Ambiguity

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

The Plain English Campaign.

Ambiguity – repeat the name, change sentence structure, add a description.

Example 4.36-1

The friendship between Leonard and Mark has never been the same since he left town.

Revision: 1

The friendship between Leonard and Mark has never been the same since Leonard left town.

Revision: 2

Since Leonard left town, his friendship with Mark has never been the same.

Revision: 3

The friendship between Leonard and Mark has never been the same since the feisty lawyer left town.

Example 4.36-2

There’s a big difference between a man who is truly generous, and one who is acting that way only for show. He will be the one offering to buy a round of drinks when most people have already left.

Revision: 1

There’s a big difference between a man who is truly generous, and one who is acting that way only for show. The pretender will be the one offering to buy a round of drinks when most people have already left.

Revision: 2

Example 4.33 -3

Lex called to talk about the meeting yesterday.

Revision: 1

Lex called yesterday to talk about the meeting.

Revision: 2

Lex called to talk about yesterday’s meeting.