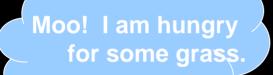
Cooperative Online Writing Lab

Word Choice:

Tighten Wordy Sentences

What is word choice?





Word choice is choosing words that communicate clearly. *Moo* is not clear until it is backed up with the next sentence.

Tighten wordy sentences.

Eliminate redundancies or expressing the same idea repeatedly.

Matt --very quickly-- rushed to his eight o'clock class.

"Very quickly" restates the same meaning as "rush," so "very quickly" is not needed in the sentence.

Tighten wordy sentences continued..

Shorten or cut out empty or inflated phrases.

The student sitting in the corner is the student that needs tutoring in math.

Better word choice: The student sitting in the corner needs tutoring in math.

Tighten wordy sentences continued..

Avoid unnecessary repetition of words.

The last classroom down the hallway is the cleanest classroom.

Better word choice: The last classroom down the hallway is the cleanest.

Tighten wordy sentences continued..

- Simplify the structure and look for opportunities to strengthen the verb.
- Colorless verbs is, are, was, and were frequently generate excess words.
- Beginning sentences with *it, there is,* and *there* are can also generate excess words.

Strengthening your sentences.

- A basketball game is so thrilling when a player dunks the basketball.
- Better choice: A dunk during a basketball game thrills me.
- There was a player that was injured in the last game.
- Better choice: A player was injured in the last game.

It's your turn. Correct the following sentences.

As a matter of fact, I like the red dress.

In fact, I like the red dress.

The bus driver is responsible for transporting the students to and from school.

The bus driver transports the students to and from school.

There was a crowd gathered outside the courthouse.

A crowd gathered outside the courthouse.



Need More Assistance?

Stop by the Come back to Writing Center Or COWL again and again!

We Mooove fast to help you!

