5 Lessons from over 250 landing pages



At Sharp Ahead we specialise in creating conversion optimised landing pages for B2B clients with complex products and services. Our clients' websites are almost universally complicated, with numerous calls to actions and menu items which need to serve multiple stakeholders and customer personas.

Landing pages are a way to ensure that paid media spend directs lead traffic to pages designed to meet a prospect's specific need. But just because landing pages are less complex than websites, designing them is no less of a science.

After creating hundreds of landing pages for diverse clients in diverse sectors, we have some key best practice tips to make sure your landing pages generate high quality leads and ROI on your paid media spend.

Lesson 1: The 5 second rule

In person you generally have 7 seconds to make a good first impression. Online, you have even less time. Make sure your landing pages (and indeed all of your digital communications) pass this simple test.

The 5 Second Rule: in 5 seconds or less, can a prospect clearly understand who you are and what you are offering them?

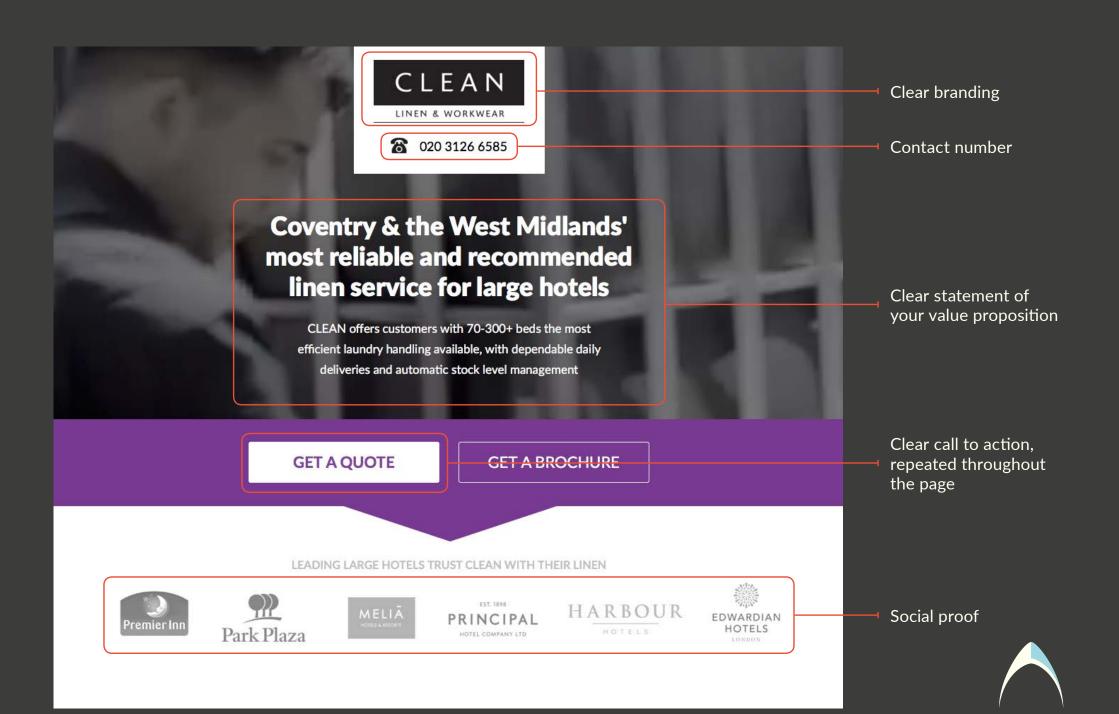
Specifically, above the fold you need:

- A clear statement of your value proposition. Don't be clever with this statement. Now's not the time for puns or beautifully crafted brand statements. Think Ronseal. In as few words as possible state exactly what you offer.
- A single call to action. Make it visually strong. Ensure it's succinct and written from the point of view of the prospect.

• Social proof. Social proof can take the form of client logos, imagery, or peer testimonials. Social proof reassures prospects that other companies like their company work with you—and therefore so should they.

Remember, if in 5 seconds the prospect doesn't feel reassured that they've come to the right place, the back button will quickly and easily show them an entire search engine results page of alternative options.





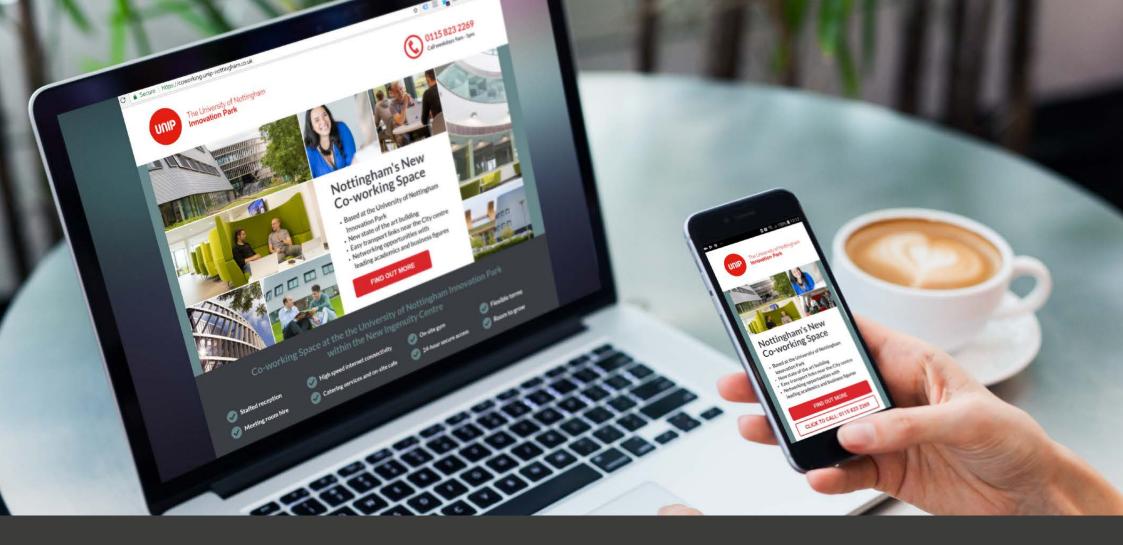
Lesson 2: Encourage web-to-phone

Yes, that's right, here's a digital marketing agency telling you to get your prospects on the phone. Although much of a prospect's research will take place online, for most B2B companies, particularly those with complex, very high-value propositions, the actual sales process needs to take place human-to-human.

Landing pages should not only be designed to capture lead data via forms but even more importantly they should be designed to offer prospects the opportunity to get in touch via phone.

Including a phone number signals a number of things to a prospect:

- The company is real, not just online
- The company is open for business
- There are real live humans that want to talk to you
- The company takes customer service seriously



And here are top tips on how to use phone numbers effectively on landing pages:

- Make the phone number visible, ideally in the header of your landing page
- Repeat the phone number, particularly at the bottom of the page so a prospect that has scrolled down doesn't have to think about scrolling back up to find it again
- Include your hours of operation so a prospect knows when you're open and when filling out a form is a better idea
- On mobile, make the phone number click to call



Lesson 3: Skimmable Content

We all know that most of the time, consumers of digital content are not properly reading, they're skimming to find the relevant piece of information that will either reassure them they are looking at the right thing- or send them back to a search engine results page to find something else.

Our tips:

- Make sure your content is written and structured in a way that makes skimming through it easy whilst still giving them the information they need.
- Use blocks of content that stand out. Designing with different blocks of colour, for example, gives a visual clue and helps key information stand out.
- Include social proof throughout your landing page, mix it up with short quotes, logos, and imagery.

- Don't be afraid to repeat content. A user skimming content is likely to have missed something, so don't be afraid to repeat key messages throughout the page.
- The same goes for your CTA. Don't make a user ready to engage with you look for the button that will bring up a form. Repeat it throughout: always above the fold and at the bottom of the page.



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We supply:

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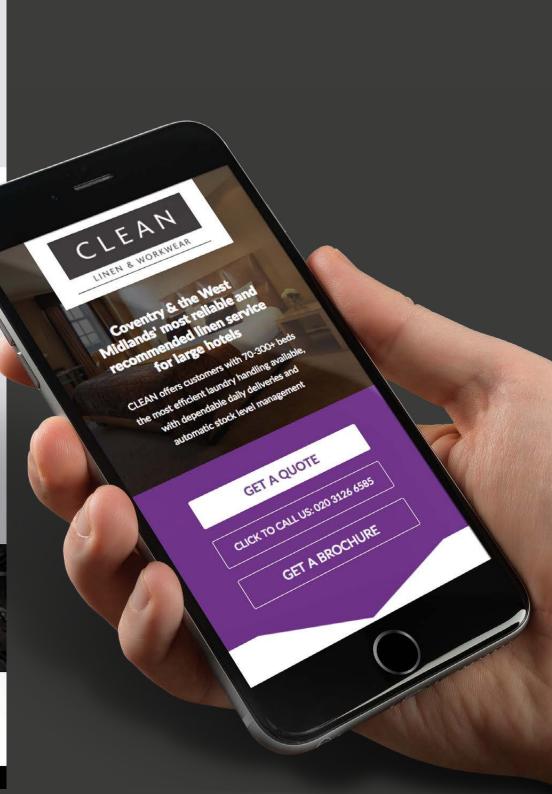


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Lesson 4: Separate Design for Mobile

While statistics vary on how many people are using phones versus desktop for B2B research, you can safely assume that at least half of your prospects are engaging with your landing pages on a mobile device.

Landing pages need to be not just responsive but designed separately for desktop and mobile to ensure they are conversion optimised for both experiences.

There are a few key differences between the two:

- Phone numbers on mobile pages can be click-to-call
- The experience of filling out a form is very different; make sure you've designed—and tested—your forms on both desktop and mobile

- Mobile users can scroll down quickly with a swipe of their finger so longer pages are fine but make sure key messages are still standing out
- Load times, a landing page that is slow to load on mobile is even less likely to get viewed than on desktop. Make sure images are optimised and always test the mobile experience as thoroughly as you would the desktop version



Lesson 5: The Attention Ratio

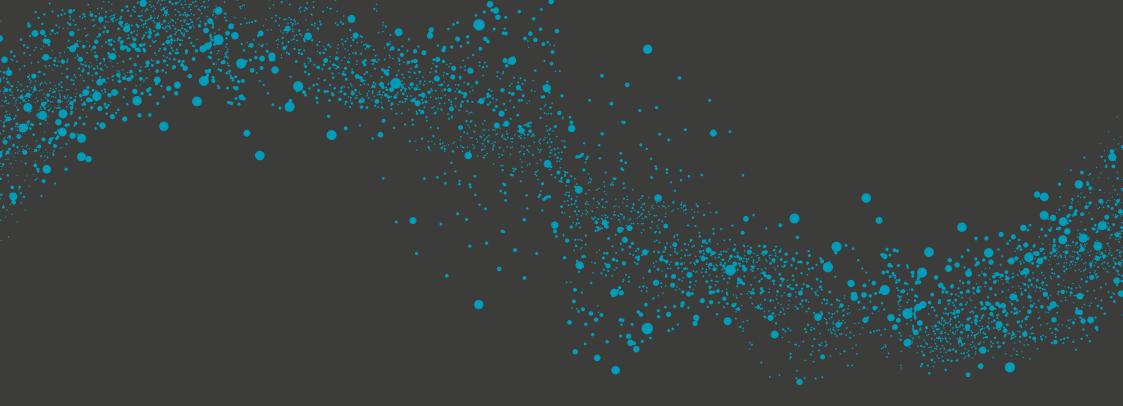
Attention Ratio refers to the number of things a prospect is being asked to do or think about in a page. Going back to the beginning, the reason landing pages are so important for paid traffic is that websites are just too distracting. A website might have a dozen or even more calls to action: think about not just your conversion features but your menu items, social icons, in-page content, contextual links, etc.

For your landing pages, you want to strive for an attention ration of 1. This means have one, very clear call to action on the page whenever possible. (Two if you count the phone number). Sometimes there are very good reasons for having more than one call to action, but in those cases make it clear what the difference is and prioritise visually the one you would prefer a prospect pay attention to.



Lead generation using paid media campaigns are a great way to grow your business, so remember to optimise your ROI by optimising your landing pages first.





You can read more at <u>www.sharpahead.com</u> 0118 322 4395 | info@sharpahead.com

Reading Office

Sharp Ahead, Work.Life, The White Building, 33 King's Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3AR

Leeds Office

Duke Studios, 3 Sheaf Street, Leeds, LS10 1HD

