

Assignment 1

Overall Instructions: Complete the following exercises. You will be graded only on completion. After you submit each answer, a “model answer” will appear. Compare your answer with the model answer, keeping in mind that more than one answer may be acceptable.

For the more challenging editing exercises (questions 14 to 16), use your best judgment to infer the author’s intent. To make editing easier, look up technical terms that are unfamiliar to you.

1. Rewrite this sentence to remove the “dead-weight phrase”:

It has been found that most people consider buying a house the largest purchase they can ever make.

Model Answer: Most people consider buying a house the largest purchase they can ever make.

2. Give a short word that means the same thing as: “at the present moment”

Answer: now

3. Give a short word that means the same thing as: “utilize”

Answer: use

4. Give a short word that means the same thing as: “assuming that”

Answer: if

5. Give a short word that means the same thing as: “in order to”

Answer: to

6. Give a short word that means the same thing as: “until such time as”

Answer: until

7. Give a short word that means the same thing as: “has no”

Answer: lacks

8. Rewrite the following sentence to remove the phrase “there are”:

There are many studies that have shown that *Lactobacillus* species may have protective and antimicrobial properties.

Model Answer: Many studies have shown that *Lactobacillus* species may have protective and antimicrobial properties.

9. Rewrite the following sentence to remove the “not”:

She was not a good student.

Model Answer: She was a poor student.

10. Rewrite the following sentence to remove the “not”:

She could not remember where she put her keys.

Model Answer: She forgot where she put her keys.

11. Rewrite the following sentence to remove repetition:

The man began to behave strangely and in odd ways after he started taking the drug.

Model Answer: The man began to behave strangely after he started taking the drug.

12. Rewrite the following sentence for brevity: Chemistry majors are generally a very creative and highly energetic group.

Model Answer: Chemistry majors are creative and energetic.

13. Rewrite the following sentence for brevity: The aim of this paper is to provide an overview of the basic principles of quantum physics.

Model answer: This paper provides an overview of quantum physics.

14. Revise the following sentence for clarity and brevity: One example of laser interferometry in action is it can be used for the measurement of the drift of a micro cantilever over time.

Model Answer: For example, laser interferometry can be used to measure the drift of a micro cantilever over time.

15. Revise the following sentence for clarity and brevity: Many women with BRCA mutations take prophylactic steps towards reducing their risk of ever getting the cancer because early detection is not perfect.

Model Answer: Many women with BRCA mutations opt for prophylaxis, because early detection is imperfect.

16. Revise the following sentence for clarity and brevity: Finally, it may be argued that, with fuller charts than the Daily Weather Reports and better forecasting, much better results might be obtained, and while this is to a certain extent true, it is feared that the improvement would not be great.

Model Answer: More complete weather reports and better forecasting might improve results by only a small amount.