Careless Comparisons

Resource: <https://www.plainenglish.co.uk/>

The Plain English Campaign.

Careless Comparison. Make sure when you compare, all items compared are sharply differentiated.

Example 4.37-1

Six people left the department this year, compared with 20 in the first part of last year. The reasons for people leaving were similar across both periods. From the first quarter, one person in the department left for unspecified personal reasons while in the earlier period, four left. The number of staff leaving in the first quarter of this year for another job was three, compared with seven in the same period last year. Two people were laid off from the department in the first three months, which was fewer than last year’s total of nine.

Revision: 1

Six people left the department in the first quarter of this year, compared with 20 in the same period a year earlier.

In the first three months of the current year, one person left for unspecified personal reasons: in contrast to four in the same quarter last year.

In January through March of this year, three employees left to take jobs outside of the company, compared with seven a year earlier.

Two members of the department were laid off in the more recent quarter, fewer than the nine forced out a year prior.

Revision: 2

Revision: 3