

# Helping Jurors Overcome Jargon

Practical Guidance:  
A.B.A. Principles for  
Juries & Jury Trials  
&  
Peter Tiersma's  
“Communicating with Juries”

**“The court should instruct the jury in plain and understandable language....”**

- I. Instructions before lawyers’ closing arguments**
- II. Written copies for each juror**
- III. Careful use of words**

**The big battle:**

**Legal Accuracy**

**v.**

**Comprehension**

# General Principles:

- **Know your audience**
- **Adopt appropriate style**
- **Use logical organization**
- **Be concrete**
- **Verbs better than nouns**
- **Try to keep it simple**
- **But avoid false economy**