whiz Jay Abraham that refers to the process of drawing out and expanding on a concept.
dimensionalized benefits	The specific category of benefits where a vivid and compelling picture can be presented, enabling the prospect to picture in detail the use and key benefits of the product before he actually buys it. The goal is to make the product come alive to the prospect and spur his desires in order to increase the likelihood he will make the purchase.
Direct Mail	A marketing and promotional strategy that uses paper mail to acquire new customers and send back-end product promotions to those customers. Direct Mail can include self-mailers, postcards, envelopes, magalogs, etc.
direct mail package	Any promotion sent out via direct mail. In other words, mailed through the postal service.
direct marketing	Promotions created to target a specific audience selected after a careful study of buying patterns and demographic and psychographic traits.

Direct Marketing Association	One of the major trade associations connected to the field of direct response marketing. The DMA puts an emphasis on marketing through mail, cell phones, and the Internet. Its main focus is on large companies and the ways in which they target audiences. See www.the-dma.org for more information.
direct response marketing	Promotions that enable marketers to solicit an immediate, measurable response from recipients. (As opposed to “image advertising” which is only to inform or remind the prospects about the company or a product, but does not encourage a specific response at a specific time via a specific channel.)
display ad	Any advertisement offering a product or service for sale that is displayed in a magazine, newspaper, or online, but not a classified ad. Display ads vary tremendously in size, color, graphics, and amount of copy.
DMA	See “Direct Marketing Association”
dominant resident emotions	A term coined by Master Copywriter Clayton Makepeace to describe the emotions of a prospect that dominate (i.e., the strongest emotions relevant to the product or service being sold), along with the emotions that are simply resident (i.e., long-standing, deep emotions in the prospect).
donor list	A list of individuals who have donated money to one or more fundraising organizations.
doubling date	The date by which a marketer has received half of the total revenue a promotion will bring in. These dates are used to predict the final result of different lists and test cells in a mailing, allowing marketers to plan other promotions more quickly.
downsell	The act of making a lower-priced offer to prospects who turned down your initial offer.
dummy name	A fake name used in mailing lists so marketers can track how the list is being used. Many marketers add a dummy name to their own files so they can observe the way in which list renters use the list. A dummy name can also be called a “seed name.”

E

edge

A term used to describe any kind of competitive advantage one marketer or company has over another.

editor

Usually the person who writes and oversees a newspaper, magazine, or newsletter, though it may be someone who coordinates the writing and the assignments for any type of copy or publication.

editorial

The copy featured in magazines, newspapers, or online news sites that is not promotional. Usually editorial pieces are articles, newsbriefs, fillers, or cover stories.

elements

See “gates”

email list

A collection of targeted names that have shown an interest in a company or service by opting in to a free newsletter or a downloadable report. Email lists for specific types of targets can often be purchased as well and used for customer acquisition.

email marketing

The process used by a company to communicate and promote products or services to targeted prospects via electronic communication.

emotional appeal

The approach copywriters use within promotions to connect with prospects on a deeper level which may include speaking to feelings of fear, greed, pride, vanity, envy, or other, deeper emotions. Connecting copy with the right emotion can move prospects to take action and buy the product or service you’re promoting.

emotional benefit

Any positive feeling experienced by a prospect when buying a company’s product or service. People buy for emotional reasons, then rationalize the purchase with features and logic.

emotions

In copywriting, emotions are the key feeling you need to connect to in your prospect. They are the single-most effective route to getting a prospect to buy. Successful promotions go beyond fear and greed to deeper emotions.

endorsement

Positive commentary or words of praise from an expert in a field or a professional connected in some way to a product or service. Endorsements (often paid for) are used in copy to reinforce a prospect’s decision to buy.

E-newsletter	A daily, weekly, or monthly online newsletter sent by marketers to their subscriber list, which contains articles, editorial content, and sales promotions or messages.
entrepreneur	Any business owner interested in new and profitable pursuits.
exchange	An agreement that takes place between two mailers who agree to exchange an equal number of mailing list names.
exclusivity	The desire of a prospect to belong to an elite group, usually an appeal in copy which flatters the prospect and elevates him or her above the masses.
expire	Term used to describe a subscriber or customer who no longer actively makes purchases.
expiration date	The date upon which a promotional offer will no longer be available.
exposure	An agreement between a client and a copywriter where money is not exchanged for work but where the client agrees to give a testimonial or other form of public approval. Not an ideal business arrangement for any copywriter.
eyebrow	In copy, this is a short, introductory headline that appears in smaller type and is featured above the main headline.
F	
false close	The point in a promotion where a prospect assumes the writer is about to ask for money, but where the writer instead takes an unexpected turn and covers a different topic, usually either introducing another benefit or telling a relevant story.
fascination	A term from legendary Gene Schwartz used to describe the way bulleted copy is used to intrigue the prospect so forcefully that he can't help but buy.
features	Any specific trait or attribute held by your product or service; this would include specifications, sizes, etc.
feeling	Used to explain the way a prospect feels on an emotional level, not simply at a given moment.
First-class mail	A top classification of mail by the United States Post Office. This mail gets delivered to the prospects faster but costs more than bulk mail.

first screen	The part of the web page that readers first see on their screen without having to scroll. It's the equivalent of "above the fold" in a newspaper.
first-time buyer	A prospect who makes a purchase from a company for the very first time.
flat benefit	This is what happens when a benefit is off-target and does not excite a prospect, resulting in little or no emotion.
follow-up emails	(aka "autoresponders") Emails sent out to site visitors who have already provided their email addresses, as a result of a purchase or signing up for a newsletter, membership, or free report.
footer	General, "boilerplate" text that appears at the bottom of every page on a website. Ideally, it contains the company name, address, telephone number, fax number, and customer service email address. It often includes a copyright and the web development company name, as well as an association membership seal, such as the Better Business Bureau, when applicable.
Form 3602	The Statement of Mailing that a lettershop must provide to the Post Office with delivery of a bulk mailing. This form identifies the mail class, sortation, postage rate, number of pieces to be mailed, and total amount of postage due. It serves as certification that mail has been received at the Post Office, verified by a stamp made on the form at the Post Office when the mail is dropped off.
format	The shape, size, and general makeup of a printed promotion. Options include: letter, magalog, bookalog, jumbo envelope, postcard, brochure, etc. Since the format can strongly impact the results of the mailing, important consideration is given when it is being written and designed.
Four-color (4C)	The use of cyan (blue), magenta, yellow, and black ink combined in such a way that produces full-color artwork and photographs for a promotion. Also known as CMYK.
Free-standing insert	A stand alone flyer inserted into newspapers and shoppers. Free-standing inserts are not attached to the paper so they can fall out and capture attention.
freelancer	A writer, artist, or photographer who is self-employed and not on staff with any company, though they may work on projects for companies as the need arises. In such cases, the work is done on a contract or "freelance" basis and the individual is paid per project.

front-end	Another term for customer acquisition. Front-end products tend to be less expensive with the goal of cultivating customers rather than generating profit. The opposite of “back-end.”
FSI	See “free-standing insert”
fulfillment	The act or process of delivering a product to a customer.
fulfillment package	Any package containing the goods or details of a service as a result of an order or inquiry.
functional benefit	A benefit that’s presented in terms of what it will do for the prospect. It answers the “What’s in it for me?” question for the reader.
G	
gatekeepers	In B2B marketing, these are the employees who screen mail before it reaches the key decision-makers. It’s essential to get mail past these gatekeepers and to the high-level executives for whom it’s intended in order to land a sale.
gates	Separate, odd-sized bits of paper, such as buckslips and lift notes, that are placed in an envelope with a sales promotion. Each paper serves as another way to persuade the prospect to buy. Different articles and sidebars of a marketing piece or magalog can be called “gates” or “gateways” into a promotion, meaning that some prospects will start by reading those instead of the beginning of the letter or promotion as it was designed. All gates are important because you never know which one a prospect will go in to.
geographic	In terms of mailings, this is the way a mailing list may be divided along regional, state, or country lines. Divisions may also be based on county, city, metro area, or zip codes. Some marketers select to only mail to specific areas, or they may sort the mailing list by geographic parameters before splitting it to test various cells. (Therefore, making sure the test results are based on the promotion, and not differences based on geographic factors.)
Golden Thread	The manner in which a copywriter connects core desires to the sales pitch throughout a promotion. Usually, it’s in the form of a promise or central theme that runs through the entire promotion and keeps the reader from losing interest by reminding him or her of the benefits offered by the product or service.

golden triangle	(aka "F shape") The portion of the web page that most readers immediately scan upon arrival. Tests prove that readers start at the top of the page, reading left to right, and then work their way down diagonally. Therefore, the triangle is widest in the top left section of the page and decreases in width as the readers eyes move down the left side of the page.
Google Analytics	A free service offered by Google that allows marketers to analyze detailed and valuable statistics about the activity of visitors to their websites.
Google Trends	A free service offered by Google that allows marketers to view and analyze which specific keywords or key phrases are actually being searched for by the public at any given time.
graphic link	Unlike a simple word link, a graphic link on a web page is a hypertext link, configured as a graphic feature or an icon (such as a Buy Now button).
Greek	Literally, copy in the Greek language that is used as a placeholder while putting together design mockups (for a direct mail piece or a website) before the actual copy is ready.
guarantee	Any promise made to refund a customer's money in the event he or she is unsatisfied with a purchase.
H	
hard offer	Any offer where money is required upfront (as is the case for most offers).
header	General, "boilerplate" text and/or images and logos that appear at the top of every page on a website.
headline	The very first line of any promotion; the initial copy read by a prospect meant to lure him or her into reading the promotion.
hero shot	A striking photo or image of either the product or the benefit of a service. It's usually placed on the left side of a landing page, showing people what it is they're buying.
home page	The opening page of a website, whose primary purpose is to welcome visitors and provide information and links to other pages on the site.
hook	Used to grab the attention of a prospect, making him or her want to keep reading, watching, or listening.

hot list	A selection of a business' hottest customers or prospects; in other words, those most likely to buy again and again.
hotline	The most recent buyers of a product or service on a specific list that is no older than three months at most. These buyers who have recently purchased are the most likely to buy again and often have a history of purchasing goods through direct marketing.
house file	Any mailing list cultivated and owned by a company with records of all customers (active and inactive), and qualified prospects.
House File Marketing	See "Database marketing"
HTML	("Hyper Text Markup Language") A "behind-the-scenes" markup language for web pages. It's used to structure the copy, present images, and create hypertext links between pages.
HTML lite	Nick Osborne's phrase for emails and e-newsletters that just lightly apply HTML elements and graphics, while 90% of the document remains in standard text form.
human nature	Common, predictable patterns of human behavior that can be assessed and targeted through a promotion.
hyperlink	A word, phrase, or image found in an HTML-formatted web page. When clicked, it jumps to a new page or another section within the current page.
I	
inactive buyers	Individuals who have not placed an order or responded to an offer during a specified time period.
inbound link	A link from another web page which connects to one of your web pages. Google and other search engines use these links to determine the relevance and rankings of web pages, making them very valuable.
inbound telemarketing	The act of taking incoming calls from customers or prospects, for example on an 800 phone number as a result of a promotion.
incentives	The little extra premiums and prizes intended to increase response rates to a promotion.

indicia	A substitute for a postage stamp or metered postage that appears as a preprinted marking on the upper right hand corner of a mail piece. It usually says "U.S. Postage Paid." The indicia indicates the permit number and mail class and is also normally preprinted on business reply envelopes.
indirection	When a copywriter leads a reader through ideas instead of directly telling him or her what's coming, usually done through suggestion with the purpose being to make a prospect realize something without actually having to spell it out.
infomercial	A direct-response ad delivered through the television, typically running 30-minutes long and designed to look like a television program rather than an ad. An infomercial is a combination of in-depth information and commercial for a specific product, and encourages purchase during a specific timeframe.
information architect	The person who organizes all the information on a website and creates a navigation system to help visitors quickly obtain that information.
information marketing	The process of selling any information-based product, most often which comes in the form of an e-book or special report.
information page	A page on a website that is focused solely on delivering useful, helpful information, as opposed to selling the product or service.
informational emails	A sequence of emails sent by a company to inform, educate, and support their subscribers.
inquirer	A prospect who requests more information about a product or service as a result of a promotion.
inquiry	A person who has signed up to receive literature or information about a product or service, usually through direct mail (online, this person is called an "opt-in").
insert	A promotional piece "inserted into" a package or invoice to a customer.
installment buyer	Any prospect who purchases goods or services with the intention to pay for them in periodic, pre-arranged installments.
installment offer	An offer where a prospect has the option to pay for a product or service in small increments on a schedule rather than paying the full cost all at once.

institutional advertising	Marketing messages with the intent to build brand awareness or image for a company rather than elicit a response. There is no means included to track institutional advertising, and therefore, it is difficult to prove effectiveness.
integrated marketing	Any combination of two or more forms of marketing used to sell a product or service. Some refer to this as a marketing mix.
intro text	The few short paragraphs on a web page that immediately follow the headline, generally appealing to the emotional side of the reader.
ISP	("Internet Service Provider") A company that provides its subscribers an entry point to the Internet. Many cable TV companies are also ISPs.
J	
Johnson box	Used originally in direct mail, it's a "box" of copy set apart at the top of an email or sales letter which contains the key elements of the message and the offer by the marketer.
joint venture	A partnership between entrepreneurs or companies that gives both access to each other's products or services.
K	
key code	Any grouping of numbers, letters, colors, or other marks, used to track and measure effectiveness for certain types of media, lists, direct-mail packages, ads, and catalog mailings. Key codes help to differentiate both the offer and date sent as well as the specific customer who is responding.
keyword research tools	Sites like Wordtracker.com and KeywordDiscovery.com gather information from certain search engines (usually Google), and then present a list of keywords, phrases, long-tail and related phrases that are likely to get the most traffic from search engines.
keywords and key phrases	Words and phrases that people type into a search engine when looking for answers or solutions to their problems. These words and phrases are also strategically placed into the copy of a web page to attract search engines that are matching searchers with relevant websites.
kicker	A journalistic term that describes a line of copy used to create context or to "kick" up interest for an article. The equivalent to a summary in web writing.

L

landing page

A tightly-focused web page with a particular audience in mind, designed to sell a product or service. The prospect “lands” on this sales letter page from a specific source such as a banner ad, an email, or a PPC (Pay-Per-Click) ad. The landing page can also capture information.

Latin

Literally, copy in the Latin language that is used as a placeholder while putting together design mockups (as in a website) before the actual copy is ready.

lead generation

The act of collecting a list of prospective clients who will be likely to buy at some point; common term used in marketing, especially in B2B (Business-to-Business).

lead generation letter

A letter that builds a prospect’s interest in a product or service with the intention of getting them to contact a company for more information. In direct mail, this is often done with an order form that stresses there is no obligation to buy anything. Online, it’s usually a link that lets people contact a company via email.

letter format

The most common direct-mail format, this is a letter printed on 8 1/2” x 11” paper and inserted into a regular #10 envelope.

Letter of Agreement

A legal contract between a copywriter and a client designed to protect both and to outline payment, delivery schedule, product concept, and legal issues such as non-compete agreements.

lettershop

A company that performs the tasks of creating a mailing, including collating, inserting the materials into envelopes, addressing, imprinting or inkjetting, and sorting the mail to meet the specifications of the Post Office. Also called a “Mail House.” Most lettershops also handle the data processing necessary to personalize the direct-mail promotion with name, address, zip code, and key codes for tracking purposes.

lifetime value

The total revenue a customer will generate for a company over the “lifetime” of their relationship.

lift

A term used to describe any increase in response to a mailing, often achieved by adjusting the copy or mailing a new version of an older message.

lift letter

See “lift note”

lift memo

Similar to a lift note but produced in the style of a memo.

lift note	A small note, often in letter form, added to a main sales letter in an effort to emphasize a particular point about a product or service and increase response to the promotion. Lift notes are generally smaller-sized pieces of paper inserted inside the envelope of the direct-mail promotion. The expression "lift note" is also used on the Web for a short note added to enhance the main sales message being sent out via email.
limited time offer	Any offer made that includes a strict and immediate time deadline or expiration of a sale; often used to add urgency to an offer and increase response.
list	The group of prospects selected for a specific mail or email promotion. It is the most crucial part of any direct-response promotional effort. The list is often highly-targeted in order to elicit the highest response. Matching the right list with the right offer is one of the best ways to guarantee the success of a promotion. For a writer, knowing the "list" of who will be receiving the promotion is critical, in order to target what the recipient wants or needs to hear.
list broker	A company or specialist who rents mailing lists for direct mail and email, making all the arrangements necessary to bring list buyers and list owners together. List broker services may include research, list selection, evaluation, and recommendation.
list rental	An arrangement in which a marketer acquires the right to mail or email to a list of names, but on a one-time basis at a pre-set cost per thousand names.
list selects	A way to segregate smaller groups within a larger list; groups may be based on sex, age, income, education, or geographic region.
list test	Part of a mailing list that is selected, usually randomly, to try and evaluate the effectiveness of an entire list (in other words, it's used to test the quality of response from the entire list).
LOA	See "Letter of Agreement"
long copy	Direct response promotions that run between 12 and 24 pages, sometimes more.

M

MA-CPS

See "Maximum allowable cost-per-sale"

magalog

A piece of direct mail that looks more like a magazine than like a sales letter. Usually contained within a colorful, glossy magazine-style format, it has lift notes, testimonials, endorsements, and information on premiums, as well as the direct mail letter. Magalogs are often designed as self-mailers.

mail date

The date a mailing goes to the Post Office to be processed for delivery.

mail order

The transaction of selling then buying that is carried out through mail. Mail orders can be placed by mail, fax, Internet, or telephone. Once the order is officially received, the merchandise can go directly to the buyer.

mail order buyer

Any prospect who orders and pays for a product through postal mail.

mail preference scheme (MPS)

A service that allows consumers to add or remove their names from mailing lists.

Mail house (or mailing house)

See "lettershop"

manipulative sales page

A web page that tends to rush and pressure the reader into taking an action, instead of earning the reader's genuine trust and agreement.

margin

The gross profit that is determined when you subtract the cost of goods sold from gross revenue.

market

The group of prospects you specifically target for your product or service. Knowing your market and determining what offers will generate the best response is an important key to a company's success. Your target market is that very focused segment of the market that is most likely to be receptive to your product or service.

marketer

Someone who works in a professional capacity to build a business. May be a consultant, a copywriter, or an entrepreneur.

marketing intuition

This refers to an instinctive connection with the way a prospect will respond to a sales approach. It comes from experience in the field and is important as a way to reduce time wasted with ineffective campaigns. It's the feeling something will succeed or fail with your prospects.

mass market	A large percentage of the general public. When a product is so widely appealing to the mainstream population, marketers are able to sell it to a vast percentage of people, as opposed to a niche market created because of gender, age, income, interests, occupation, etc.
matte finish	A dull finish on a paper; no glossy sheen.
mature market	A market that has sophisticated prospects and lots of competition; mature markets are generally more difficult to stand out in and sell products in.
maturity	This designates how evolved a market is. The maturity of a market must be understood before a product can be launched successfully into it.
maximum allowable cost-per-sale	What's the most a client will spend to get a new customer?
merge-purge	A data programming process that allows for the removal of duplicate names and/or duplicate addresses from a mailing list. A merge-purge is necessary when multiple lists are purchased and there is the possibility of overlap or duplication. The goal of is to lower mailing costs. Also see "de-dupe" for more information.
meta description	(aka "meta tag") "Hidden" text in the HTML code that conveys a short description of the subject matter of the web page. Quite often, search engines will use this exact copy in the two lines sitting just beneath the title of the listing. It should include your primary keyword or phrase for that page to increase your search engine rankings.
micro conversion	The initial, smaller conversion steps that eventually lead to the main conversion step you want your client or prospect to take.
momentum	In copy terms, this denotes the amount of intensity and connection found in your body copy, also a way to describe copy that is mesmerizing and hard to put down. Copy with momentum will be successful with prospects.
multiple buyers	An individual who has made two or more purchases from the same company, but at different times. Multiple buyers are important because they're more likely to respond to direct marketing offers than other buyers are.

N

National Change of Address (NCOA)

A service offered by the United States Postal Service that allows people or businesses who relocate to fill out a change of address card that will ensure their mail gets forwarded to their new address. The USPS keeps this information in a massive database that mailing lists can be matched against in order to identify movers and to supply direct mailers with updated mailing addresses. This is an important way to maintain the accuracy of a list, and save money on undeliverable mail.

navigation

The process of traveling from one web page to another through tabs, links, and buttons, so website visitors can find exactly what they're looking for.

NCOA

See "National Change of Address"

negative option

When a customer agrees to a buying plan that requires them to pay for and receive products or services announced at specific, regular intervals, which can only be stopped if the company is notified by the customer according to their terms. Membership into a book club that sells a monthly book, unknown at time of membership purchase, is an example.

negative option offer

An offer whereby goods or services are provided up front to the consumer, and he or she can decide whether to decline payment within a specified period or automatically get billed by credit card after that period expires.

nesting

The act of placing one piece of a mailing, such as an insert or brochure, inside the fold of another before inserting both into a mailing envelope.

net name arrangement

When a list owner agrees to charge a mailer for only those names actually being used after the duplicates have been removed.

net sales

Refers to the total revenue generated by the sale of a product after subtracting out fulfillment and marketing costs; it is different than profits.

new customer acquisition

Any promotion or effort designed to attract new customers.

newsletters	A publication commonly put out by companies to build relationships with their customers. Delivered on a consistent schedule, newsletters are normally brief and filled with articles like product announcements to inform prospects. They are a subtle sales tool and frequently used as a customer acquisition vehicle.
niche market	A subset or slice of the mass market. A niche market is narrowly-defined based on specialized area of interest. A niche could be based on demographics, but often in marketing, it is based on other descriptors. For marketers, niche examples may be consumers with new babies; people who own boats; Baby Boomers. For a writer, a niche may be writing only for specific industries, or specializing in specific types of promotions (i.e., only writing websites, or only writing grants).
nixie	The names on a mailing list that are undeliverable.
nth name	Also called nth select. The method used to extract names from a larger mail file to create a smaller file. For the nth selection to be truly representative, it is important that the nth name be chosen after all other data processing such as de-duping, NCOA, and postal sorting is complete. For example, you may choose to mail every 10 th name, so the programmer selects every 10 th name on the sorted mailing list to create a new test mailing list.
O	
offer	Everything that goes into the proposition made to a customer or prospect, including price of product or service, length of subscription, free gifts, discounts, payment terms, and guarantees.
off-the-page (OTP)	A sale that is obtained directly from a press release, which doesn't happen often and is hard to do, but yet is possible with the skills of a good copywriter.
on speculation	Work done by a copywriter with no guarantee of pay, usually used only if a client likes the writer's work and chooses to use it. In that case, the writer gets paid.
one-color	An item printed on a piece of paper with only one ink color, usually which is black on white paper.
one-shot mailing	An offer or promotion with the intention of making a sale through a single transaction.

one-time buyer	A buyer who does not purchase anything after his initial purchase from a company.
one-time use of a list	A condition of normal list usage, list reproduction, or list exchange agreement between the list owner and the list user (the marketer). It means the marketer won't use the names on the list more than once without explicit permission to do so.
open rate	The percentage of emails opened by target prospects after reading the subject line of that email.
opt-in	When a prospect chooses to be put on an email list and receive communications, they are opting-in. Often a name and email address is requested from a prospect in exchange for free information or as part of a purchase. Getting prospects to opt-in is an essential step in marketing through email because it makes it possible to legally build a qualified email list. Sending email to anyone who has not opted-in to your list is called spamming, and is illegal.
opt-out	A method which allows a prospect to elect NOT to receive communications, and not to be added to an email list.
order form	Also called a "response device" or "order device." It can either be printed or can appear online with the goal of being easy to fill out so a buyer can purchase a product or service without complication. An order form generally includes a promise-oriented headline, a sense of urgency, acceptance of the product or service, a reminder of any relevant bonuses, the cost (and savings) the manner in which the prospect can pay, and an area where the prospect can enter contact information.
OTP	See "off-the-page"
outbound link	An outgoing link from your website that connects to another site.
outbound telemarketing	Calls that are made by a marketer to prospects (in contrast to inbound telemarketing, where the prospect makes the call to the marketer). Outbound telemarketing, in combination with direct mail, can effectively lift the overall response for the promotion. Most large direct mailers use trained outbound telemarketers who follow a specific script to generate sales.
outside offers	Any offers included in a package or order that come from a company different than the one actually fulfilling the initial order that resulted in a package.

P

package

A term used to describe all of the elements of a direct-mail promotion sent to a prospect. Can either be a single-page letter, an envelope containing several components, or even a self-mailer.

package insert

Anything included in a mailed offer with a promotional intention; inserts to introduce products or services to a new market.

package test

When one or more elements of a promotion (such as the copy, the graphics, the components of the package, the teaser copy on the outer envelope) are tested against each other.

page mapping

Laying out a rough grid of the elements that comprise a web page, such as text, graphics, links, and navigation tabs, using tools like Word's "text box" feature. Page mapping allows for visualization of the finished product.

page sequence

The progressive series of pages by which someone moves through a site to find the desired information.

page title

The copy that appears at the very top of a web page inside the thin blue "title bar." This copy also repeats as the very first line of any search engine results listing.

past promotion

A former control or test promotion that is no longer being mailed.

Pay-Per-Click (PPC) Ad

A form of online advertising in search engines, where advertisers pay the placement company a fee every time their ad is clicked, and the user is taken to a specific website or landing page.

pay up

Term used to describe the amount of money that actually comes in after a promotion launch using a soft offer to prospects, compared to what is expected to come in after everyone has paid for the products they ordered. So, if 10,000 people place an order and 8,200 pay, your pay up is 82%.

personalization

When a prospect's name, address, or other personal information is inserted into the copy of a promotion via computer methods like laser printing.

persuasion

To move people to take action by appealing to their core desires. Knowing how to write with persuasion makes you a more effective copywriter.

persuasive sales page	A well-paced sales page that earns the reader's trust and genuine agreement every step of the way, without manipulation.
picture	The description of what a prospect's life will be like one he or she receives the product or service being offered. The goal is to get them to visualize themselves enjoying the benefits of that product or service.
piggy-back	Any offer that connects a free proposition with another offer.
point of sale	The moment when a prospect purchases a product or service; the exact moment when the sale takes place and the prospect is either filling out an order form, calling in an order, or clicking an Internet order button.
poly-bag	Clear plastic bag used for a mailing in place of the envelope. Poly-bags are often used for magazine mailings.
poly-wrap	See "poly-bag"
pop-under	A web page window that appears beneath the page a prospect is viewing and is visible only when the prospect closes the current window being viewed.
pop-up	Any new web page window that appears suddenly on top of the web page a prospect is viewing.
portal	A gateway (such as Google, Yahoo!, and MSN) for users to enter and access the World Wide Web.
positioning	The way in which you set up your product or service to be perceived by your prospect.
positive acceptance statement	Often used at the beginning of the response device, this statement recounts all the superior benefits of a product.
Postscript (P.S.)	The final part of a sales letter that typically reiterates a promise or provides additional benefits about the item being promoted. Many prospects read the P.S. first, which makes it a very important part of the sales letter.
premium	Any free item offered to a potential buyer. A premium offers an additional encouragement for the prospect to make the purchase.
problem	This is the dilemma faced by your prospect which your product or service is meant to conquer or solve.

product	Anything being sold to a prospect, whether it's physically tangible or not (as in an mp3 recording).
profits	The difference between your overall costs and revenue.
project	Also known as an "assignment" or a "job," this word is used to describe something a copywriter is working on, usually for pay.
promise	The act of specifically telling a reader what the product or service being promoted will actually do, bring, or mean after purchase. In most cases, it tells the prospect how the purchase will make them richer, smarter, happier, stronger, healthier, etc.
promotion	The act of exposing your product or service to qualified prospects.
promotional email	An email sent out with the basic purpose of selling a product or service.
proof	The act of supporting any claims you make throughout your promotion.
proof point	A statistic, endorsement, or physical description used as evidence to substantiate a marketing pitch.
prospect	Any potential buyer for a product or service who has yet to actually make a purchase from a specific company.
prospect universe	The sum of individuals targeted for likely sale or connection by any company.
PS (P.S.)	See "postscript"
psychographics	The art of describing buyer preferences, interests, hobbies, and buying patterns.
public domain	Information that belongs specifically to nobody and can be used by anybody; information that is neither trademarked nor copyrighted.
public relations	The act of influencing the press so they publish or print stories that promote a favorable image for a company and its products.
puffery	Exaggerations made about a product or service by an advertiser.
pull quote	An excerpt from a piece of text; often enlarged or emphasized as a design element to grab the attention of the reader.

purchase page

The page on a website that a customer arrives at to purchase a product or service.

purge

The act of removing unwanted names or duplicate names from a list. See “merge-purge” and “de-dupe”

Q**qualified leads**

Names and addresses of companies or people who have previously shown an interest in a product or service by responding in some way to a marketing campaign. These are the crucial leads to follow-up on because they are most likely to buy.

qualified list

A list of subscribers for a business with a known interest in the business services or products (i.e., a previous purchase). Business will spend more time cultivating and bonding with a qualified list because repeat purchases are more likely.

qualified prospect

A person identified to be an ideal candidate for the product or service you’re selling, usually based on prior purchases made to show interest or even the act of sending in a business reply card.

R**rate card**

In magazine publishing, a rate card outlines all of the ad sizes, prices, deadlines, special topics, and circulation.

rate sheet

A document that lists all the fees for the services you offer as a copywriter, as well as the conditions under which you’ll agree to work (e.g., accepting half of payment upfront and the other half at project completion).

rationalization

The act of giving prospects logical reasons to buy a product or service, usually going beyond emotional reasons and based on logical justification of a purchase. This is accomplished by recounting facts, figures, or features that reinforce the buying decision as a good one.

reactivation

A program that tries to get previous, inactive customers to start buying again, especially when they haven’t purchased from a company for a while.

readability

The ease with which a promotion can be read, a way of describing whether the copy flows smoothly or stays interesting.

reason-why advertising	A term made known by David Ogilvy that refers to the advertising process of methodically giving the prospect all the key reasons for buying a product or service right <i>now</i> .
recency	A measurement of how long it has been since a customer or business has made a purchase (or any other tracked activity).
Recency, Frequency, and Amount	See "RFA"
refund	Given when a customer is reimbursed for the money spent on a product or service.
relationship	The connection a company has with its prospects which can mean the difference between success or failure. A relationship must be cultivated and carefully maintained to establish enough rapport for prospects to want to follow through on buying decisions.
relevance	The concept that all research related to a prospect or market must be as accurate and pertinent as possible; speaks to the level of understanding a copywriter has for connecting to a prospects thoughts, emotions, and beliefs.
renewal	Any subscription renewed prior to expiration, or within six months following expiration.
research	The act of collecting relevant information, proof, and other data to help a company more effectively sell its products and services. Effective research will uncover the nuggets which will make your copy resonate with your prospect on a deeper level.
response	Trackable, measurable positive responses from consumers regardless of advertising medium.
response rate	The number of responses received from a promotion indicated as a percentage of the total number of pieces mailed.
retention rate	The percentage of customers who continue to do business with and make purchases from a company over a specified period of time.
Return on Investment	(ROI) A measurement of the financial success of a promotion. The higher the ROI, the more effective the medium or campaign was at generating profit.

RFA	Also known as Recency, Frequency, and Amount, this is the common acronym used for codes that select small groups of buyers from a larger file. Marketers may choose to mail to customers who have made purchases within the last 60 days (recency), have bought a certain number of times within the year (frequency), or who have spent a specified amount of money with the company (amount).
risk reversal	A marketing device where the risk is placed solely on the shoulders of the marketer, such as a "30-day unconditional refund" if the customer is not fully satisfied with the product or service.
ROI	See "Return on Investment"
rolling out a winner	Mailing out a successful letter to increasingly larger groups.
rollout	The methodical process that follows after the testing of a campaign which has proven successful. The rollout is typically larger than the test mailing and/or goes to larger list segments or the entire list of a company.
rollout fee	See "royalties"
royalties	The fee paid to direct-response copywriters based on the number of packages sold via the promotion written by the copywriter. Some royalties are paid based on the number of pieces mailed or distributed. Typically, royalties vary between \$10/M and \$50/M.
royalty	See "royalties"
RSS feed	("Really Simple Syndication") Much like a wire service, it's an online format used to distribute news and blog entries in a syndicated manner. This feed can be placed on a personal web browser so the user receives continual news from desired sources.
running text	Also known as the body copy of any promotion or advertisement; is the main copy that runs from the lead to the close. (It does not include sidebars, pull quotes, testimonials, or captions.)

S

sales

When a prospect spends money with a company, in any form, it is considered a sale.

sales argument

The series of points made in any sales copy as to why a prospect should buy the product or service you are promoting vs. any other option or competition. Claims made in your sales argument need to be backed up by proof.

sales page

A page on a website designed to sell a product or service. Unlike a landing page, which is a stand-alone selling tool, a sales page sits permanently within the body of a website.

sales pitch

An expression that references the sales argument made throughout a promotion but which usually appears at the end of a promotion when the prospect is directly asked for the sale.

Sans-Serif typeface

A blocky font in which letters and other characters lack the small, curled features called “serifs” at the end of each stroke of letter. Sans serif fonts include Arial and Helvetica.

scanner

In relation to copywriting, this describes the type of prospect who doesn’t read copy word-for-word but instead scans through to get an idea of the product, price, and offer. Subheads are critical at capturing the attention of a scanner.

screenshot

A digital image showing all or part of what is seen on the screen of a computer monitor.

search engine

A website (e.g., Google, MSN, Bing, or Yahoo!) that searches, gathers, and files content from websites across the Internet. Visitors seeking information type keywords into the search engine query box. The search engine then lists the most relevant content websites to match those keywords.

search engine optimization

(aka “SEO”) The method of boosting the amount of traffic to a website or web page. The higher the search-engine ranking, the more likely the site will be frequented by visitors.

search engine spider

(aka “web crawler”) A software program that gathers, reports, and indexes information from the World Wide Web to provide the most current data available for search engines. It’s called a spider because it crawls over the Web. All the major search engines, like Google, Yahoo!, Bing, and MSN use spiders to build and update their indexes.

Second-class mail	A class of mail created by Congress and subsidized to support the press, meaning these postage rates are available to newspapers, magazines, and other types of periodicals.
seed	A specific name added intentionally into a list in order to keep track of how and when the list is being used. A client can also add a "seed" name into their own mailing in order to verify delivery and accuracy of the mailing. Also known as a "dummy."
self-mailer	A promotion mailed without an envelope.
selling voice	The voice with which a copywriter writes that carries a specific tone and style in an effort to "speak" effectively and persuasively to a prospect. Personable, friendly, and conversational tones work best.
Serif typeface	A font where each character has a curly "serif" mark on the top and bottom of the stroke. Serif fonts include Times New Roman and Palatino.
service	Refers to the act of selling something besides a tangible product.
shopping cart	An online metaphor, it's the software program that enables shoppers to keep a list of the items they've selected from the "online store" before making an actual purchase.
sidebar	Small blocks of text often seen in magalogs and on Internet landing pages which contain copy and a headline separate from the main body text of the promotion. Sidebars make it possible to highlight benefits, elements of proof and credibility, along with testimonials.
single column sales page	A web page that employs just one column for the primary sales copy; usually used in stand-alone landing pages. It's been proven that a single column for the primary text reads easier and converts better than multiple columns.
site analytics	(aka "site metrics") The system of analyzing and reporting the habits of website visitors. It tracks every aspect of a visitor's journey from entry to activity around the site to exiting. Among the more popular site analytics packages are Google Analytics, StatCounter.com, HitsLink.com, and WebTrends.com.
site page	Any individual page on a website, whether it's a home page, a sales page, an information page, etc.
social marketing	The art of influencing behavior as opposed to buying decisions.

sophistication	A way of describing the maturity level of a prospect and a market that refers to the level of exposure the prospect and market have received when it comes to certain products or services.
space ad	A shorter kind of direct-response print ad that gets placed in newspapers, magazines, and other print publications.
spec	See "on speculation"
special report	Often given in conjunction with information products, special reports are compilations of valuable, free information that is written to solve a problem or in some way provide a benefit to the prospect.
split test	Representative samples selected from the same mailing list that are used to test different promotions. Also known as a split run test.
spread	The term referring to any two pages that show side-by-side in a magalog or bookalog. The center spread is the two middle pages which face each other.
squeeze page	A page whose sole purpose is to collect a person's name and email address.
statement stuffer	A printed piece that carries a customer's statement of account and gets inserted in an envelope. Also refers to any promotional inserts that are included with the statement being mailed. (See bill enclosure)
step up	Special premiums used to get a mail-order buyer to increase the dollar amount he or she normally spends.
strategy	The overall plan that guides marketing efforts toward greater success.
subhead	Bolded, often centered sentences used to separate long copy. Good subheads should contain a benefit or interesting, eye-catching point to catch the attention of anyone scanning the text.
subject line	The line in an email that announces the subject of the email when it appears in the person's inbox. Compelling subject lines are critical to getting emails opened.
subscription page	A page designed to get someone to sign-up for either a free or paid-for online service, such as a weekly e-newsletter.
success rate	See "track record"

sweepstakes	An offer promising a prize that is randomly drawn from those names of people who respond to a promotion. Often, no purchase is necessary to participate.
swipe file	A collection of successful, eye-catching, or interesting promotions, sales letters, and ads, put together by savvy copywriters who recognize the importance of having a library of ideas to “swipe” from.
swiping	When a copywriter “borrows” a phrase or words from a winning promotion, but, of course, changes them to suit the specific promotion he or she is writing.
T	
tactical	Refers to the specific, methodical actions a copywriter takes to improve results, which may include upselling, testing, using referrals or premiums.
tagline	A branding phrase that delivers the essence of a product or service. It often appears just under the company name or logo in the header of a web page. For example, “Just Do It” is the Nike tagline.
target	The ideal prospect or customer within a market sought by an advertiser. A target prospect is designated as the ideal candidate to buy a specific product or service.
target market	The ideal group of people who are most likely to make a purchase from a specific company.
task oriented	This is the underlying premise of all web searches. People are actively searching to find something or do something.
teaser	Words that appear on the outside of a direct-mail envelope intended to grab a prospect’s attention or build interest enough to the point of getting them to open the envelope. These are also used in emails with the intention of driving readers to an online sales page.
teaser copy	The process of building value in the mind of the prospect without revealing the secret.
techniques	Any specific thing you can do to enhance the performance or impact of your sales copy.
telemarketing	The art of using telephone calls in the sales and marketing process.

test	A new promotion that is tested against the strongest-performing promotion of a company.
test panel	The term used to identify each part of a sample within a split test.
testimonial	Words of praise or gratitude from someone who has benefited from a product or service. No compensation is normally provided in exchange for a testimonial. Satisfied customers are ideal testimonial candidates.
text email	An email written in plain text without graphics or colors.
text link	A word or phrase that is typed out and most often appears in blue and underlined. For example, Learn more . It then links to another page.
theme	The overall vision or plan for a piece of copy which should be based on your Big Idea. It has to do with what you say, how you structure it, and how you present your solution (i.e., the product or service you're selling.)
third-class mail	Bulk mail that is used to send promotional materials to prospects, including ads, brochures, booklets, catalogs, circulars, or newsletters. Must weigh only 16 ounces or less. Delivery is slower than first-class mail, but postage costs are less.
three-column design	A very common web page design with the center column containing the headline and critical copy. The left column is for navigation tabs and the right column is for extras like free offers, sign-ups, graphics, testimonials, etc.
token	Any involvement device, such as a perforated order card or removable sticker ("Yes" or "Free Gift"), intended to cajole the prospect into taking an action that shows he or she wants to buy.
topical	Using current information, such as events taking place in the news, to position your product or service to the best advantage in light of your prospect's beliefs, fears, and desires.
track record	This is the record of performance of a product or service, outlined to demonstrate credibility. It's usually presented as a summary of past or consistent successes and gives your prospect a realistic expectation of success.
tracking codes	See "keycodes"

trademark	The name or symbol that prospects associate with a company or product, generally which is legally restricted to use by the owner or manufacturer. Most often denoted as [™] , which is used when a trademark has been applied for (the [®] symbol is used once the name or symbol is legally registered).
trust	An essential part of the selling process because prospects tend to buy from people and companies they trust. It's a way of presenting the right face or attitude to your prospects.
Twitter handle	The name used to identify a person's account on the social media site Twitter, also the name to which replies are directed. For example, Carl Customer's Twitter handle could be carlcustomer, so messages to her, using Twitter markup, would be sent to @carlcustomer.
two-color printing	When an item is printed using only two colors (for example, black and blue).
U	
ultimate outcome	Term used to describe the optimum picture and result your prospect desires.
understanding	An essential element of marketing success. A copywriter must understand his or her prospect, market, product, or company, in order to relate to them enough to write effective copy.
Unique Selling Proposition	Also known as the USP, this is the explanation for why the product or service you're selling is different and superior to all competition. The USP should highlight the unique benefits and advantages of a product or service in a compelling way that engages your prospect.
unique value proposition	Copy that tells people why and how a product or service is unique, and more valuable than anything being offered by its competitors.
uniqueness	The idea that a copywriter must make his or her promotion different enough from similar promotions to stand out in the mind of a prospect, and promote the benefits of the product or service in a way that differentiates it from the competition.
universe	The total number of names who might be included in a mailing list who all adhere to a set of specifications (e.g., age, location, religious preference).

upsell	The act of asking your prospect to buy something else along with the original purchase you have persuaded him or her to buy. This happens often when a “deluxe” or “advanced” version of a product or service is offered. It’s a more sophisticated version of “Do you want fries with that?”
URL	(Uniform Resource Locator) An Internet address, such as www.awaionline.com or www.asknickusborne.com
user-centric	(aka “visitor centric” or “reader centric”) Writing copy that focuses on the needs, wants, problems, or desires of the user, as opposed to the features of the product or service that’s being offered.
USP	See “Unique Selling Proposition”
V	
value	A key advertising principle. Value is communicated to the prospect by making him or her feel like the benefits of a purchase far exceed the cost.
value-based fees	This is when a copywriter charges for the value of work given, not necessarily based on an hourly fee or even on a per-project fee. It’s a way to anticipate the return on investment of a company when commissioning work by a highly-skilled copywriter.
W	
warm	This term refers to how qualified or ready to buy a prospect is. Warm prospects usually already have a connection with and trust a company or a market.
Web 2.0	A newer application of the World Wide Web that enables users to interact and share information online. Blogs, video sharing, and social network sharing sites are excellent examples of this phenomenon.
website log	The tracking and posting of activity on a website.
white mail	When the response to a promotion or other mailing cannot be tracked because it was sent without a key code.
WIIFM	“What’s in it for me?” The copywriting adage that reminds the writer to focus attention on the needs of the reader, as opposed to the features of the product or service being offered.

window envelope

An envelope with an opening through which the address can be seen; sometimes covered with plastic or glassine.

winning promotion

Term used for successful copy, though not necessarily copy that becomes a control. At the very least, it's used to describe a promotion that makes lots of money according to the client's standards.

Word text box

A feature of Microsoft Word that allows users to "block out" in boxes the various elements on a page, so others can see the page layout as the writer envisions it.

writer's block

When you need or want to write something, but you are drawing a blank and can't figure out where to start or how to get your project going.

Take the fastest route to web-writing success ...

Become a Wealthy Web Writer Platinum Member Today!

With over 233 million websites (according to Netcraft's November 2009 Web Survey) and thousands of new ones being added each day, the demand for qualified web writers is pretty much unlimited.

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- **Live Webinar and Teleconference Training:** You'll learn from the top experts in the areas you're most interested in pursuing.
- **The Reality Blog:** A weekly dose of inspiration as you follow fellow web writer, Mindy Tyson-McHorse, on her way to six-figure success.
- **The Wealthy Web Writer Knowledge and Multi-Media Library:** In-depth and always expanding library of articles and reports, as well as audio and video presentations.
- **3-Minute Guru Videos:** Ongoing series of "how to" info, tips, and techniques
- **Wealthy Web Writer Job Board:** A list of the latest job offerings exclusive to Wealthy Web Writer Platinum Members.
- **Wealthy Web Writer Forum:** A place to meet, get to know, and talk shop with your fellow members.
- **And much more ...**

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Experience it. Get a feel for how much easier your life online will be with the Wealthy Web Writer right beside you to support and guide you every step of the way.

With the Wealthy Web Writer as your partner, you won't feel like it's "you against the world" as you progress in your copywriting career. You'll have a support network there to help guide, motivate, and inspire you every step of the way.

And, you'll find your goal of becoming a successful six-figure web writer is easier and more enjoyable to achieve than you ever thought possible.

Test-Drive the Wealthy Web Writer Platinum Membership Today!

[Become a member of the Wealthy Web Writer Today!](#)

[Or, learn more about the community and website from its Founder, Rebecca Matter.](#)

What People Are Saying About Wealthy Web Writer

"At first I thought it wouldn't (be beneficial) because I have so many years of experience, but it turns out I've learned a lot from it. The webinars are high quality because they are put on by people who are sharing experiences from actually being in the trenches and doing it. Plus, it gives me a place to network and keep current on what's going on in copywriting. It's wonderful. I'm very impressed with what they're doing with it."

Sue Keeler, Oneonta, New York

"The Wealthy Web Writer provides everything a copywriter could possibly need to stomp out that fear, take it out of your vocabulary, and replace it with confidence for success — all in a one-stop cornucopia of information, learning, and advice designed in an organized, relevant, and easy-to-use format."

Anna Wilson, web copywriter, California

"One of the things that's particularly difficult for me is — I can promote somebody else's products and services, but I have a wicked hard time promoting myself. So, several of the Wealthy Web Writer folks have been very helpful to me — helping me focus my "About" page on my website and define myself more effectively."

Susanna Perkins, Orlando, Florida

"What I find the most helpful about Wealthy Web Writer is the incredible growing instructional material. I consider the information and the network of writers essential for me in this stage of my professional growth. It helps me navigate the new writing landscape and gives me access to information, inspiration, and support."

Christiane Marshall, Caldwell, Ohio

"When I started with the Wealthy Web Writer in January, I knew they would be adding content and have a lot of good information on the site. It's done all that. But, what I didn't expect it to do was increase my belief level so much. Seeing all the different content and all the people who are succeeding at this, having them share their knowledge and their information so generously, really convinced me that I absolutely can do this."

Deborah Barber, Payson, Arizona

“Being a member here will help to ease that lonely feeling, that fear of making a mistake, that fear of not knowing enough. I want to be a \$100,000 per year copywriter instead of \$1,200 a year copywriter. Wealthy Web Writer will give me what I need to realize my dream and be the woman, the mom, the copywriter I want to be ...”

TaKeshia Watson, North Carolina

“The connections I’ve made as a copywriter have been the single biggest factor in growing my career. This website will let me connect with other web writers and share in-the-trenches battle stories, swap tips and best practices, and give and receive feedback from writers in the know. Gaining these connections will pay off many times over through my career.”

Roy Furr, web copywriter, Oregon

“For me, just getting started has been the biggest hurdle. I can’t figure out how to actually START! I have seen a few opportunities, but don’t feel qualified to even attempt it. Being an ongoing member of the new Wealthy Web Writer website will open new opportunities for me.”

Lynda Ehrich, web copywriter, Florida

“I often hear from writers who are frustrated with the copywriting information that they’re finding online. Although there is a lot of free information about how to become a copywriter, how to write for the Web, etc., it’s often outdated, unreliable, or just plain wrong. Additionally, there wasn’t any site that provided the latest best-practice information paired with videos, conference calls, and access to industry-leading experts. Until now. I think any writer — whether she’s just starting out, or she’s been online for years — can benefit from the Wealthy Web Writer site. You’ll gain access to a community of people who are rooting for your success — plus best practice writing information from a source you trust. Your membership is a great investment in you and your business.”

Heather Lloyd-Martin, SEO

“To be a part of this community would mean that I wouldn’t feel so alone working on something new without any guidance. I would get a sense of camaraderie that I probably wouldn’t find anywhere else.”

Monique Poche, web copywriter, Colorado

"My Wealthy Web Writer membership compliments and enriches my copywriting education and can be your ticket also to a better life. Join me and so many others as we share the journey together."

Joe Goodale, web copywriter, Arizona

"I can't imagine running my business without being part of this valuable resource."

Pam Foster, web copywriter, Oregon

"Archie Bunker used to tell Edith it's a jungle out there. I think that description suits the Internet very well. I don't need thousands of answers to one question, and am very grateful for Wealthy Web Writer. Most times, I barely get a good grip on one concept before I get hit with a new one. Now that I'm part of Wealthy Web Writer, I can skip all the aggravation and go straight to the source for any answer I need."

Anna Morris, web copywriter, California