

Exercise 5-3

What single words can you find for the negative phrases in these sentences? Each was in an earlier draft of this book and revised.

1. While the standard definition of a verb as an action word is not reliable, it is in fact not bad advice.
2. A second set of rules includes those whose observance we do not notice, and whose violation we do not notice either.
3. But we ought not accept the argument that we do not need the word *finalize*, or that it is ugly because of the *-ize*.
4. While it is not clear what counts as "too many" prepositions, it is clear that when you do not use abstract nouns, you do not need most of the prepositional phrases.
5. These choices among points of usage let those among us who wish to do so express our sense of linguistic decorum, a decorum that many of us believe testifies to our precision. It is an impulse we ought not scorn, so long as it is not ignorant or thoughtless.

Exercise 5-4

Where appropriate, change the following negatives to affirmatives. Do any additional editing you think useful.

1. There is no possibility in regard to a reduction in the federal deficit if reductions in federal spending are not introduced.
2. Do not discontinue medication unless symptoms of dizziness and nausea alleviate within 6 hours.
3. No one is prevented from participating in cost-sharing educational programs without a full hearing into the reasons for his or her not being accepted.
4. No agreement exists on the question of an open or closed universe, a dispute about which no resolution is likely as long as a computation of the total mass of the universe has not been done.
5. So long as taxpayers do not engage in widespread refusal to pay taxes, the government will have no difficulty in paying its debts.
6. No alternative exists in this country to the eventual development of tar sand, oil shale, and coal as sources of fuel, if we wish to stop being energy dependent on imported oil.

7. Not until a resolution between Catholics and Protestants in regard to papal authority supremacy is achieved will there be the start of a reconciliation between the two Christian religions.
8. Except when such expenses do not exceed \$100 the Insured may not refuse to provide the Insurer with all relevant receipts, checks, or other evidence of costs.
9. It seems to me that in a look at the nature of advertising, it is not illogical to start out with a statement that will define the term. This will establish a common point of reference so that we will not be subjective in our approach to a subject matter that is not often the topic of unemotional discussion. There is no single definition or agreement for the word *advertising*, making the chances for possible objectivity not likely.
10. Regardless of the fact that we do not know with any degree of certainty whether or not there is the existence of life forms in the universe other than our own, evidence of a statistical nature makes it highly unlikely that life does not exist somewhere among the large number of probable planetary systems scattered throughout the length and the breadth of the universe as we know it.

**A PARTICULAR KIND OF REDUNDANCY:
METADISCOURSE**

In Lesson Four, I described METADISCOURSE as the language we use to refer to elements in a rhetorical moment:

- to what we do as writers: *to sum up, candidly, I believe, therefore, however.*
- to what we want our readers to do: *note that, consider now, as you see.*
- to what we intend our text to do: *first, second, finally.*

We need metadiscourse in almost everything we write. But some writers use so much that it buries their ideas:

The last point I would like to make is that in regard to men-women relationships, it is important to keep in mind that the greatest changes