

## Hyperbole

There is an abundance of exaggeration and hyperbole about. Exaggerated hand and body movements accompany the simplest statement or interview. Look back to the 1970s and watch Kenneth Clarke's landmark *Civilisation* TV series and you will see him lecturing magisterially with his hands resting by his side; his words are emphasis enough.

Contrast this with today's TV pundits who jump around gesticulating wildly as though on speed, unable to make a point based solely on knowledge and erudition and through the power of speech, they seem compelled to resort to hyperbole accompanied by facile simplification and supported by exaggerated gesticulation.

TV pundits talks about 'an extremely serious situation' or 'a very damaging allegation'.

The overuse of adverbs has become a mania; it is though everyone is shouting emphatically in both writing and speech about everything, especially the trivial.