

Using the AIDA Model With Email Marketing



A W A R E N

First things first, what is AIDA?

The AIDA model describes the four stages someone could go through when making a buying decision.

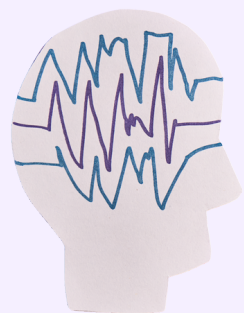
This applies to all types of marketing and to all types of organisations.

AIDA has four stages:

- Attention (some say Awareness)
- Interest
- Desire
- Action

You can use this model in lots of ways, including your email marketing.

You can use it to create content that attracts attention through to stimulating a call to action.



It's History

The AIDA model is not new by any means and attributed to a letter written by Elias St. Elmo Lewis, way back in 1898.

He effectively said that all advertising copy must generate attract attention, generates interest, and creates conviction, in that order.

Today, this model is still relevant.

“The mission of an advertisement is to attract a reader, so that he will look at the advertisement and start to read it; then to interest him, so that he will continue to read it; then to convince him, so that when he has read it he will believe it. If an advertisement contains these three qualities of success, it is a successful advertisement.”

Elias St.Elmo Lewis

Using AIDA with your email marketing

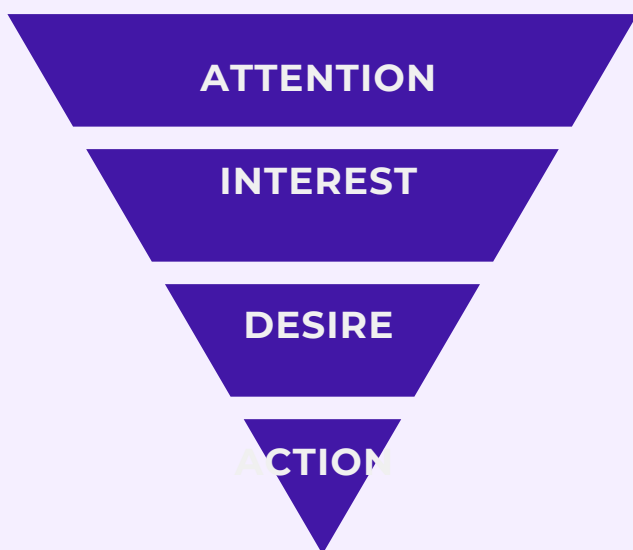
Think of AIDA is an inverted pyramid. Or a funnel if you like.

Think about how you want your emails to be read, and how you want to draw interest down your email, to try and create an action through your CTA button.

Let's start with **grabbing attention**. You need to show the goal of your email and grab the attention of your audience.

Grabbing attention means providing a subject line that is RELEVANT to your audience. One that is contextual as well as interesting to get the email opened.

It also means designing the layout of the email to grab attention at the top and funnel them down your email.



Getting Interest

You've done the hard part of grabbing attention and encouraged your audience to open your email and want to read more.

Next is maintaining that interest. However, time is a challenge because everyone is busy. So you don't have much time to do this. First of all, you must make sure your email is **relevant** to your audience.

Segmentation and personalisation really help with this, but that is a different topic.

To help, think about why you are sending them that email and why should they care? This is achieved through building relevance. Ask yourself this: why are you sending them this email? What value are they going to get from it?

Keep your email content **short**. Use short sentences, short words and short paragraphs.

And be **human with the way you write**.

Creating Desire

After you've created interest by being relevant, you use your copy and design to move to building some desire.

Highlight the value of your product, for example, and how it might solve problems. Answer "what's in it for me?".

Be helpful.

However, don't expect this to be achieved in just ONE email. It takes time to build trust which is why the concept of lead nurturing is crucial.

Generating Action

Finally by this point you want to have your audience do something. Probably click on your CTA button.

Use verbs and clear language so the reader knows exactly what to do. make it easy to see your CTA button.

Use your colours wisely and contrast your CTA button to the main brand colour(s).

What Are The Downsides?

The beauty of AIDA is its simplicity. The downside is also its simplicity.

Marketing today is far more complex and we know that everyone in your target audience is different and will respond to different stimuli (hence the importance of segmentation).

Yes there are more sophisticated strategies you can apply and you may even use email marketing simply to generate interest and use other parts of the mix to convert.

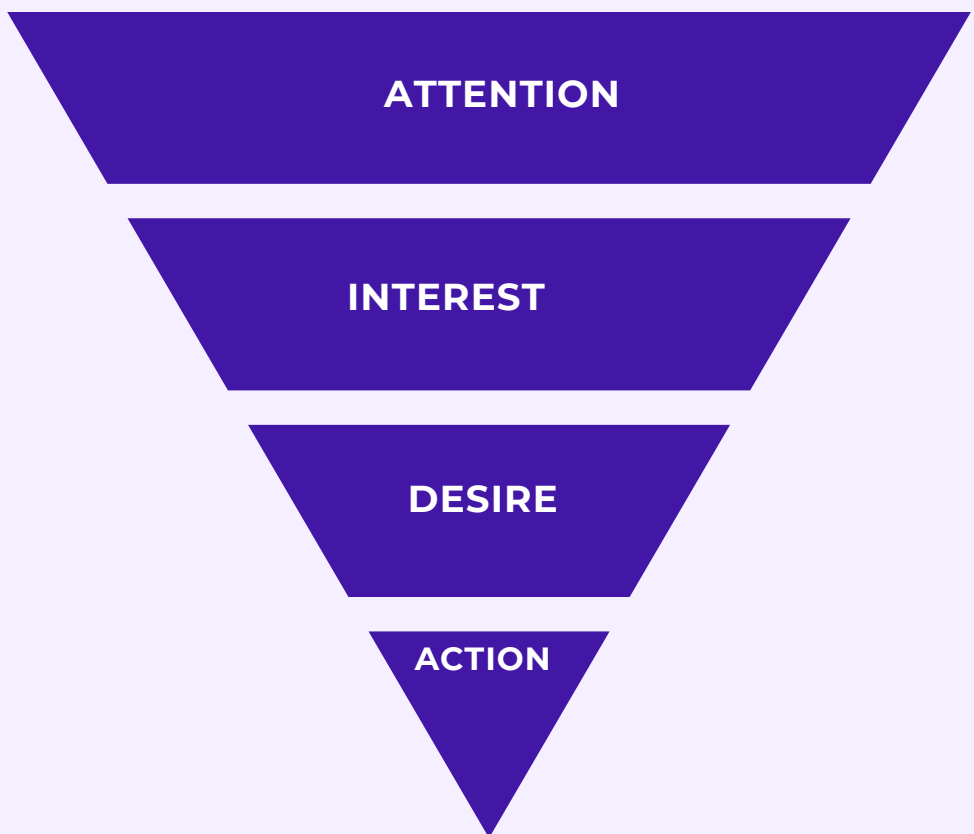
But it is a simple approach to apply to see some enhanced results. Give it a go.



Summary

AIDA has been a trusted model for decades and decades.

So give it a go and apply AIDA to your email marketing - or any content marketing for that matter. Apply it well and you should see some positive results in no time.



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