

March 22, 2023

Metaphors, Chatty, and TikTok's Future

Hello Ruth Ann,

This week I will make my first foray into a WordCamp since the pandemic. I'm looking forward to it, as this year's itinerary includes sessions for those of us who actually write with WordPress and aren't developing apps, plugins, themes, etc.

While I don't see myself switching off WordPress, I've been more than a little concerned about how its evolution has left actual users behind, sometimes in tatters, to steal a metaphor from Mick Jagger. It's no longer the friendly tool you opened and could start typing away.

Speaking of metaphors, be careful when you use them. Idioms, too. I also discuss how to make ChatGPT ("Chatty") reveal its sources and what to look for from TikTok (hint: it's likely to be in Chinese and Russian).

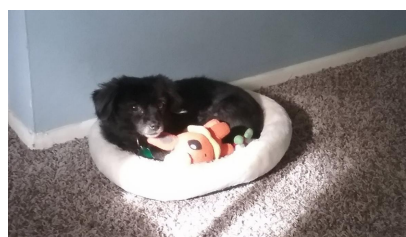
Til next week,

Ruth Ann Monti

Writing Tips

Who doesn't love a good metaphor or idiom?

These figures of speech can really bring language to life. But, like jargon, you have to know your audience before you use one, or risk alienating them. Many idioms and metaphors quickly deteriorate into dad jokes - which, in fact, are still funny to some people.



The best black dog ever.

Remember, once upon a time, people would say a flat performance "went over like a lead zeppelin!" Say this today to anyone between approximately 40 and 75 and we'll air-guitar *Black Dog!*

SEO/Content News

Like many writers, ChatGPT leaves me feeling uneasy. One of my concerns is how it finds information and fails to evaluate or acknowledge it.

I've learned it is possible to force ChatGPT to reveal its sources. ZDNet tested several ways and landed on "Please provide x URL sources" as the most successful prompt to get Chatty to spit it out.



qimono/Pixabay

It's worth noting that ZDNet cautions that half the URLs provided were bad links, and a quarter were unrelated to the query. "ChatGPT is more often wrong than right," it concludes.

Is TikTok Timing Out?

TikTok's time might be running out as more governments join the ban first started by the US. Now, about half the states and the Canadian government's CIO have recommended removing the app from government-issued smartphones.

TikTok is now banned by the European Union's governing bodies; the United Kingdom; Belgium; Denmark; New Zealand; and Taiwan. (Really, Taiwan? Yes!)

While TikTok's owner continues to insist that it's all geopolitical, it's worth remembering that its parent company, ByteDance, admitted in December 2022 it had fired four employees who stole data from two US journalists.



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TikTok had hoped to sign a security agreement with the US, but that's not been looking good.

Meanwhile, the world waits to see what Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping will share on their favorite app!

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