Economic (“Tight”) Writing

Resource: <https://www.plainenglish.co.uk/>

The Plain English Campaign.

Avoid using words twinned together that mean the same thing. Redundant.

Example 2.16-1

As Bob opened his present, he got an unexpected surprise; inside the box was the red shirt that he’d always wanted.

Revision: 1

As Bob opened his present, he got a surprise; inside the box was the red shirt he’d wanted.

Revision: 2

The four pebbles in his left hand and the two in his right added up to six stones.

Example 2.16-2

The project, a joint collaboration between two rival firms, was a huge success.

Revision: 1

The project, a collaboration between two rival firms, was a huge success.

Revision: 2

The four pebbles in his left hand and the two in his right added up to six stones.

Example 2.16-3

Michael’s boss summoned Paul to his office to discuss the department’s future plans.

Revision: 1

Michael’s boss summoned Paul to his office to discuss the department’s future.

Revision: 2

The four pebbles in his left hand and the two in his right added up to six stones.

Example 2.16-4

Passive sentences harm not only clarity but also simplicity and evocativeness as well.

Revision: 1

Passive sentences harm not only clarity but also simplicity and evocativeness.

Revision: 2

The four pebbles in his left hand and the two in his right added up to six stones.

Example 2.16-5

The athlete, born in China, set a new record at the last Olympics.

Revision: 1

The athlete, born in China, set a record at the last Olympics.

Revision: 2

The American athlete, originally from China, set a record at the last Olympics.