

The Ampersand (&)

The Craft of Writing · By Simon Townsend · 1 min read

This symbol & is called an ampersand. Please don't use an ampersand instead of the word "and". If you are writing about a firm called Smith & Jones Pty Ltd and this firm uses an ampersand in its name, then you too must use an ampersand in your article. This is just like getting the spelling of a brand name correct. But in journalism don't ever substitute an ampersand for the ordinary word "and". It's like contracting the word Christmas to Xmas. We just don't do it in good journalism. And to get into the habit, don't use the ampersand in anything else you write, please.

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